

PERKINS REGIONAL COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL
COS 323—Congregational Care
Meetings on March 23, April 20th and May 4th

This course introduces students to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

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Objectives:

Students will be able to

1. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in a variety of settings, including prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities and homes.
2. Design and organize caring ministries within the congregation.
3. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, knowing when and to whom to refer people, and when and when not to share information.
4. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, using role play and analysis of case studies.

Required Texts: **PLEASE BRING BOTH BOOKS TO CLASS WITH YOU**

1. *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation* by Larry E. Webb, 2011, Abingdon Press.
2. *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler, 2019, Random House Trade Paperback.

Pre-Class Assignments

1. From the book, *Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I've Loved*, answer the following questions in 3, typewritten, double-spaced pages in 12 pt font *for each question (9 pages total, 3 pages each)*.
 - a. The title of the book plays on a phrase often used in an attempt to comfort those in need. What are some other popular phrases you have heard or used to respond to a friend or church member going through a difficult time? Write about an example when they seemed to provide comfort. Write about a time when they didn't seem to help or were misunderstood.
 - b. Compare and contrast these two faiths (one page each)—churches that teach the prosperity gospel (examples would be Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar) and the Mennonite faith. How are they alike? How are they different from each other?
 - c. Think about a time when you experienced a difficult situation (illness, divorce, death in the family, job loss). What do you wish friends and family had said to you then? What do you wish they would have done for you? What did they do or say that helped you or made you feel supported?

2. In the book, *Crisis Counseling in the Congregation*, the author talks at length about using the “Pinch Theory” to establish an “intrapersonal contract” between the pastor and the congregation they serve. **In a 5 page, double spaced, typed paper**, explain the “Pinch Theory” and how it can be used to establish and maintain a good working relationship between the pastor and the members of the church. Explain what the difference is between a “pinch” and a “crunch” and how the pastor handles each contributes to the success or failure of the “intrapersonal contract” between the two parties. Add any personal experiences you’ve had when an unexpected situation arose in your church or ministry—who was at fault and how did you handle the conflict between you and them?

Due Date for both Pre-Class Assignments is March 23rd at the beginning of class. You may submit them via email to dtmcnac@yahoo.com or bring them to class with you. Papers are graded for correct length and format, thoughtful responses to questions and interaction with the book material.

Mid-term Class Assignment (Due April 20—DO NOT START OR SUBMIT THIS ASSIGNMENT BEFORE ATTENDING FIRST CLASS ON MARCH 23RD)

1. Choose from the following caring ministries that are NOT already present in your current appointment.
 - a. Prison Ministry
 - b. Regular hospital visitation or chapel ministry at a hospital
 - c. Nursing Home visitation (ex. bible study, music ministry, children visitation, therapy animal visitation, games, crafts, etc.)
 - d. Home ministry/visitation
 - e. Something else relevant to your church or ministry interests
2. Compose a plan for presenting this idea to the leaders of your church. Include the following in your plan:
 - a. Why you think this ministry would benefit the church and the world around you?
 - b. Who would you need to present the idea to in your church?
 - c. Who would you need to contact at the ministry site to obtain permission or support for your idea?
 - d. What items would you need to start the ministry?
 - e. How often would it meet? Is there a space or place needed to conduct it?
 - f. Are there confidentiality or boundary issues that you need to consider? Do you need permission from church members, parents or participants for this to happen?
 - g. What is the goal of this ministry and how do you see God working in the midst of it?

**Final Project—Write up of a Pastoral Care Verbatim--Due End of Class May 4
Information and examples will be provided during second class period
April 20.**

Grading

Attendance and Class Participation: 15 points

Pre-Class Assignments: 25 points

Reading of Materials, Participation and Discussion in Class Role Play Examples-
20 points

Caring Ministry Design Project: 20 points

Final Project: Write up (Verbatim) of Pastoral Care Visit (This will be explained
during class time and examples provided) 20 points

Total: 100 points

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 59 or below