Syllabus – Fundamental Pastoral Care

1) Course: MTC010, Fundamental Pastoral Care

2) Class sessions:
   b) Class begins at 8:00am (PST), and continues for 1½ hours. Students should be ONLINE and ready to go at least ten minutes prior to the beginning of the session.

3) Course Description: This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of the “shepherding” (aka “pastoring”) gift and function in the Body of Christ (ministry). At its most basic definition, “shepherding” others involves having the knowledge, giftedness, and desire to deal gently with those whom we are called to serve, learning to “carry each other’s burdens,” to “love as we have been loved” as well as to care for those people for whom the love of God becomes real and “incarnated” in acts of love and service.

4) Instructor:
   a) Rev. Dr. Robin Dugall
      Peace Lutheran Church
      695 Park Lane
      Monroe, WA 98272
   b) Phone: 208-891-4608; Email: RDugall@APU.edu
   c) General contact times outside of class meeting times – TBA.

5) Instructional Goals and Objectives:
   a) Being (Spiritual Formation) Objectives: The student will
      i) become a more thoughtful, helpful, appropriate, and honest shepherd for the blessing and benefit of the people being served whether that be in an apostolic, prophetic, shepherd, teacher, or evangelist role;
      ii) become a better “story-teller” helping not only to understand, comprehend, and articulate the faith journey faithfully but also to do so in the context of community and relationships bringing God’s creative and redemptive Word to bear in all of life situations and circumstances for the purposes of healing;
      iii) grow in appreciation for the beauty, strength, richness, depth, and liveliness of God’s Spirit.
   b) Knowing (Cognitive Formation) Objectives: The student will
      i) demonstrate familiarity with a variety of divergent pastoral/shepherding issues that frequently present themselves in a congregational environment;
      ii) recognize and appropriately discern psychological, spiritual, and emotional struggles in the context of love;
      iii) be aware of Biblical passages that speak to the “shepherding/pastoral” needs of members of the Body of Christ;
      iv) understand and begin to put into practice skills in relationship development (especially the skill of effective listening) in sharing the love of Christ with those in need because of illness, grief, or personal struggle with addictive or destructive habitual behavior;
      v) recognize and address the levels of faith development where people may be found and the ability to help each one grow in faith;
vi) understand the meaning of personal/organizational/professional boundaries in meeting with people in appropriate circumstances and asking for help and making appropriate referrals;

vii) demonstrate a growing understanding of shepherding/caring/pastoral ministry and how that relates to major life passage issues – baptism, confirmation, marriage, death.

C) Doing (Conative Formation) Objectives: The student will

i) engage in visits and conversations of pastoral care ministry;

ii) demonstrate familiarity with a variety of methodologies used in pastoral care ministry.

6) Other Course Insights: The overall purpose of the course is to inform, challenge, encourage, and exhort emerging leaders in ministry in the REAL shepherding/pastoral issues confronting faith communities. The course will include traditional pastoral care categories (e.g. caring ministry, hospital calls, weddings, funerals, etc.), but will also explore pastoral dilemmas within contemporary congregational settings. With intentionality, the course addresses “issues from trenches” of actual congregational life.

7) Required Course Texts:

a) Bible – any translation that the student is familiar with – a good study Bible would suffice (see the Lutheran Study Bible or the Oxford Annotated Study Bible as excellent examples of this genre) or a good translation of the Bible (e.g. ESV, RSV or NRSV, NASB, etc.). If utilizing another Bible translation, notify the instructor.


g) Nelson, Alan, Embracing Brokenness, Navpress, 2002.


Recommended Reading


b) Campbell, James, Rapid Relief for Emotional Distress, AuthorHouse, 2011.


f) VanVonderen, Jeff, Families where Grace is in Place, HarperOne, Reprint edition, 1990.


8) Attendance Policy:

a) Since this course is an online environment as well as a self-paced course, student participation in EVERY online session of course is required. If an emergency arises and a student cannot attend
class, please notify the professor prior to the week’s class session. A complete class list of dates and times is listed below.

b) There will be 8 sessions total (approximately 6-8 hours out of class time per session investment for the term) that will be held on the Adobe Connect website. Prior to the session, students will receive email instructions on how to join the online conference.

9) **Academic Integrity:**
   a) Academic integrity is essential to any academic institution and is in keeping with the mission of Concordia University. Academic integrity includes:
      i) Working honestly on tests and assignments
      ii) Honestly reporting research findings.
      iii) Properly citing the source of any materials quoted, paraphrased or modified in the work one submits. Lynn Troyka’s *Simon and Schuster Handbook for Writers* defines properly citing source material in this manner:

      To plagiarize is to present another person’s words or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism is like stealing. The word plagiarize comes from the Latin word for kidnapper and literary thief. Plagiarism is a serious offense that can be grounds for failing a course or expulsion from a college. Plagiarism can be intentional, as when you submit as your own work a paper you did not write. Plagiarism is also intentional when you deliberately incorporate the work of other people into your writing without using documentation to acknowledge those sources. Plagiarism can also be unintentional – no less serious an offense – if you are unaware of what must be acknowledged and how to do so with documentation.

10) **Assignments and Projects:**
   a) Students are required to do “session by session” preparation – this includes reading and studying as well as preparation for active participation in the online conference time.
   b) Students will write a 5-page essay engaging in a real-life application of the course learnings. Students should summarize the specificities of the lived moment and state a “shepherding strategy” on how to proceed in ministry. The paper will be submitted at the end of the course. The paper must be double-spaced, 5 page minimum, and submitted as a Word document or PDF. The paper should include a bibliography with at least five references from literature other than the Bible.
   c) Students will write a 1-page summary/reflection on each of the course texts. A sample summary/reflection paper is attached to this syllabus.
   d) Students will be required to write a “verbatim” of a personal contact with a member of the faith community in which students provide shepherding care. A description of a verbatim is attached to this syllabus.
   e) Submitting work: Please submit all written work to Dr. Dugall via email at this address: RDugall@APU.edu. Word docs or PDF documents only! Dr. Dugall is also on Facebook if a student chooses to “friend” him.

11) **Grading Procedure:**
   a) Class Attendance – 8 sessions (10 points per class) = 80 Points.
   b) Essay – 200 points (due one week after the last session).
c) Summary of Primary Texts – 9 texts (10 points per text) = 90 points.

d) Verbatim – 100 points.

e) Class Participation – 30 points.

f) Total Points = 500 points.

12) Course Outline

a) Session 1 – June 8, 2013: Introduction to the course.
   i) Secure the textbooks.
   ii) Take the Grip-Birkman – $29.00, contact Dr. Dugall for student’s personal code.
   iii) Discussion of a working definition of “pastoral/shepherding” ministry.
   iv) Gift-based ministry and the issue of Call.
   v) The spiritual “gifting” or function of shepherding.

b) Session 2 – June 22, 2013: The Issue of Community and Belonging.
   i) Spheres of relationships in community.
   ii) “Belonging and Believing.”

c) Session 3 – July 6, 2013: Stages of Faith Development/Formation.


e) Session 5 – July 20, 2013: The “Problem” of Suffering, Pain, and Healing.

   i) Dynamics of personal and organizational change.
   ii) “Who moved my cheese?” and other change dynamics.


g) Session 7 – August 3, 2013: The Disciplines of a Shepherd.
   i) Personal – spiritual and professional growth.
   ii) Community – prayer, listening, etc.

h) Session 8 – August 10, 2013: “Christian Care-giving.”
   i) Interview with a Stephen’s Ministry Coordinator.
   ii) Caring Ministry in a local faith community.
   iii) Opportunities for Caring – the ministries of life stage events (baptism, weddings, funerals).