

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO

2010 Spring

March 12-13 & April 9-10, 2010

COS 314 - Pastoral Care and Counseling

Rev. Dr. Vergel Lattimore
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the pastor's understanding of human nature with attention to methods and skills in care and counseling. Each person participates in the assessment of her/his personal style of care and counseling.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will enable student to:

1. Understand strategies for brief pastoral care and counseling.
2. Analyze of pastoral care experiences through such methods as case studies, incident reports and/or tapes.
3. Practice in the skills for pastoral care and counseling.
4. Assess the brief counseling process from initial contact to completion, including referrals.
5. Formulate a theology of pastoral care through reflection on the pastoral dimension of counseling.
6. Sensitivity to a variety of life situations and relationships of individuals receiving care and counseling.

Texts

1. Stone, Howard, ed. (2001). *Strategies for Brief Pastoral Counseling*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.
2. Taylor, Charles. (1991). *The Skilled Pastor: Counseling as the Practice of Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
3. Lartey, Emmanuel. (2003). *In Living Colour: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling*. Lima, OH: Academic Renewal Press.

Assignments

1. Complete the following assigned reading before coming to class:
 - a. For the first session, please read--**Chapters 3 – 5**--*In Living Colour: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling* by Emmanuel Lartey.
 - b. For the first session, please read—**Chapters 1 – 3**--*The Skilled Pastor: Counseling as the Practice of Theology* by Charles Taylor.
 - c. For the second session, please read—**Chapters 3, 5, 7 and 9**—*Strategies for Brief Pastoral Counseling* by Howard Stone, ed.
 - d. For the second session, please read—**Chapters 4-7**—*The Skilled Pastor: Counseling as the Practice of Theology* by Charles Taylor.

2. Comparative Critique

Students will compare and contrast core themes raised by Lartey and Taylor. Write a reflection paper which explores the texts in terms of their impact on you personally and in terms of your pastoral work. It may be useful to address some of the following questions:

- a. What were the most stimulating insights/discoveries/answers/new thoughts as you read?
- b. What questions do you have as a result of your reading, i.e., what are you curious about? Catalogue some of these questions for class discussion.
- c. What situations and/or issues or pastoral care and counseling were most anxiety-producing for you and why?
- d. Is the text helpful—why or why not? What issues and themes were relevant and what may have been missing?

LENGTH: Three to five (3-4) pages, typed double-spaced (MAXIMUM)

DUE: March 12th

3. Pastoral Encounter

Students will write a paper describing a current or recent pastoral encounter where he or she is providing or have provided pastoral care or pastoral counseling to a parishioner and/or family. The descriptions should not be limited to a situation or an encounter which can be assessed as an “adequate and appropriate response” that reflected a “good or positive” outcome. Your greatest learning arena is most likely the encounter which left you with questions and/or concerns in which you did not feel particularly “successful”. Describe an encounter that you believe has the highest potential for learning. PLEASE BE CONCISE IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION.

Use the following outline:

- a. Pertinent description of parishioner and/or family. This may include race, age, marital status, family description, history in church, vocational history, socio-economic context, medical/psychological history, etc. This information helps us to understand the person. All of this data may not be known. This portion should not exceed more than one paragraph.
- b. Describe the presenting problem. What issue(s) brought this person to you?
- c. How was the pastoral relationship initiated? Did they seek you out, specifically? Were they referred to you?

- d. Describe the pastoral counseling event in general terms (over several sessions) or with a verbal account of one session (your words and their words, as best you can remember).
- e. Evaluate and critique your role. Include theological reflection from Stone and/or Taylor. What is helpful or not helpful as you assess the dynamics of this relationship? How was encounter a “pastoral” event?
- f. What theological concepts and/or biblical stories or passages speak to the situation? What is your theological understanding of where this person or persons are struggling in life?

NOTE: Please maintain the confidentiality of your parishioner by eliminating their name from the paper. You should use a fictitious name.

You will present your paper in class and submit it to the instructor. You will be graded on your oral presentation (10 minutes), as well as on your written content and methodology.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AT THE TOP OF YOUR PAPER: 1. Your Name; The Date; Course Number and Title

LENGTH: *Three (3) pages, typed double-spaced (MAXIMUM).*

DUE: **April 9th**

COURSE ORDER FORM
COS 314
November 2009
Pastoral Care and Counseling
Rev. Vergel Lattimore, Ph.D.

Required Texts

___	Lartey: <i>In Living Colour</i> (New 2 nd Edition)	1843107503	25.95	Disc
___	Stone: <i>Strategies for Brief Pastoral Counseling</i>	0800632990	18.00	Disc
___	Taylor: <i>The Skilled Pastor</i>	0800625099	16.00	Disc

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