

PTHM 656 Ministry in Trauma, Crisis and Grief Context

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Fall 2008

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a 3 credit course for the Fall 2008, designed to assist pastors, chaplains, counselors and other helping professionals develop a practical theology of trauma, crisis and grief related to biblical, cultural, and psychological insights. It encourages coming to grips with spiritual crisis issues in one's own life. It helps the student offer pastoral care to people affected by trauma, in a crisis, the terminally ill, the bereaved, and their families. It provides practical techniques and strategies for ministry in crisis situations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course are stated behaviorally in terms of learning outcomes. Thus, upon the completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain various attitudes, beliefs, and feelings concerning trauma, critical incidents, dying and death.
2. Recognize and identify effects of trauma and basic crisis reactions.
3. Identify normal and abnormal human responses to trauma, crisis and grief.
4. Understand the significance of Spiritual trauma.
5. Discuss techniques and processes of delivery of pastoral care to those affected by critical incidents, trauma and grief and their family members/close friends in their cultural and religious context.
6. Properly deliver an emergency or death notification message.
7. Articulate ethical guidelines for interveners when survivors raise spiritual questions.
8. Identify resources available in the local community to assist in crisis intervention.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Everly, George S (2007). Pastoral Crisis Intervention, Chevron Publishing Corp., Ellicott City, Maryland ISBN 978-1-88351-1-18-3

James, Richard K. (2008) Crisis Intervention Strategies. 6th Edition
Brooks/Cole Publishing ISBN 13:978-0-495-10026-3

In addition to the purchase of the required textbook, all students will be expected to read and report on two additional books on the topic of death, dying, grief, trauma or crisis work.

REQUIRED NOTEBOOK

Each student will also be expected purchase a 3" three ring binder to prepare a Crisis Intervention Notebook. This notebook will serve as a resource manual to the student. The completed notebook is due January 2, 2009. The notebook should include (but not limited to) the following sections:

- a) Student's Theology of Ministry to People in Crisis paper
- b) Crisis Intervention, emergency services center (shelter) and emergency notification protocols and plans (primary ministry specific).
- c) Forms and handouts for crisis intervention.
- d) Equipment lists
- e) Memorandum(s) of understanding
- f) Sermons for funerals and memorial services.
- g) Order of Service and bulletins for memorial and funeral services.
- h) Lecture or Training Program Lesson Plans.
- i) Comprehensive list of resources available in the community.
- j) Bibliography

METHODOLOGY: The course will consist of class lecture and discussion led by the professor, student participation in discussion and exercises, guest speakers, and the use of the chalkboard, computer projectors, films and role play. During the class students will be expected to go on a field trip as part of their class training, such as a field trip to a funeral home, hospital, a cemetery, police station and/or the morgue. All participants are expected to welcome guest lecturers, who will be talking about their own journeys through trauma, crisis and grief.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Pre session work: Reading of the textbooks. A written statement acknowledging completion of this reading and book reviews (1 to 2 pages) are due the first day of class, October 20, 2008.
2. Group participation is a primary requirement for the class, so attendance is expected for all sessions. More than one absence during the class will reduce the student's grade. Three tardies count as one absence. Materials submitted past the due date will reduce the student's grade by half of a letter grade.
3. Two book reviews, of 1 to 2 pages each, on each book read for class are due November 30, 2008.
4. Students will be expected to **prepare a theology of ministry** to people in crisis paper integrating behavioral and scriptural concepts. The paper must be typed and double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. Students are expected to do a thorough job in consulting books, journals, articles, periodicals, commentaries, etc. and must give proper credit for sources. Include a title page, introduction, conclusion or summary, and reference list. This is to be included in their required notebook.
4. Students will be expected to prepare two **written sermons** that could be used in a memorial or a funeral service. The students will also prepare a service bulletin for a funeral or memorial service for someone who died in the line of duty. This is to be included in their required notebook.

5. Students will be expected to prepare a **lecture or training program** that could be used with a community or church group to inform them on any subject covered in this class. The presentation should not exceed 6 pages. This is to be included in their required notebook.
6. Each student is required to participate in a research assignment for the class. Students will list names, addresses, telephone numbers and services offered of agencies (faith based, community, public, government and private) in the local area where their ministry will take place. This is to be included in their required notebook.

GRADING PROCEDURE: The course grade will be determined by evaluating class attendance and participation, assignments and papers. Failure to complete assigned reading or handing assignments in late will result in a grade reduction. Tardiness and repeated unexcused absences will also be calculated in to the total overall grade.

Class attendance and participation	15%
Reading reports	15%
Theology of Crisis Ministry Paper	15%
Sermons and Service Program	15%
Lecture or Training Program	20%
Research report	25%

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Manuel A. Cordero, D-Min, June 26, 2006

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