



A M B R O S E

**PT610 Theology and Practice of Spiritual Care  
Ambrose Seminary  
Fall 2010**

**Course Description**

Various aspects of spiritual care giving in the context of the local church and beyond will be examined. This course will help the student develop a theology of spiritual care through class discussions, role-play assignments and the study of scripture. Special off-campus experiences or lectures may be scheduled as available. This exposure will broaden the student's understanding beyond the limits of the classroom.

**Class Schedules**

Tuesdays, 2:30 pm – 5:15 pm L2100

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Peter Ralph, Th.M., D.Min.

[pralph@ambrose.edu](mailto:pralph@ambrose.edu) L2079

**Additional Information**

Students are invited to attend a gathering at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Sept. 23, 2010, 8:15am-12:30pm, themed

**The Circle of Care: Building a Community of Faith in Cancer Care**

Featuring presentations from doctors, patients and spiritual care providers at the Centre. Anyone anticipating service in the church or to persons with cancer should plan to attend and should notify the professor of the course in the first week of class. Students may write a reflection on this experience as a substitute for 100 pages of required reading apart from the class text.

**Textbooks**

**Required**

Swinton, John. *Raging With Compassion*

**Recommended**

Shawchuck, Norman, and Roger Heuser. *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving the People.*

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor.*

Gregory the Great. *Pastoral Care.*

Muse, J. Stephen. *Beside Still Waters.*

Peel, Donald. *The Ministry of Listening*.

Peterson, Eugene. *The Contemplative Pastor*.

Peterson, Eugene. *Five Smooth Stones For Pastoral Work*.

Peterson, Eugene. *Working the Angles*.

Wright, H. Norman. *New Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling*.

A bibliography attached to this syllabus will provide many more resources that are useful from the standpoint of a chaplain's ministry of spiritual care giving. Much can be gained for other types of ministry from this perspective.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required at all class sessions.

### **Expected Learning Outcomes**

The course intends to understand the theology of spiritual care as represented in the Bible, the skills needed in primary spiritual care functions, to explore the character traits and skills appropriate to spiritual care giving, to develop a contemporary perspective of spiritual care ministry, all in the context of the local church and beyond.

### **Course Requirements**

- A. Book reports will be submitted for the class text and for 750 pages of additional reading selected by the student. (Reports are to be 3-5 pages long) If the student has already read the text, a substitution may be made after consultation with the instructor. The reports will include a brief summary and critique of the book, as well as a personal reflection from the student, describing the extent to which the book is relevant to the student's anticipated ministry, and the reasons for this estimation.

**Due: Week of October 18**

- B. One of the following projects will be completed by the student:
1. A **handbook** on pastoral care will be developed from sources other than lecture notes or materials from current or previous courses or experience. These materials may be copied, bibliographic, special interest, etc. The handbook should cover a broad range of topics (seven or more) and should be substantial in each topic (at least five items per topic). The material should be new to the student and should reflect a familiarity with major sources of practical help found in journals and magazines. Possible topics include: weddings, funerals, baptism, deliverance, worship, preaching, discipline as each bears on spiritual care giving. The more successful project will include a wide variety of sources and media, including paper and electronic files on books, journals, pamphlets, and websites. The more successful project will also

give strong attention to packaging, indexing, referencing, and to ease of use.

2. A **major paper** of 15-20 pages which integrates biblical, theological, class, and reference material in developing the student's personal philosophy and theology of spiritual care. This paper is to deal with relevant biblical material, and theological as well as contemporary issues. It will reflect detailed research and personal reflection. It will conclude with two pages, which describe how the student's philosophy will be put into practice in ministry.
3. A **reading log** of sections in books and articles in journals pertaining to any of the topics covered in class. The student will be expected to read not less than 2000 pages, and to choose material broadly. A list of suggested material is available on request. A report of reading will be submitted on the due date, with a one page per book or journal section review of the respective reading and its impact on the student.

**Project Due: Week of Nov. 22**

Book Reports	40%
Project	60%

**Paper submission**

Papers will be submitted and grades and comments returned electronically. Students will identify, on the first or cover page of all assignments, the course name, the instructor's name and their own name, along with their student ID number. If the submission is a book report, a precise bibliographic notation and the number of pages read must be identified on the title page.

**Paper Format**

Seminary papers are to follow the guidelines of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian and/or *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Current editions to be used in each case. The instructor will indicate where these guidelines may be waived or substituted. Students will refrain from using graphics of any kind in preparing papers. Papers will be double-spaced, no more and no less, whether between lines or between paragraphs. All type will be 12 point.

**Incomplete work**

Failure to submit any one piece of required work for the course will result in an "Incomplete" grade. Such grades are automatically converted to a "Fail" at the end of the semester by the Registrar's office.

## Final Examination

None

**Grading:** The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	
A	Excellent
A-	
B+	
B	Good
B-	
C+	
C	Satisfactory
C-	
D+	
D	Minimal Pass
F	Failure

### Important Notes/Dates:

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty – Friday, September 17, 2010 (Fall semester) or Friday, January 21, 2011 (winter semester)

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty – Friday, November 12, 2010 (Fall semester) or Friday, March 18, 2011 (Winter semester)

***Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.***

### Note

*It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).*

*Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*

*We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*

*Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.*

*Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student's registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.*

*Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.*

*An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.*

*Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.*