

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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**TITLE:** Pastoral Listening & Communication Skills

**TERM:** Spring 2024-2025

**PROFESSOR:** Leanna K. Fuller

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 12

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

AUDITORS: 2

NO AUDITORS \_\_\_\_\_

(*Permission of instructor required.*)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This advanced course is designed to help students develop or deepen such pastoral care and counseling skills as listening, assessing, responding, referring, and intervening in crisis situations, with special attention to the congregational context. Students will learn to differentiate the pastoral roles and tasks unique to providing pastoral care, pastoral counseling, and spiritual counsel, and the relationships among them.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course students will:

1. Develop and deepen communication skills for ministry, including listening, assessing, responding, intervening, and referring in both typical and crisis situations.
2. Demonstrate the ability to discern and respond appropriately to deeper patterns embedded in personal life stories (including one's own) and communal narratives.
3. Develop capacity to reflect theologically on the importance of pastoral listening and communication, and articulate biblical and theological foundations for listening ministry.
4. Strengthen their identities as pastoral caregivers by refining the capacity for self-awareness and reflection.

**PREREQUISITES:** PC210 (or permission of instructor)

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS/BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- *The Power of Listening: Building Skills for Mission & Ministry*, Lynne M. Baab, Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, ISBN: 978-1566997119, \$29.00
- *Hearing Beyond the Words: How to Become a Listening Pastor*, Emma Justes, Abingdon Press, 2006, ISBN: 978-0687494996, \$17.20
- *Microaggressions in Ministry: Confronting the Hidden Violence of Everyday Church*, Cody J. Sanders & Angela Yarber, Westminster John Knox Press, 2015, ISBN: 978-0664260576, \$17.99
- *Recalling Our Own Stories: Spiritual Renewal for Religious Caregivers*, Edward Wimberly, Fortress Press, 2019, ISBN: 978-1506454771, \$17.99

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:** Grades will be based on attendance, class participation, and written assignments. Written assignments will include reflection papers, a reading response paper, and a two-part verbatim analysis project.

**ATTENDANCE:** Since skill development is an essential aspect of the course, attendance at all classes is required. More than 2 absences may constitute failure in the course.