



PAST 216/316

Current Perspectives on Pastoral Care

Short Course Description

Lecturer: Dr Lynne Taylor

Brief Introduction to the Paper

Pastoral care is increasingly viewed as outward-facing, lay-centred, and attentive to communal, societal and intercultural dynamics. Therefore, the term “pastoral care” might be understood as referring to the caring, nurturing, and compassionate work of the church as a whole.

This paper explores what pastoral care is, including its biblical, theological and historic underpinnings and background, as well as contemporary insights. The paper then explores pastoral care in selected contexts and settings, including in the church congregation and beyond.

Assessment

This paper is fully internally assessed. There is no examination.

PAST 216: Two 2000 word assignments (30% each), one 1700 word assignment (25%); and online discussion (15%).

PAST 316: Two 2300 word assignments (30% each), one 2000 word assignment (25%); and online discussion (15%).

Teaching schedule

This paper is taught by distance through six video-conferences, plus a teaching day. Video-conferences are 1 hr 50 minutes long and held in the early evening. The teaching day is held face-to-face in Wellington.

Timetable details are available at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/> (See the hyperlinks under “Timetables”, on the right hand side)

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the paper at 200-level should be able to:

- Understand the biblical and theological foundations of the church's ministry of pastoral care.
- Grasp the basic elements of the 20th century therapeutic paradigm of pastoral care, and the reasons for its critique.
- Have a clear understanding of the late 20th century shift toward the communal- context and intercultural paradigms of pastoral care.
- Recognise the core components of today's congregational setting of pastoral care (lay involvement, pastoral care with families/couples, visitation ministries with the sick, the ageing, the dying and the bereaved).
- Be aware of key underlying principles and examples of pastoral care in the community setting, including pastoral care with prisoners, the homeless, and the mentally ill.
- Understand the basics of what is entailed in intercultural pastoral care, with a particular focus on ministries with immigrants and refugees.
- Comprehend the essence of the theological foundations and practical expressions of pastoral care in the context of global injustice, particularly pastoral care ministries with the poor.
- Design a pastoral care programme for your church or community which incorporates relevant insights from your reading and research.

In addition to the above learning outcomes, students who successfully complete PAST 316 should be able to:

- Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the therapeutic paradigm which undergirded the normative understanding of pastoral care and counselling in the latter half of the twentieth century.
- Critically assess theological and sociological rationales for the shift to the communal-contextual and intercultural paradigms of pastoral care in the present era.
- Design a pastoral care programme for your church or community which incorporates relevant insights from your reading and research and articulates your own theology of pastoral care.

For more information

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

theology@otago.ac.nz

Phone: 03 479 8639