

**MS 3XC3/6XC6 The Ministry of Pastoral Care  
SYLLABUS Fall 2017**

**McMaster Divinity College**  
**Phil C. Zylla, D.Th.**  
**Office #: 215 Ext. 20104**

**Fall Term 2017**  
Wednesday 1:30-3:20 p.m.  
3 units

**Specializations:** PS, CW, SC, CC, BS

**Biography:**

Dr. Phil Zylla is Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at McMaster Divinity College and holds the J. Gordon and Margaret Warnock Jones Chair in Church Ministry. Dr. Zylla has served as lead pastor in three congregations over seventeen years in three regions of Canada and has been involved in theological education for the past sixteen years. His interests are in the theology of suffering, pastoral theology, Christian spirituality, and pastoral care. He is author of *Virtue as Consent to Being* (Pickwick Press) and *The Roots of Sorrow: A Pastoral Theology of Suffering* (Baylor University Press). He is currently writing, *Spiritual Formation of the Congregation*. He is married to Melodie and lives in Ancaster, Ontario.

**Course Description:**

Pastoral care involves shaping human values, cultivating authentic spiritual community and alleviating human suffering. Pastoral theologian C.W. Brister suggests that such work requires “theological wisdom, moral clarity and personal courage.” The search for such wisdom, clarity and courage will guide the aims of this course. The practices of pastoral care in a variety of ministry contexts will be explored in depth. Participants will be invited to explore their own framework for moral vision, to articulate a vision of pastoral care for their own ministry context, and to prepare themselves for a deeper participation in the care of others.

**Specializations:** Biblical Studies, Church and Culture, Counselling and Spiritual Care, Christian Worldview, Pastoral Studies

Doctor of Practical Theology students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.

**Course Objectives:**

**KNOWING**

1. To explore the foundational theological themes of compassion, hope and communion as a framework for the ministry of pastoral care.
2. To acquire a heightened understanding of themes of pastoral care in various situations.
3. To widen the horizons of pastoral concern to include the social dimensions of pastoral care.

**BEING**

4. To grow in spiritual vision and compassion for others.
5. To gain confidence in one’s own capacity for pastoral intervention in crisis situations.

**DOING**

6. To formulate a paradigm for sustained pastoral care with those in need.
7. To practice intervention strategies in common situations requiring pastoral care.

8. To grow in skills of empathy, listening, and consolation.

**Required Course Textbooks:**

Coyle, Suzanne M. *Uncovering Spiritual Narratives: Using Story in Pastoral Care and Ministry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

Lester, Andrew D. *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995.

McBride, J. LeBron. *Spiritual Crisis: Surviving Trauma to the Soul*. New York: The Haworth Pastoral Press, 1998.

Nouwen, Henri J.M., Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A. Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. New York: Doubleday, 1983.

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *Can You Drink the Cup?* Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press, 1996.

**Recommended Course Textbooks:**

Capps, Donald E. *Agents of Hope: A Pastoral Psychology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

Patton, John. *Pastoral Care in Context: An Introduction to Pastoral Care*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE</b>	<b>Wednesdays - 1:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.</b>
<b>September 13, 2017</b>	<b>Themes and Metaphors of Pastoral Care</b>
<b>September 20, 2017</b>	<b>Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling</b>
<b>September 27, 2017</b>	<b>Cultivating a Caring Community</b>
<b>October 3, 2017</b>	<b>Narrating Life Stories</b>
<b>October 11, 2017</b>	<b>Reading Week – no class</b>
<b>October 18, 2017</b>	<b>Inhabiting Compassion</b>
<b>October 25, 2017</b>	<b>Chapel: Can You Drink the Cup? Poems Spirituality and Pastoral Care</b>
<b>November 1, 2017</b>	<b>Pastoral Care Emergencies</b>
<b>November 8, 2017</b>	<b>Pastoral Care in Tragedy</b>
<b>November 15, 2017</b>	<b>Care of Persons in the Stages of Life</b>
<b>November 22, 2017</b>	<b>Spiritual Disillusionment, Depression and Suicide</b>
<b>November 29, 2017</b>	<b>Ritual and Pastoral Care</b>

**December 6, 2017 Pastoral Care in Illness**

**December 13, 2017 Final Chapel and Course Poems**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The course design is collegial and interactive. Participants are expected to attend all class session, engage in meaningful discussions in small groups, to interact in the various opportunities of the course, and to complete all reading, written and participatory assignments.

**1. Pastoral Care Case Sessions (20 marks)**

The course will be divided into work groups (by specialization) for analysis and reflection of case studies, films and written stories. Each person will lead a session in their work group in a creative exercise meant to strengthen participant's capacity to enact pastoral care in complex situations. This will involve role play, investigation, analyzing a situation and responding to various media. The session will be peer-evaluated and graded by the professor. **Sign-up on the first day of class for a date** to lead your peer group.

**2. Textbook Review (6-8 pages): (15 marks)**

The book reviews are intended to draw out the questions of the participants as they engage the theme of this course. Select one of the core or recommended textbooks (excluding - *Can You Drink the Cup?*)

- a. Summarize the way this book helps you to frame your understanding of the ministry of pastoral care.
- b. Explore the questions that this book raises for you and the guiding insights gained.
- c. What is(are) the primary premise(s) of the book?
- d. Demonstrate how you would apply the insights of this volume in the ministry of pastoral care.
- e. How does this volume relate specifically to your specialization and what questions does it raise?

**Due Date: November 1, 2017**

**3. Poems: (5 marks for each poem)**

Two chapel times are scheduled during the course. Participants will be invited to present a theopoetic poem in each of these integrative sessions. Criteria used to mark these assignments are:

- a. personal integration
- b. biblical/theological congruity
- c. creativity
- d. engagement of core themes in the course
- e. moral vision

**Due Dates: Poem # 1 October 25<sup>th</sup>  
Poem # 2 December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**4. Literature Review (25 marks)**

Choose seven (7) books for review from the selected course bibliography for exploration of the themes of the ministry of care. These ***books should reflect your specialization*** (PS, CW, SC, CC or BS). [Other volumes can be used by permission of the professor.] Develop a one page summary for each book that includes:

- a. Information about the author.

- b. Key insights and quotes from the volume.
- c. Ideas about the application of the book for the ministry of care.
- d. Identification of questions that this book raises for further exploration.
- e. Application to one's own ministry context.

**Due Date: November 15, 2017**

**5. Final Essay: 15 pages (30 marks)**

Participants are invited to write a 15-page essay that summarizes your own reflections on the ministry of pastoral care and *that fits with your area of specialization*. It is expected that participants will draw on the course textbooks and at least eight other sources (monographs or journal articles) that are *specific to one's own specialization* for this essay.

**Essay topics include:**

For Christian Worldview (CW) Specialization:

- Spirituality for Pastoral Care
- Postmodern Issues in Pastoral Care,
- Other topics – by permission

For Pastoral Studies (PS) Specialization:

- Cultivating a Caring Community
- Crisis Intervention in Pastoral Care
- Spirituality for Pastoral Care
- Strategies for Pastoral Care in the Church
- Other topics – by permission

For Church and Culture (CC) Specialization:

- Postmodern Issues in Pastoral Care
- Social Dimensions of Pastoral Care
- Spirituality for Pastoral Care
- Other topics – by permission

For Spiritual Care and Counseling (SC) Specialization:

- Spirituality for Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Care and the Life Cycle
- Crisis Intervention in Pastoral Care
- Other topics – by permission

For Biblical Studies (BS- NT or OT) Specialization:

- Pastoral Care and the Bible
- Spiritual Themes in Biblical Theology
- Other topics – by permission

The essays will be graded with the following criteria in mind:

- \*interaction with primary textbooks
- \*theological reflection
- \*creativity and writing style
- \*intellectual and spiritual honesty
- \*ministry integration
- \*use of specialization-specific resources

**Essay Due: December 7, 2017**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREE STUDENTS MS 6XC6**

**Annotated Bibliography on Pastoral Care    (25 marks)**

From the selected bibliography choose thirteen (13) volumes and prepare an annotated reference for that book. Include a brief description of the key arguments, information about the author, five summative contributions of the book to pastoral care and pastoral theology, key quotations and insights and details about the reference. Each entry should be 1-1.5 pages double-spaced.

**Due: November 1, 2017**

**Group Facilitation    (20 marks)**

Read all the required and recommended course texts books. Oversee the work groups in the MDiv/MTS class. Evaluate participants and help to facilitate a deep reading of the texts. Also facilitate the group presentations at the end of course. Provide a written summary of your experiences leading the group, the ways that you supported learning in the course, and the evaluation of each group participant [evaluation procedures will be provided by the professor].

**Due: December 13, 2017**

**Essay on Pastoral Care    (40 marks)**

From your in-depth reading of the field of pastoral care, choose one core topic [approved by the professor] to develop a research paper (40 pages). This paper should demonstrate advanced degree level engagement on the theme and should include at least thirty references (books and articles). The paper should present the leading-edge discussions on the theme at hand and demonstrate understanding of the historical and contemporary interpretations of that issue in pastoral care. Topics to consider: addictions, grief care, human development [various age groups], aging, marriage/divorce, trauma, spirituality and pastoral care, hope, confidentiality and ethics in pastoral care, biblical theology of pastoral care, estrangement, psychological disorders, conflict, anger, crisis counseling. Other topics by request.

**Due: November 29, 2017**

**Syllabus Writing (15 marks)**

Write a syllabus for an MDiv course on pastoral care. Use the research from your essay and from your reading list to develop the themes and lectures for the course. Use the MDC Syllabus guide to provide direction and organizational structure to your syllabus.

**Due: December 13, 2017**

---

**Late Papers:** Late papers will be docked 2% each late business day. (Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances such as extended illness, etc.). Note that according to College rules late assignments received after the last day of class will receive 0.

**Spacing:** All assignments are to be double-spaced.

**College Style for Submission of Written Work:**

All written work—unless informed otherwise by the professor—is to be submitted in accordance with the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses*, available on the McMaster Divinity College website. Failure to conform will result in penalties.

**Hard Copy Submission:** All assignments are due in hard copy by the end of office hours on that day (5 p.m.) Permission to submit electronic papers may be granted for commuting students but must be secured from the course professor beforehand.

**Contacting the Instructor:** Dr. Phil C. Zylla

**Mailing Address:**

McMaster Divinity College  
1280 Main St. W.,  
Hamilton, ON  
L8S 4K1

**Work Phone:** (905) 525-9140 Ext. 20104

**Fax:** (905) 577-4782

**E-mail:** [zyllap@mcmaster.ca](mailto:zyllap@mcmaster.ca)

**Appointments:** contact Jackie Hurst @ [hurstj@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hurstj@mcmaster.ca)

**Statement on Academic Honesty:**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g. failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

**Gender Inclusive Language:**

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

**READ ON Bookstore:** Textbooks are available from *Read On Bookstore*, Room 145.

Bernice will get you a good price and have the volume to you quickly. Contact her at:

**Email:** [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca)

**Read On Bookstore Phone:** 416-620-2934; Fax: 416-234-8840

**Address:** *Read On Bookstore*, 5 International Blvd., Etobicoke, M9W 6H3

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up until the first day of class.