



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	THEOLOGY & PRACTICE OF PASTORAL CARE
UNIT CODE	E52051
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	E
PREREQUISITE/S	Nil
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually – Semester 1
PREPARED BY	Rev Dr Neil Sims
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr Neil Sims
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr Neil Sims
DATE PREPARED	7 September 2006

Rationale

Effective pastoral care, mediated through good relationships, is integral to Christian ministry as a means of expressing the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and action. Good theological foundations provide direction to, and better understanding of, the practice of pastoral care. Increased competence enhances one's whole ministry. Traditionally, pastoral care was seen as a Christian minister demonstrating the love of God to a person in need. Now it is seen as a function of the whole people of God responding to people in many different life situations, and sharing the gospel, where appropriate, as encouragement to them, through the Holy Spirit, to be formed as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Relation to program

This unit, along with other Field E units, is aimed to integrate students' theological understandings (gained in all of their units) with their practice of ministry. In particular, the focus on pastoral care will assist students in living their faith in the context of human relationships, providing a solid foundation for, and an authentic expression of, much of the ministry of the church.

Aims

The unit aims to explore critically the theology and practice of pastoral care. Students will evaluate some theological perspectives on pastoral care, reflect together on the significance of the pastoral relationship, consider carefully the impact of context on approaches to pastoral care through exposure to some key pastoral issues, and gain familiarity with some basic pastoral skills through practice in class.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Identify their own theology of pastoral care;
2.	Articulate some foundational principles for pastoral care and the pastoral relationship;
3.	Demonstrate some basic pastoral skills;
4.	Describe and apply appropriate pastoral care for a specific situation.

Content

- 1 An understanding of the nature of pastoral care and how it has changed.
- 2 The theology of pastoral care as a foundation for the care offered, giving shape to the goals of pastoral care, including an exploration of the meaning of suffering.
- 3 The importance of self-awareness in pastoral care.
- 4 The centrality of the pastoral relationship, including issues of ethics and power.
- 5 Learning by critical reflection on a feature movie about the nature and practice of pastoral care.
- 6 Microskills in pastoral care.
- 7 Resources in pastoral care – the Christian community, the Bible and prayer.
- 8 Some contemporary specific pastoral care situations eg grief.
- 9 Care for the pastoral carer.

Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time will include lectures, class and small group discussions, a video, and a workshop format for the practice of skills. Students, in turn, will lead the class reflection on the set readings, related to the topics for each session. A collection of resources will be provided.

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	A critical reflection on some of the literature in pastoral care leading to the articulation of the student's own approach to pastoral theology and the pastoral relationship	2,500	50%	Week 7	1, 2
2	An actual or fictitious case study focused on one particular pastoral care issue, describing <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The needs and concerns of the person(s) cared for;▪ Research on the particular pastoral issue;▪ A verbatim sample of the pastoral conversation;▪ An evaluation of the steps taken in the caring relationship;▪ A listing of useful resources; and▪ A theological rationale for the approach to pastoral care.	2,500	50%	Week 13	1, 2, 3, 4

Notes on Assessment

- Item 1 Will develop the student's knowledge of the foundational principles of pastoral care and the ability to reflect critically on their own practices of such care.
- Item 2 Will develop the student's ability to collect, analyse and organize information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently in written form; and the ability to integrate theological understandings and community situations in an analysis of a specific pastoral context.

Bibliography

Textbooks

Book of Readings – Required Reading(in order of use)

- Lyall, David. "Theology and Pastoral Practice" in *Integrity of Pastoral Care*. London: SPCK, 2001, 22-43.
- Jones, L Gregory. "Crafting Communities of Forgiveness". *Interpretation* 54 (2000), 121-134.
- Bradshaw, Anna & George Fitchett. "'God, Why Did This Happen to Me?': Three Perspectives on Theodicy". *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* 57 (2003), 179-189.
- Nelson, Susan. "Facing Evil: Evil's Many Faces: Five Paradigms for Understanding Evil". *Interpretation* 57 (2003), 398-413.
- Malavsky, Milly. "The Caring Community". *Exchange* (Winter 1998), 8-12.
- Black Rufus. "Community in an Electronic Age". *Eureka Street* (January-February 2004), 30-32.
- O'Connor, Thomas. "Pastoral Counseling and Pastoral Care: Is There a Difference?" *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* 57 (2003), 3-14.
- Capps, Donald. "Pastoral Conversation as Embodied Language". *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 14 (1993), 254-278.
- Nessan, Craig. "Confidentiality: Sacred Trust and Ethical Quagmire". *Journal of Pastoral Care* 52 (1998), 349-357.
- Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly. *Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice*. Sydney, 2000.
- Rutter, Peter. "Sex in the Forbidden Zone". *Ministry* (January 1992), 6-9.
- de Vaus, David, Lixia Qu & Ruth Weston. "Premarital Cohabitation and Subsequent Marital Stability". *Family Matters* 65 (2003), 34-39.
- Forrester, Duncan. "Power and Pastoral Care" in *Truthful Action*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000, 73-89.
- Tan, Amanda. "Voicing Out for the Silenced: A Seminar Curriculum on Disability and Violence for Local Churches and Theological Institutions". *Ministerial Formation* 103 (2004), 13-24.
- Krebs, Richard. "Why Pastors should not be Counselors". *Journal of Pastoral Care* 34 (1980), 229-233.
- Stone, Howard. "Focusing on Outcomes" in *Brief Pastoral Counseling*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994, 47-52.
- Kollar, Charles. "Staying Solution-Focused in Brief Pastoral Counseling: A Conceptual Schema". *Journal of Pastoral Care* 53 (1999), 57-69.
- Rose, Jessica. "Prayer and Counselling: Two Kinds of Relationship" in *Sharing Spaces? Prayer and the Counselling Relationship*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2002, 1-13.
- Smith, Theodore. "Pastoral and Ritual Response to Perinatal Death: A Narrative of a Departmental Policy Change". *Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry* 19 (1998-99), 25-35.
- Rixford, Mary. "From the Walls of the City: Disabilities as Culture". *Journal of Pastoral Care* 51 (1997), 151-164.

- LeFavi, Robert & Marcia Wessels. "Life Review in Pastoral Counseling: Background and Efficacy for Use with the Terminally Ill". *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* 57 (2003), 281-292.
- Enroth, Ronald. "Grace to People Who Know They Need It" in *Recovering from Churches that Abuse*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994, 73-92.
- Haworth, Ian. "Caring for Cult Victims". *Carer and Counsellor* 7 (1997), 27-33.
- Richardson, Robert. "Where There is Hope, There is Life: Toward a Biology of Hope". *Journal of Pastoral Care* 54 (2000), 75-83.
- Kaldor, Peter & Rod Bullpitt. "Coping in the Crossfire" in *Burnout in Church Leaders*. Adelaide: Openbook, 2001, 122-134.
- Nouwen, Henri. *The Wounded Healer*. New York: Image/Doubleday, 1979, 87-96.

Recommended

- Jacobs, Michael. *Still Small Voice: A Practical Introduction to Counselling in Pastoral and Other Settings*. New d; London: SPCK, 1993.
- Lyall, David. *Integrity of Pastoral Care*. London: SPCK, 2001.
- Purnell, Douglas. *Conversation as Ministry: Stories and Strategies for Confident Caregiving*. Cleveland: Pilgrim, 2003.
- Stone, Howard W. *Theological Context for Pastoral Caregiving: Word in Deed*. Revised edition of *Word of God and Pastoral Care*; New York: Haworth, 1996.
- (Jacobs gives a good introduction to the practice of pastoral care. Lyall and Stone both give more of a theological foundation. While Stone is simpler and is more influenced by a more therapeutic approach, Lyall is more focused on Christian formation as the goal. Purnell gives some wonderful examples of actual pastoral conversations.)

References – Books

- Atkinson, D & D Field. *New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1995.
- Ballard, Paul & Stephen R Holmes (eds). *The Bible in Pastoral Practice: Readings in the Place and Function of Scripture in the Church*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2005.
- Capps, Donald. *Giving Counsel: A Minister's Guidebook*. St Louis: Chalice, 2001.
- Gorsuch, Nancy J. *Introducing Feminist Pastoral Care and Counseling*. Cleveland: Pilgrim, 2001.
- Hightower, James E. *Caring for People from Birth to Death*. New York: Haworth, 1999.
- Holder, Jennifer Sutton & Jann Aldredge-Clanton. *Parting: A Handbook for Spiritual Care near the End of Life*. Chapel Hill NC: University of North Carolina, 2004.
- Kirkwood, Neville A. *Pastoral Care to Muslims: Building Bridges*. New York: Haworth, 2002.
- Lebacqz, Karen & Joseph D Driskill. *Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide for Pastors and Spiritual Directors*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000.
- Rose, Jessica. *Sharing Spaces? Prayer and the Counselling Relationship*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2002.
- Stone, Howard. *Strategies for Brief Pastoral Counseling*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001.
- Underwood, Ralph. *Pastoral Care and the Means of Grace*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Weaver, Andrew J, Laura T Flannelly & John D Preston. *Counseling Survivors of Traumatic Events: A Handbook for Pastors and Other Helping Professionals*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
- Woodward, James & Stephen Pattison (eds). *The Blackwell Reader in Pastoral and Practical Theology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.

References - Journals

Contact

Family Matters

Journal of Family Studies

Journal of Pastoral Care

Journal of Psychology and Theology

Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry

Ministry, Society and Theology

Pastoral Psychology

References - Online and Other IT resources

http://www.bacp.co.uk/expert_areas/apscc_practice.html

www.oates.org

www.pastoralreport.com

www.religion-online.org

<http://www.centreforageing.org.au/html/resources.htm>

<http://nsw.uca.org.au/disaster-response/links.htm>

Other websites may be found through a web-search on specific pastoral care issues eg addiction, training of pastoral carers, suicide, and pastoral liturgies.