

PASTORAL CARE RESEARCH & LITERATURE SEMINAR: 2011-2012

General Goals of the Seminar

- 1) Introduce students to the sources of professional and academic literature pertinent to health care chaplaincy, including literature from medical and nursing journals.
- 2) Familiarize students with the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling* (published by the ACPE).
- 3) Provide students with practical experience in finding articles and reading critically in the literature of spirituality & health, including reports of research.
- 4) Address particular concerns about pastoral care research, including issues of scientific methodology, the character of scientific hypotheses and claims, and their underlying assumptions and theological implications.
- 5) Help students to utilize the literature in their own professional practice of pastoral care.

Plan for the Seminar

- A) The monthly Seminar has been designated as part of the CPE residency curriculum, and so all residents are required by the supervisor to participate.
- B) The Seminar will include three instructor-led sessions in October, November, and May (focused specifically on research) plus five resident-led sessions focused on articles from the health care literature or from the *Journal of Pastoral Care* (which may or may not be reports of research). Each resident will be responsible for leading one session of the Seminar on an article of his/her choosing. Resident leaders will confer beforehand with the instructor, and develop article-specific questions for the group's discussion. Resident leaders will then distribute to all participants copies of the selected article a week prior to the session, along with a memo that introduces the theme of the Seminar and gives the questions that have been developed with regard to the reading.
- C) Each session will involve a presentation of material but will consist primarily of facilitated group discussion. Each participant, therefore, must have read the assigned article beforehand, in order to participate in the seminar-format discussion.
- D) A report of attendance and participation will be made to the Residency Supervisor.

Major Research Themes Covered:

- science is a "way of knowing"
- the dynamics of the nascency of the field of spirituality & health research
- the terminology and conceptualization of "spirituality" and "religion" in health care
- theological and scientific assumptions in studies of spirituality & health
- how spirituality may affect health and vice-versa
- the idea of "measurement" and of "measurable effect" in this field
- understanding qualitative vs. quantitative *and* descriptive vs. interventional studies
- basic methodological issues in capturing relevant data about spirituality (incl. trait vs. state measures)
- trends in health care research investigating spirituality/religion as 1) a ground for "religious" social support; 2) a value basis for personal meaning-making and decision-making; and 3) a context for behavior that can influence health risk factors and the way the body works (e.g., meditation that can affect physiological reactions to stress).

Pastoral Care Research & Literature Seminar Series, 2011-2012

John Ehman

Session I: Introduction to Pastoral Care Research, Part 1 (instructor-led) — October

Article: Hui, D., de la Cruz, M., Thorney, S., Parsons, H. A., Delgado-Guay, M. and Bruera, E. "The frequency and correlates of spiritual distress among patients with advanced cancer admitted to an acute palliative care unit." *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine* 28, no. 4 (June 2011): 264-70.

Handouts: Plan for the Seminar Series, Ways of Knowing, *JPCP* Tables of Contents

Session II: Introduction to Pastoral Care Research, Part 2 (instructor-led) — November

Article: Bay, P. S., Beckman, D., Trippi, J., Gunderman, R. and Terry, C. "The effect of pastoral care services on anxiety, depression, hope, religious coping, and religious problem solving styles: a randomized controlled study." *Journal of Religion and Health* 47, no. 1 (2008): 57-69.

Handouts: Worksheet for Presenters, Brief RCOPE, JCOPE comparison, Problems with Questions: Thinking Critically about Questionnaire Items, Background on Coping, and Biomed Library Home Page Showing Databases

Session III: Student Article Selection — December

Article: Sulmasy, D. P., "Distinguishing denial from authentic faith in miracles: a clinical-pastoral approach," *Southern Medical Journal* 100, no. 12 (Dec 2007): 1268-72.

Handouts: Literature Databases: A Brief Selection for Chaplains; Working from a "Foothold" Article in Pastoral Care Research; Delisser, H. M., "A practical approach to the family that expects a miracle," *Chest* 135, no. 6 (June 2009): 1643-7.

Session IV: Student Article Selection — January

Article: Winter-Pfandler, U., Flannelly, K. J. and Morgenthaler, C., "Referrals to health care chaplaincy by head nurses: situations and influencing factors," *Holistic Nursing Practice* 25, no. 1 (Jan-Feb 2011): 26-32.

Handouts: Chaplains' Special Skill Sets/Characteristics Useful for Interventional Research; and Spiritual Needs, Chaplain Functions, and Outcomes for Study

Session V: Student Article Selection — February

Article: Rosenbaum, J. L., Smith, J. R. and Zollfrank, R., "Neonatal end-of-life spiritual support care," *Journal of Perinatal & Neonatal Nursing* 25, no. 1 (January-March 2011): 61-69.

Special Guest: Nurse from NICU

Session VI. Student Article Selection — March

Article: Atkinson, L., "Ethics and conjoined twins," *Child's Nervous System* 20, nos. 8-9 (August 2004): 504-507.

Handout: The Ethical Rule of "Double Effect": Application to End-Of-Life Care

Session VII: Student Article Selection — April

Article: Crawley, L., Payne, R., Bolden, J., Payne, T., Washington, P. and Williams, S. for the Initiative to Improve Palliative and End-of-Life Care in the African American Community, "Palliative and end-of-life care in the African American community," *JAMA* 284, no. 19 (Nov 15, 2000): 2518-2521.

Handouts: Recent Articles Citing Crawley (example of the use of the ISI Citation Index)

Session VIII: Summary Session on Pastoral Care Research (instructor-led) — May

Article: Spidell, S., Wallace, A., Carmack, C. L., Noguera-Gonzalez, G. M., Parker, C. L. and Cantor, S. B., "Grief in healthcare chaplains: an investigation of the presence of disenfranchised grief," *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy* 17, nos. 1-2 (January 2011): 75-86.

Handouts: Summary Bibliography for the Series