Chaplaincy (RJUS 221)

Santa Clara University
Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries Winter 2027

Compassion is hard because it requires the inner disposition to go with others to a place where they are weak, vulnerable, lonely, and broken. (Henri J. Nouwen)

If we could only look into each other's hearts and understand the unique challenges each of us face, I think we would treat each other much more gently, with more love, patience, tolerance and care. (Marvin J. Ashton)

Instructor Father Robert McKay, Ph.D., BCC

Email robert.mckay@dsj.org

Phone (408) 438-1966

Office hours by phone or Zoom appointment as well as before and after class sessions.

Class sessions

Thursdays 6 – 9 p.m.

Course description

Chaplaincy is an expression of ministry within an institution other than a church. This course focuses on various models of chaplaincy – inter alia, pastoral, spiritual, educational, liturgical and prophetic. (4 units)

Method

There are a variety of learning modalities in exploring the art of chaplaincy. These include – the conducting spiritual care assessments, listening practices, identifying pastoral moments, identifying components of self-care, and theological reflection. All these elements of ministry will be explored in theory, practice (verbatims), theological reflections, and class dialogues.

Learning Goals and Objectives

This course is about the art of chaplaincy – for those who provide, receive, or collaborate with the diversity of pastoral care. The focus is to explore and elaborate ministry through reading and dialogue.

Course texts

Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings. Edited by Robert Dykstra. Chalice Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0827216242

Grading

Assessment grids for all assignments will be available online. The grade ranges are:

A+ 98-100
A 94-97
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-76
C-70-72
D+ 67-69
D 64-66
D- 60-63
F Below 60

Academic Integrity

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

> *I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code.*

Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work. For more resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see this LibGuide on Academic Integrity.

In-class recordings/Zoom Policy 4

The Student Conduct Code (p. 13) prohibits students from "(m)aking a video recording, audio recording, or streaming audio/video of private, non-public conversations and/or meetings, inclusive of the classroom setting, without the knowledge and consent of all recorded parties," except in cases of approved disability accommodations. The Student Conduct Code also prohibits the "falsification or misuse, including non-authentic, altered, or fraudulent misuse, of University records, permits, documents, communication equipment, or identification cards and government-issued documents." Dissemination or sharing of any classroom recording without the permission of the instructor would be considered "misuse" and, therefore, prohibited. Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action by the University. At the instructor's discretion, violations may also have an adverse effect on the student's grade. The use of video-conferencing software to record or replace in-person attendance is not allowed, except in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the instructor and Program Director.

If you require the recording of classroom lectures, discussions, simulations, and other course-related activity for a documented disability, please make arrangements through Disabilities Resources (see below) and discuss this with the instructor. If for some reason other than disability you would like to record the class, please seek the permission of the instructor first, and then of the class.

Cell phones should be turned off during class, and laptops may only be used for authorized collaborations or for viewing course readings.

Guidelines for Disability Accommodation

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact the Office of Accessible Education (Benson 1, http://www.scu.edu/oae, 408-554-4109) as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through OAE, please discuss them with me during my office hours within the first two weeks of class.

To ensure fairness and consistency, individual faculty members are required to receive verification from the Office of Accessible Education before providing accommodations. OAE will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assistive technology. Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible. The Office of Accessible Education must be contacted in advance (at least

two weeks notice recommended) to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations.

Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students

In alignment with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and with the California Education Code, Section 66281.7, Santa Clara University provides reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant, have recently experienced childbirth, and/or have medical needs related to childbirth. Pregnant and parenting students can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. In addition, the Office of Accessible Education will provide reasonable accommodations for pregnancy-related impairments which impact a major life activity.

Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX)

Santa Clara University is committed to providing all students with a sfe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

Please know that as a faculty member, California law and University policy require me to report any information brought to my attention about incidents of sexual harassment or misconduct to the SCU Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX (408) 551-3043. This includes, but is not limited to, disclosures in writing assignment, class discussion, and one-on-one conversations.

Should you need support, SCU has dedicated staff trained to assist you in navigating campus resources, accessing health and counseling services providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and filing a formal complaint with the University or with law enforcement. Please see the Students Rights & Resources Brochure for more information about reporting options and resources.

If you or someone you known has experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence and wishes to speak to a confidential resource who is not required to report, please contact one of the following SCU resources for support.

Regular Attendance

If you must be absent from class, please inform me in advance and make arrangements to complete the coursework. Provided that you complete the make-up work, one excused absence will not affect your grade. An unexcused absence will affect your grade. Please be on time for each class

session and prepared to discuss the material listed in the course schedule. A pattern of tardiness will affect your grade. Comments, questions and written assignments should demonstrate your ability to analyze the material critically and carefully. A significant component of the course grade is the quality of your contribution to the dialogue following one another's class presentations. We will practice attentive, active listening, which is one of the major themes in this course. We will also demonstrate respect for our peers' religious and spiritual experiences.

In February, please schedule a meeting with me (about 30-45 minutes) to check-in about how things are going in class and with your learning goals. Available times will be provided.

Throughout the quarter I am happy to meet with students for Zoom office hours as needed.

Assignments:

1) Learning Goals (not graded)
2) Critical Incident reports 2 @ 10% each
3) 2 Verbatims 10% (presented in rotation)
4) 3 Theological Reflections @ 10% each
5) Final Self-Evaluation (20%)
6) Instructor's Evaluation (10%)

Reading schedule:

January 7 (Thurs) Dykstra 1 "The Living Human Document" ; Larson 1 "The Helper in Us All"

January 14 (Thurs) Dykstra 4,5,"The Solicitous Shepherd"; "The Courageous Shepherd";

January 21 (Thurs) Dykstra 6 "The Self-Differentiated Samaritan": Larson 2 "The Challenge of Caring"

January 28 (Thurs) Dykstra 7,"The Wounded Healer";Larson 5 "The Helping Relationship"

February 4 (Thurs) Dykstra 8 and 9 "The Circus Clown"; "The Wise Fool"; Larson 6 "Healing Words"

February 11 (Thurs) Dykstra 11,12 "The Intimate Stranger"; "The Ascetic Witness";

February 18 (Thurs) Dykstra 18 “The Agent of Hope”

February 25 (Thurs) Dykstra 13, 15, 16 “The Diagnostician”; “The Indigenous Storyteller”; “The Agent of Hope”

March 4 (Thurs)

March 11 (Thurs) Final Project Submission