DP9004W  Pastoral Care in Grief and Loss, Dying and Living

Offered: 2017: Semester 2

This unit provides pastoral care education on natural and traumatic losses, and the associated grieving processes. Course participants will be introduced to spiritual, theological cultural and scientific resources to better understand the complex effects of short and long term, complicated and uncomplicated grief and grieving, and to the healing potential of well informed, appropriate pastoral care and counselling responses. Along with theoretical information, participants will be able to acquire tools and skills for spiritual guidance and pastoral care in a variety of settings, and be equipped to share these with their congregations, their families and the larger communities in which they offer ministry.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe cultural, theological and clinical processes of grieving, mourning and bereavement associated with life transitions, loss, death and dying;
2. Reflect on their own experience of loss, and identify implications for ethical pastoral care for others;
3. Articulate biblical and theological insights that inform the practice of pastoral care for those experience loss;
4. Develop strategies of care that adequately attend to the grieving processes of individuals and congregations, including the use of appropriate rituals and community supports;
5. Demonstrate the capacity to integrate theology and practice in pastoral care.

Prerequisites: Foundational unit in Field D

Class Time: Three hours per week

Assessment:
- Book Review (1,500 words) (25%)
- Case Study Presentation (1,500 words) (25%)
- Critical Essay (3,000 words) (50%)

Faculty: Gary Heard

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase