

**ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE**  
**Spring 2019**

**Tuesday**

**6:00-8:30 pm**

**SP603 Introduction to Spiritual Care**

**Dr. John M. Hayes**

**Course Description:**

This course will present an introduction to spiritual care across a spectrum of distinct ministry roles: pastoral visitation, informal and formal pastoral counseling, spiritual friendship, guidance, and direction, as understood in different Christian traditions. Our study will be both theological and practical. We will attempt to ground our study in Trinitarian theology emphasizing the role of the Holy Spirit as faithfully directing and continually forming the individual Christian, the local church community, and the great Church collectively. This course will also engage the student in deepening core pastoral skills of accurate listening and accurate empathy as basic to prayerful discernment and pastoral engagement. Additionally this course will consider the limits of pastoral roles and competencies and how to refer someone for other additional forms of care.

**Course Requirements**

- **Reading requirements:** Readings from the required texts will not exceed 1000 pages for the semester.
- **Writing requirements:** At each class meeting, the student will be responsible for a single-page reflection paper on the assigned readings (30%). In addition, there is an assignment of two papers of 8-10 pages (30% each). The first paper is academic and will focus on a theological issue in pastoral care. The second paper will be an extended self-critical, theologically informed analysis of a pastoral encounter.
- **Other Requirements or activities expected of students and contributing to final grade:** Class participation (10%)

**Required texts:**

- *Care of Mind, Care of Spirit*, Gerald May, Harper and Row, 1982, ISBN 0060655674.
- *Making Contact: Uses of Language in Psychotherapy*, Lester Havens, Harvard University Press, 1986, ISBN 0-674-543165.
- *Shared Wisdom: use of self in pastoral care and counseling*, Pamela Cooper-White, Fortress Press, 2004, ISBN 0-8006-3454-3.
- *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-Evangelizing the West*, Ross Hastings, InterVarsity Press, 2012, ISBN 978-0-8308-3955-1.
- *The Inward Journey*, Howard Thurman, Friends United Press, 1961, ISBN 0-913408-03-4.