**Syllabus**

All Class sessions from 1pm to 4pm Eastern Time via Zoom

Also listed: Alternative Day/Time: Mondays 1pm-4pm Eastern Time via Zoom

**Friday, September 13th, 2024 or *Monday, September 9th, 2024***

***Session 1: Orientation***

Introductions, Course Overview, Scheduling devotions and case presentations, Facilitator case presentation demonstration, Preparation for Images of Pastoral Care session

**Friday, September 20th, 2024 or *Monday, September 16th, 2024***

***Session 2: Pastoral Theology: Our Images of Spiritual Care***

An overview of the development of the tradition of pastoral care with emphasis on some key 20th century leaders and their ways of understanding what it means to provide such care.

**Friday, September 27th, 2024 or *Monday, September 23rd, 2024***

***Session 3: Ethics of Spiritual Care***

The SCS is faced with many difficult decisions while providing care. What happens when two values, rights, or goods come into conflict with each other? This module familiarizes participants with the Code of Ethics of what was formerly the *American Association ofPastoral Counselors* (now a part of ACPE), which helps provide a framework for navigating ethical conflicts.

**Friday, October 4th, 2024 or *Monday, September 30th, 2024***

***Session 4: Listening in the Service of Healing***

The primary skill of the SCS is their capacity to listen well. This workshop supports the development of deep and reflective listening skills.

**Friday, October 18th, 2024 or *Monday, October 7th, 2024***

***Session 5: Spiritual Assessment and Diagnosis***

Whereas the fields of medicine and psychiatry largely dictate how we understand personal problems, practitioners of faith learn how to use their theological understanding of the person to formulate and provide appropriate care.

 ***Friday, October 25th, 2024 or Monday, October 21st, 2024***

**Session 6: *Harmful Spirituality and Spiritual Struggles***

Though spirituality can be a source of strength, we may be working with care receiverswho have been harmed by spirituality and religion. This module covers how to work with these individuals as well as cases covering various spiritual struggles.

**Friday, November 1st, 2024 or *Monday, October 28th, 2024***

***Session 7: Marriage and Family Issues in Systemic Perspective***

The family is our society’s primary unit of organization. This module explores ways of understanding the family system and supporting it to respond in healthy ways to difficult circumstances. Here we also introduce the genogram construct and spend time exploring each participant’s family of origin.

**Friday, November 8th, 2024 or *Monday, November 4th, 2024***

**Friday, November 15th, 2024 or *Monday, November 18th, 2024***

**Friday, November 22nd, 2024 or *Monday, November 25th, 2024***

***Sessions 8-10: Substance Abuse, Addiction, and the Role of the Faith Community***

This is a three-part module. Part One is an overview of substance use disorders with ideas for how to recognize and understand them. Part Two reviews the levels of care found in most communities, and then provides instruction in some brief counseling methods to assist the SCS in speaking effectively with people with substance use disorders and their families. Part Three is a workshop that provides the opportunity for the SCS to consider their personal faith community or other context in which they provide spiritual care, and grow in their knowledge, ability, and skills in working as a support to people with substance abuse disorders and their families.

 **Friday, December 6th, 2024 or *Monday, December 2nd, 2024***

 **Session 11**: ***Grief, Loss, and Resilience***

The experience of grief and loss may be the most common reason a person might seek pastoral or spiritual care. This module provides an overview of what we know about grief and how we can support the strengthening of resilient factors in care-receivers’ lives.

 **Friday, December 13th, 2024 or *Monday, December 9th, 2024***

 Session 12: ***Mental Health and the Role of the Faith Community***

This module describes some of the more commonly recognized mental health conditions and offers ethically sound ways the SCS can support people who come to them with mental health concerns. Here we also consider the SCS’s faith community and how they may assist that community in becoming more knowledgeable, welcoming, and supportive of people with mental health conditions.

 **Friday, January 3rd, 2024 or *Monday, December 16th, 2024***

***Session 13: Trauma-Informed Spiritual Care***

This module is very similar to the mental health and substance abuse modules, paying close attention to the experience of trauma, how we understand it, and what the SCS can do to support someone who has experienced something traumatic.

**Friday, January 10th, 2025 or *Monday, January 6th, 2025***

***Session 14: From PTSD to Moral Injury***

An introduction to the concept of Moral Injury, the way it manifests differently in different context, and the role the SCS can play in helping people heal from it

**Friday, January 17th, 2025 or *Monday, January 13th, 2025***

***Session 15: Understanding and Responding Effectively to Domestic Violence***

Domestic violence is widespread in our communities. Through the use of a number of different vignettes, PCS participants will study the range of manifestations of domestic violence and think together about how they will respond when encountering such situations in their own ministries and relationships.

**Friday, January 24th, 2025 or *Monday, January 20th, 2025***

***Session 16: Conclusion***

Review of key-slides, participant reflections, goodbyes