

**Alabama Course of Study  
Huntingdon College  
Winter Session 2019  
January 18-19 and February 8-9  
Assignments and Course Requirements**

**Course:** COS 323 - Congregational Care  
**Instructor:** Rev. Charles E. Alexander  
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Pell City, Al 35128  
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**Course Description**

Congregational Care introduces students to practices of congregational care and the pastor's responsibility in caregiving.

Students will be able to:

1. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities, and homes.
1. Organize caring ministries within the congregation.
2. Discern and implement appropriate boundaries, knowing when and to whom to refer people, and when and when not to share information.
3. Reflect on and practice skills of sensitive caregiving, using role play and analysis of case studies.

**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance, Punctuality, and Participation  
Because the content of this course will be largely experiential and personal, attendance at and participation in all of the sessions will be essential. Absence from an entire weekend will disqualify you from receiving a grade for the course. The participation of each person will enhance the learning of the entire class. Come prepared to share your experience and best thinking about congregational care.
2. Assigned Reading and Written Work  
Written work may be e-mailed to: [charlesalex630@gmail.com](mailto:charlesalex630@gmail.com) using Microsoft Word or mailed to 160 Mohican Dr. Pell City, Al 35128. Be prepared to pay .05 per page of e-mailed assignments. Your name must be on each page e-mailed.

**Required Reading**

Crisis Counseling in the Congregation, Dr. Larry E Webb, Abingdon Press, 2011 (ISBN 978-1-4267-2698-9)

Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities, Jeanne Hoefft, L Shannon Jung, Joretta Marshall, Fortress Press, 2013 (ISBN- 978-0-8006-9954-3)

African American Pastoral Care and Counseling, the Politics of Oppression and Empowerment, Edward P Wimberly, The Pilgrim Press, 2006, (ISBN-0-8298-1681-X)

**Supplemental Reading**

Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Howard Clinebell

Participants should prepare for the course by reading texts and completing precourse written assignments

### 3. Grades

Grades will be based on written assignments and class participation. Grading is on a college level. There will no final exam.

A= Excellent B=Good C=Average D=Passing (Usually not accepted by your annual conference) F=Failing

Grading will be based as follows:

Class participation	20%
Webb assignment	20%
Rural Congregation	20%
Afr/Am PC&C	15%
Autobiography	15%
Case study	10%

**Please note that your final assignment (case study) must be discussed with and signed by your clergy mentor or your district superintendent.**

### Course Assignments

**Assignment 1:** Write a reasonably complete “story of your life” in which you describe and discuss the following:

1. Family of origin and major childhood influences
2. Important events, achievements, and persons
3. Faith history including call into ministry
4. Work history
5. Marriage and family history

Pay particular attention and reflect on how each of the above has shaped you and your ministry. After each of the 5 sections write one paragraph indicating your learnings that inform your ministry (remember negative as well as positive experiences form and shapes us into the people we are today). This paper should be 5 pages long (typed double-spaced, 12 pt. font)

**Due Date: January 11, 2019 Mail or e-mail me at 160 Mohican Dr. Pell City, AL or charlesalex630@gmail.com**

**Assignment 2:** Crisis Counseling in the Congregation, Dr. Larry E Webb, Abingdon Press, 2011, (ISBN 978-1-4267-2698-9)

Write a 6-page (typed double space, 12 pt font) reflection paper in which you include your “basic toolbox” using Webb’s ideas as well as your own. Then comment and reflect on “episodic” issues, “life cycle opportunities”, “crisis issues” in the human family and your learnings as a provider of congregational care.

**Due Date: January 18, 2019 (Bring with you to first class)**

**Assignment 3:** Practicing Care in Rural Congregations and Communities, Hoefft, Jung, and Marshall

Write a 2-page (typed double space, 12 pt font) reflection paper in which you comment on 1) care shaped by “place” including theological reflections and caring tasks, 2) how engaging the rural community may differ from urban communities, 3) how care intersects with leadership, 4) how care functions sensitively to diversity.

**Due Date: February 1, 2019 Mail or e-mail to me at 160 Mohican Dr. Pell City, 35128 or charlesalex630@gmail.com**

**Assignment 4:** African American Pastoral Care & Counseling, Wimberly

Write a 1-page reflection paper (typed double space, 12 pt font) which articulates your understanding of African American pastoral counseling as political process; write about how you would go about liberation from oppressive conversations; finally write about pastoral care and counseling as public theology.

**Due Date: February 8, 2019, (Bring to class with you)**

**Assignment 5:** Case Study

This assignment has two parts:

- a. Write a brief (2-page maximum) case history of a recent incident in which you provided congregational or community care to someone.
  - 1 Briefly describe the nature of the incident (conversation etc). What was the problem or issue?
  - 2 Assess the needs as you saw them.
  - 3 Articulate the spiritual needs of the person/persons or are there deeper issues.
  - 4 Describe your actions or help you provided (could demonstrate with a verbatim or summary.
- b. Meet with your clergy mentor or district superintendent to discuss your case, then write one paragraph to summarize your discussion. That person **must sign** your case history.

**Due Date: February 9, 2019 (Bring with you to class)**

**PreCourse / MidCourse / PostCourse Work Policy**

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All PreCourse and MidCourse work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late PreCourse/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:

1. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**
  2. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**
  3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of “F” will be given in the course.
  4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**
- **PostCourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.

**Student Academic Honor** - The Alabama Course of Study school requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.