Draft Syllabus

**Suffering and Hope: Theology and Practice KNP3501/6501**

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Knox College, June 2-13 - 9:30-12:30

**Course Description:**
This course explores the practical and theological intersections of suffering and hope. Drawing from the Scriptures, constructive/systematic and pastoral theology we will consider ways to understand, recognize and practice hope in the context of the devastations and suffering in life. Far from ignoring suffering in the face of hope, this course explores the hidden intersections and discontinuities between suffering and hope and seeks out a deeper ground for hope that does not flee from or obscure the trauma, grief and injustice in life, but faces it head on in theology and practice.

**Outcomes (ATS):**
By the end of this course students will:

**Religious Heritage**
- be familiar with contemporary literature on suffering and hope in the fields of pastoral theology and practice, systematic/constructive theology and have some familiarity with the literature in the fields of health sciences.

**Cultural Context**
- be able to distinguish between multiple experiences and theologies of suffering;
- be able to articulate diverse theologies and practices of hope.
- Be able to identify how contextual issues (power dynamics, culture, gender, etc) affect experiences of suffering and hope.

**Personal Spiritual Formation**
- understand diverse perspectives on theodicy and be able to further articulate their own perspectives on theodicy;
- be able to articulate how their theology of suffering and hope and pastoral/spiritual care practice intersect.

**Capacity for Service (Ministry)**
- be able to identify pastoral/spiritual care practices that can serve hope in the face of suffering;
- be able to identify areas for further exploration and study in healthcare research, their theology of suffering and hope and their pastoral/spiritual care practice.

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1 As this remains a draft syllabus, please check with Professor before purchasing books.
CRPO Entry-to-practice Competencies included in course
Foundations - 1.1 b Integrate knowledge of contextual and systemic factors that facilitate and impair human functioning; 1.2; 1.4; 1.5.
Collegial and Interprofessional Relationships - 2.2
Professional Responsibilities - 3.2, 3.4a, d, e, f, g; 3.8
Therapeutic Process – 4.3

Course Requirements and Evaluative Criteria

COURSE POLICIES
Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:

Cell Phones: Cell phones can be disruptive to the classroom experience. Students, therefore, should turn off or set their phones to silent and refrain from using them while in class. Cell phone use is permitted only for medical professionals who are on call and for students who need to be in constant contact with ill family members or minors. Students who meet either of these requirements should inform the professor prior to class.

Use of Technology: Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

Late Policy: one grade (4 marks) deducted per week late.

Completion of Course work:
All course work must be completed by the due date of final paper (April 10, 2014). Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an SDF extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. A request for a SDF extension must be submitted in writing by the last day of the class to the Registrar or the Director of Academic Programs who will refer the matter with a recommendation, to the Faculty for final decision.

Attendance and lateness: Consistent and timely attendance is required. If a student is unable to attend a class the professor is to be informed by email. More than 2 absences will result in failure to pass the course. Habitual lateness will be regarded as absence.
Email correspondence: Papers and assignments are accepted in hard copy only, preferably on recycled or re-used paper. Communication by email can ONLY take place through UTOR email accounts.

Plagiarism Policy: See TST Basic and Advanced Degree Handbooks and the Knox Student Handbook.

Means of Evaluation:
Basic Degree Students:
- Participation in class discussions – 20%
- Initial Reflection Paper on Suffering and Hope – 15%
- Case Study - 25%
- Final Paper exploring practical theological understandings of suffering and hope and how this impacts practices of care – 40%

Advanced Degree Students:
- Expanded required reading list, shaped by student’s field of concentration.
- Participation & seminar leadership – 20%
- Initial reflection on suffering and hope – 10%
- Case study – 20%
- Final paper (25 pages) – Limited literature review on practical theological understandings of suffering and hope and how this impacts practices of care - 50%

Daily Schedule
Day 1 – Situating our Discussion Theologically, Biblically and Practically
Natalie Kertes Weaver, *The Theology of Suffering and Death*, pp1-73 (Intro, ch. 1-5)

Day 2 – Suffering – A Brief History, making some distinctions
Reading – Pamela Cooper-White, “Suffering”, *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology*
Natalie Kertes Weaver, *The Theology of Suffering and Death*

Optional - Douglas John Hall, *God and Human Suffering*

Day 3 – Hope – A Brief History, making distinctions
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope* - Intro and chapter 1, pp 1-16

Optional – McCarroll, *Waiting at the Foot of the Cross*, ch 1, pp 1-23

Day 4 – Finding our way to Hope
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Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, chapter 2, pp 17-52

Day 5 – Hope as Fight
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, chapter 3, pp 53-66
Optional – Donald Capps selections from *Agents of Hope* and
Andrew Lester, selections from *Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling*

Day 6 – Hope as Meaning
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, chapter 4, pp 67-82
Optional – Viktor Frankl selections from *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Day 7 – Hope as Survival
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, chapter 5, pp 83-98
Optional - Judith Herman selections from *Trauma and Recovery*

Day 8 – Hope as Lament
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, chapter 6, pp 99-118
Optional – Walter Brueggemann, *Spirituality of the Psalms*,
Ann Weems, *Psalms of Lament*

Day 9 – Hope as Surrender
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, chapter 7, pp 119-138
Optional – Russell Herbert, from *Living Hope: A Practical Theology of Hope*

Day 10 – Spiritual practices, suffering and hope
Reading – McCarroll, *At the End of Hope*, conclusion, pp 139-144
McCarroll, *Waiting at the Foot of the Cross*, chapter 8, pp 188-207

**Bibliography**


Crafton, Barbara C. Jesus Wept: When Faith and Depression Meet. San Francisco:


------------------ *Lighten Our Darkness: Towards an Indigenous Theology of the Cross*. 
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Kinoshita, Kanae. For a Buddhist Chaplain in a Multi-faith Setting – is There a Place for Hope for People who are Dying? Unpublished Dissertation, MA Buddhist Studies, University of Sunderland, 2007.


Louw, Daniel J. “Creative Hope and Imagination in a Practical Theology of Aesthetic (Artistic) Reason,” Religion and Theology, 8.3-4: 327-344.


---------------------------- At the end, the beginning: Narratives of Hope in the Face of Trauma and Death (working title). pub. pending, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.


Pamela R. McCarroll
March 14, 2013


