

## **Sexuality and Pastoral Practice**

**PC 307-3 Fall 2009**

**Wed, 1:30-4:20**

**Nelson Hall 119**

Dr. Carol J. Cook  
Schlegel Hall 302  
895-3411, x379  
Office hours by appt.

Faculty secretary:  
Laura March, x382  
Schlegel Hall 307

### **Course description**

Sexuality is central to our identity and a pervasive dimension of any human interaction. The influence of sexuality on the practice of ministry is equally significant though complicated by the church's ambivalence about or distrust of it as God's good gift. In this course we will consider representative views on sexuality and develop theological perspectives concerning it. Special attention will be given to integrating these theological perspectives with skills for pastoral practice in pastoral counseling and congregational settings.

### **Objectives for student learning include**

1. demonstrated competence in the use of contemporary theoretical resources on sexuality including physiology, gender identity, sexual orientation, social constructions of sexuality and race, sexual dimensions of relationships, sexual dysfunction, and sexual violence;
2. increased awareness of how one's own experience of sexuality informs self-understanding and shapes one's practice of ministry;
3. ability to articulate an informed understanding of diverse expressions of human sexuality that demonstrates integration of theoretical, theological, and personal reflection that will help guide the practices of pastoral counseling and care.

### **AAMFT Competencies targeted**

1. to understand the principles of human sexuality as they relate to human development, issues of health and illness, diversity, power, privilege, and oppression (2.1.1)
2. to consider physical/organic problems that cause or exacerbate emotional/interpersonal symptoms (2.2.6)
3. to deliver interventions in a way that is sensitive to special needs of clients (e.g., gender, age, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, personal history, larger systems, issues of the client (4.3.3)
4. to monitor issues related to ethics, laws, regulations, and professional standards (5.3.1)
5. to monitor personal issues and problems to insure they do not impact the therapy process adversely or create vulnerability for misconduct (5.5.1)
6. to consult with peers and/or supervisors if personal issues threaten to adversely impact clinical work (5.5.3)

## PRIMARY COURSE TEXTS

- Douglas, Kelly Brown. *What's Faith got to do with It? Black Bodies/Christian Souls*. New York: Maryknoll, 2005. ISBN: 1-57075-609-0
- Ellison, Marvin M. and Sylvia Thorson-Smith, eds. *Body and Soul: Rethinking Sexuality as Justice-Love*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-8298-1561-9
- King, Bruce M. *Human Sexuality Today*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Vantage Books, 2009. ISBN-10: 0-13-604245-7; ISBN-13: 978-0-13-604245-7
- Weaver, Andrew, John D. Preston, and Charlene Hosenfeld. *Counseling on Sexual Issues: A Handbook for Pastors and Other Helping Professionals*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-8298-1618-6

## ADDITIONAL READINGS (on library reserve and CAMS)

- Devor, Nancy Giesler. "Pastoral Care for Infertile Couples." *The Journal of Pastoral Care* Vol. 48, no. 4 (Winter 1994): 355-360.
- Devor, Nancy Giesler. "A Service for Isaac," *Christian Century* Vol. 105 (April 20, 1988): 391.
- For the Bible Tells Me So*: documentary
- Funk, Rus. "From Perpetrators to Allies: Men Supporting Women's Human Rights."
- Lebacqz, Karen. "Appropriate Vulnerability." In *Sexuality and the Sacred*, ed. James B. Nelson and Sandra P. Longfellow. Louisville: W/JKP, 1994. pp. 256-261.
- Marshall, Joretta L. "Pastoral Care and the Formation of Sexual Identity: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered." *American Journal of Pastoral Counseling* Vol 3, no. 3/4 (2001): 101-112.
- Office of the General Assembly, PC(USA). "Older Adults." In *Sexuality and the Sacred*, ed. James B. Nelson and Sandra P. Longfellow. Louisville: W/JKP, 1994. pp. 297-304.
- Office of the General Assembly, PC(USA). "Persons with Disabilities." In *Sexuality and the Sacred*, ed. James B. Nelson and Sandra P. Longfellow. Louisville: W/JKP, 1994. pp. 282-287.
- Pellauer, Mary D. "Pornography: An Agenda for the Churches." In *Sexuality and the Sacred*, ed. James B. Nelson and Sandra P. Longfellow. Louisville: W/JKP, 1994. pp. 345-353.
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Presbyterians and Human Sexuality 1991*. Louisville: Office of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 1991.
- Ramsay, Nancy J. "Sexual Abuse and Shame: The Travail of Recovery." In *Women in Travail and Transition*, ed. Maxine Glaz and Jeanne Stevenson Moessner. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991. pp. 109-125.