



NORTH PARK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MNST 7190 Pastoral Care: Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Violence

North Park Theological Seminary

Summer 2024, May 20-July 12

In-person intensive, June 10th-June 14th

9:00am-5:00pm with 1 hour lunch break

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Elizabeth Odette Pierre, PhD

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Office Hours: By appointment

Office Nyvall 310

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This pastoral care and counseling course will create space for thoughtful discussion and practice around the charged topics of sex, sexuality, and sexual violence specific to contemporary congregational contexts. It will emphasize the development of skills and attitudes necessary for having effective and theologically coherent conversations among individuals who may have varying perspectives. In essence, this intensive will be a microcosm of sorts to dialogue and to work through this anxiety-provoking topic in order to engage in healthier and more grounded conversations in wider contexts that reflects God's care. Thus, developing listening and empathic skills for individuals and communities will be integral to this course. Intercultural and ethical perspectives will be explored by using theological and psychological content. Pedagogical methods: readings, lecture, case studies, documentaries, group discussions, and role play. This course meets the Ministry Field elective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will identify and delineate basic listening and empathy skills to engage difficult conversations.
2. Students will distill theological and social science texts to augment ministerial/pastoral care skills when engaging this topic.
3. Students will evaluate fundamental psychological and developmental theories and how they contribute to providing pastoral care.
4. Students will demonstrate how intercultural and ethical issues impact sex, sexuality, and sexual violence.
5. Students will develop methods for facilitating dialogue around human sexuality.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Cooper-White, Pamela. *The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and The Church's Response*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Guzman, Monica. *I Never Thought about it That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Courageous Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times*. Dallas, Texas: BenBella Books, 2022.

REQUIRED CHAPTERS

Chapters will be uploaded on CANVAS

Alberry, Sam. "Homosexuality and the Bible." In *Is God Anti-Gay?*, 25-43. Epsom, United Kingdom, 2013.

Chu, Jeff. "Agreeing to Disagree." In *Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America*, 179-198. New York: HarperPerennial, 2013.

Cooper-White, Pamela. "Human Development in Relational and Cultural Context." In *Human Development Life-Cycle Stages of Body, Mind, and Soul*, 91-111. St. Louis, Missouri, 2004. 20

Copeland, Shawn. "Body, Race, and Being." In *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, & Being*, 7-22. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

Fortune, Marie. M. *Sexual Violence: The Sin Revisted*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgram Press.

Freitas, Donna. "Where Dating=Marriage and a Kiss Means Everything." In *Sex and the Soul: Juggling Sexuality, Spirituality, Romance, and Religion on America's College Campuses*, 114-126. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Kelcourse, Felicity. "Theories of Human Development." In *Human Development Life-Cycle Stages of Body, Mind, and Soul*, 23-59. St. Louis, Missouri, 2004.

Lew, Mike. "Messages about Masculinity." *Victims No Longer: The Classic Guide for Men Recovering from Child Abuse*, 2nd Edition, 31-44. New York: Harper Publishers, 2004.

Nelson, James B. "Embodiment in Sexual Theology." In *An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology*, 19-37. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1978.

Pineda-Madrid, Nancy. "Suffering Social Imagineries and Making of Evil." In *Suffering and Salvation in Ciudad Jurez*, 39-68. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011.

Schermer Sellers, Tina. "How Did Christian Sexuality Get Derailed." In *Sex, God, & the Conservative Church: Erasing Shame from Sexual Intimacy*, 25-39. New York: Routledge, 2017.

Treweek, Danielle. "The Value and Belonging of Christian Singleness." In *The Meaning of Singleness: Retrieiving an Eschotological Vision for the Contemporary Church*, 63-95. Downers Grove, Illinois, Intervarsity Press.

Vines, Matthew. "The Biblical Argument for Marriage Equality." In *God and The Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships*, 133-149. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Convergent Publishing, 2015.

Wells, Samuel, Quash, Ben and Eklund, Rebekah. "Good Relationships." In *Introducing Christian Ethics, 2nd Edition*, 303-339. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell Publishing.

West, Christopher. "What is the Theology of the Body?" In *Theology of the Body: Rediscovering the Meaning of Life, Love, Sex, and Gender*, 9-39. North Palm Beach, Florida: Wellspring, 2004.

Winner, Lauren. "Communal Sex: Or, Why Your Neighbor Has Any Business Asking You What You Did Last Night." In *Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity*, 42-61. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Brazos Press, 2005.

Yarhouse, Mark. "What Does the Bible Say about Being Transgender?" In *Talking to Kids about Gender Identity: A Roadmap for Christian Compassion, Civility, and Conviction*, 41-67. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2023.

Additional Books/Chapters/Sources to Assist with Presentations and Final Project

Arthur, Cole. *This Here Flesh. Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Convergent Publishing, 2022.

*¹Brown-Douglas, Kelly. "Black Women: A Gateway to Depravity." In *Sexuality and the Black Church*, 35-45. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999.

*Brown-Douglas, Kelly. "Violen Bucks." In *Sexuality and the Black Church*, 45-50. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999.

Crumpton, Stephanie M. *A Womanist Pastoral Theology Against Intimate and Cultural Violence*. New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2014.

Doehring, Carrie. *The Practice of Pastoral Care: Postmodern approach*, 2nd Edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015.

*Evangelical Covenant Church Statement on Human Sexuality and Embrace:

*Chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfndmkaj/https://covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ECCHumanSexuality-short-version-final-1.11.pdf

<https://covchurch.org/embrace/>

Kenny, Amy. *My Body is Not A Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church*. Ada Michigan: Brazos Press, 2022.

Levine, Amir, M.D and Heller, Rachel S.F, M.A. Attached: *The New Science of Adult Attachment and How it Can Help You Find and Keep Love*. New York: TarcherPerigee Book, 2011.

¹ * Sources will be uploaded on CANVAS

Harper, Kyle. *From Shame to Sin: The Christian Transformation of Sexual Morality in Late Antiquity*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2016.

Hendrix, Hendrix & Hunt, Helen LaKelly. *Getting the love you want: A guide for couples*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 2019.

Hitchcock, Christina S. *The Significance of Singleness: A Theological Vision for the Future of the Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Publishing, 2018.

Lew, Mike. *Victims No Longer: The Classic Guide for Men Recovering from Child Abuse*, 2nd Edition. New York: Harper Publishers, 2004.

Nagoski, Emily. *Come as You Are: The Surprising New Science That Will Transform Your Sex Life*. New York: Simon Schuster Paperbacks, 2021.

*Nelson, James B. "Sexual Alienation: The Dualistic Nemesis." In *An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology*, 37-70. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1978.

Park, Andrew Sung. *From Hurt to Healing: A Theology of the Wounded*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2004.

Perry, Jackie. *Gay Girl, Good God: The Story of Who I Was and Who God Has Always Been*. Bankstown, NSW, Australia, 2018.

*Scarf, Maggie. "Marriage Infidelity." In *Intimate Partners: Patterns in Love and Marriage*, 127-141. New York: Ballantine Books, 2008.

*West, Christopher. "The Redemption of the Body." In *Theology of the Body: Rediscovering the Meaning of Life, Love, Sex, and Gender*, 9-39. North Palm Beach, Florida: Wellspring, 2004.

*Yarhouse, Mark. "What Do I Tell My Child about Gender in General." In *Talking to Kids about Gender Identity: A Roadmap for Christian Compassion, Civility, and Conviction*, 67-79. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2023.

OnlineArticles:

<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/christians-masturbation>

ASSESSMENTS

1. DUE June 3rd by 11:59pm

Pastoral Care Concerns 5%

Students are coming from various backgrounds and theological frameworks on this topic.² Please answer the following questions and upload on CANVAS. Instructor is the only person who will see your responses.

1) *What do you bring to this conversation?*

² Should the content of the course be triggering and student needs further assistance/care, the instructor should be notified to determine the best path forward regarding the rest of the course and content.

*For example, how have you engaged this topic before? What was helpful?
What was challenging?*

- 2) *What fears or concerns do you have about this topic?*
- 3) *Is there anything else that you would like to share that is helpful for the instructor to know?*

2. **DUE June 10th 10%**

Complete the Following Reading:

- 1) Cooper-White, Pamela, "Human Development in Relational and Cultural Context."
- 2) Copeland, , "Body, Race, and Being."
- 3) Guzman, I Never Thought About it That Way.
- 4) West, "What is the Theology of the Body?"
- 5) Nelson, "Embodiment in Sexual Theology."
- 6) Pineda-Madrid, "Suffering Social Imagineries and Making of Evil."

3. **DUE Week of Intensive 15%**

Journaling Exercise

Given the sensitive and at times triggering nature of this topic, journaling provides space for students to reflect on the material, lectures, conversations, etc. Instructor will not read the journal entries but student must show evidence that they have completed this exercise by sending a screen shot of the assignment to instructor. Here are questions to reflect on:

- 1) *What's came up for me today?*
- 2) *How did my body feel today? Where did my body feel at ease? Where did my body become tense?*
- 3) *Where did I lean in conversation? Where did I listen well and was able to hold what others shared even when I disagreed?*
- 4) *Where did I resist?*
- 5) *What was triggering?*
- 6) *What might be God's invitation for me today?*

4. **DUE Week of Intensive**

Roundtable 20%

Students will prepare a brief presentation (15-20 minutes) on a topic that they would like to engage pastorally in their context. Feedback from colleagues will be integral part of this assignment. Students will have time to research and work on their presentations during class. Here are a list of possible topics to choose from. Please see instructor if you would like present on a topic that is not listed:

Topics:

- 1) Theology of Body
- 2) Sexuality Among Children and Youth
- 3) LGBTQ+
- 4) Celibacy
- 5) Singleness
- 6) Friendship
- 7) Dating
- 8) Pre-Marital Sex
- 9) Marriage



- 10) Infidelity
- 11) Pornography
- 12) Sexuality and Disability
- 13) Sexual Violence
- 14) Sexual Addiction

1. DUE July 7th by 11:59pm

Community Conversation 20%

7-10 pages, double space, 12 Times Romans Font

Students will interview 3 individuals (pastor, fellow colleague, and lay leader/friend) on any of the above topics that they would like addressed in their community. These conversations provide an opportunity for student to reflect on the needs of their community and prayerfully consider how to address them. Please summarize and synthesize what you learn from your interviewees. Here are questions to include:

- 1) *Why did you choose this particular topic to address with these individuals?*
- 2) *What are you noticing in your community regarding this topic?*
- 3) *What are the common threads and themes from this interview?*
- 4) *What readings from required or additional resources might be helpful to address some of these common threads and themes?*
- 5) *What was this process like for you? What did you learn about yourself? Your colleagues as you discussed this topic?*
- 6) *What might be God's invitation to you and to your community regarding this topic?*

2. Due August 3rd by 11:59pm

Final Project 30%

7-10 pages, double space, 12 Times Romans

For the final project, students will create a workshop, seminar, or podcast/video on a topic of their choice. Their project must reflect the materials covered in the course that will encourage healing and helpful conversations about sex, sexuality, and sexual violence in their context.

Questions to consider:

- 1) *Who is your audience?*
- 2) *Why did you choose this topic?*
- 3) *Why did you choose this medium?*
- 4) *What did you learn from this process?*

GRADING

The weight of assignments is as follows:

- Pastoral Care Concerns 5%**
- I Never Thought About it This Way 10%**
- Journal Exercise 15%**
- Round Table 20%**
- Community Conversation 20%**
- Final Project 30%**



Final course grades follow the policy found in the NPTS catalog:

Superior work (A = 95–100; A- = 93–94)

B: Above average (B+ = 91-92; B = 88-90; B- = 86-87)

C: Average (C+ = 84-85; C = 80-83; C – = 78-79)

D: Unsatisfactory (D+ = 76-77; D = 72-75; D – = 70-71)

F: Failure (69 and below) Unexcused late work will be graded down

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Attendance Students are required to attend class daily for the successful completion of class.

Late submissions: Last submissions of assignments will affect student’s grade: a half grade deduction for each day late. For example, if your paper is an A paper but was submitted late, you receive an A-.

WRITING FORMAT Use the Turabian style for references in your writing. Here is a link to writing handbook for NPTS. Refer to it for your questions regarding formatting:

<https://assets.northpark.edu/wpcontent/uploads/20200717101927/Writing-Handbook-2020-2021.pdf>

NETIQUETTE Use proper online “netiquette” when posting online. Use your best academic writing skills and avoid sarcasm, emoticons, abbreviations or writing in CAPITAL LETTERS.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE Course participants are encouraged to follow the Statement of Inclusive Language from the Board of Publication Policy of the Evangelical Covenant Church which states, “We are committed to being inclusive in language and imagery in an effort to eliminate prejudice, whether gender, racial, ethnic, national, religious, denominational, cultural, or physical. This way of proceeding in no manner seeks to deny personal identity; rather, it guards against any use of word or phrase that tends to exclude people.” Consider how you can best incorporate 5 inclusive language into all of your communication (written and oral) during the course particularly in your references to God and to humanity.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.
5. Use of CHATGPT or any AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–26.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by



phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or TitleIX@northpark.edu to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University's Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or counseling@northpark.edu.

Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information, and further details.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates they will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

June 10th 2024

Introductions

Orientation to Course and Class Structure-Introductions

Class Covenant

Origins: Theology of the Body & Psychological Theories and Sexual Development

Read: Cooper-White, Pamela. "Human Development in Relational and Cultural Context."

Read: Copeland, Shawn. "Body, Race, and Being."

Read: West, "What is the Theology of the Body?"

Read: Nelson, "Embodiment in Sexual Theology."

Read: Pineda-Madrid, "Suffering Social Imagineries and Making of Evil."

Activity: Metemeter, Role Play, Videos on Human and Sexual Development

Guest Lecturers

June 11th 2024

What's Love, Dating, & Sex Got to Do with Pastoral Care?

Celibacy, Friendship, Dating, Marriage, and Living Single

Read: Freitas, "Where Dating=Marriage and a Kiss Means Everything"

Read: Schermer Sellers, "How Did Christian Sexuality Get Derailed."

Read: Treweek, "The Value and Belonging of Christian Singleness."

Read: Wells, Quash, and Eklund, "Good Relationships."

Guest Lecturer



June 12th 2024

Paradise Lost-Sexual Violence and Pornography

Read: Cooper-White, *Cry of Tamar*: “The Rape of Tamar”, “The Framework of Violence Against Women” & “Images of Women: Pornography and Connection to Violence.”

Read: Lew, “Messages about Masculinity.”

Guest Lecturer

Round Table

June 13th 2024

Pastoral Care and the LGBTQ+ Community

Read: Alberry, “Homosexuality and the Bible.”

Read: Chu, “Agreeing to Disagree.”

Read: Vines, “The Biblical Argument for Marriage Equality.”

Read: Yarhouse, “What Does the Bible Say about Being Transgender?”

Round Table

Guest Lecturers

June 14th 2024

Beginning Conversations and Reflections

Read: Cooper-White, *Cry of Tamar*: “The Church’s Response.”

Read: Winner, “Communal Sex: Or, Why Your Neighbor Has Any Business Asking You What You Did Last Night.”

Panel Discussion: Pastoral leaders, Therapists, ECC Leaders, & Testimonials.