New York School of Ministry

Death is Not the Enemy

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This course will examine the theological, social and ethical issues around death and dying. Through readings, lectures and discussions, students will learn about some of the systemic issues that arise around death and dying and how to help their parishioners deal with an impending death, a tragic death and a suicide. We will also examine the complex ethical questions and choices that have arisen because of technological advances in medicine. We will examine, to some degree, the students’ own issues around death and dying. This course will give students practical tools for dealing with various end-of-life issues that arise when serving in a church or a hospital.

Required Texts:


Two case studies to be provided prior to class starting

Suggested Readings:


Tuesday, November 11 End of Life Issues, Part I – Real Situations
Please read two Case studies and be prepared to discuss

Tuesday, November 25 - End of Life Issues, Part II – Fear of Dying, Advance Directives, Pastoral Wisdom and Presence
Please read and be prepared to discuss: Patton, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, Jacobs Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4
**Tuesday, December 2** End of Life Issues, Part III Preparing for the End of Life, Knowing the Options
Please read and be prepared to discuss: Jacobs, Chapter 6, 8

**Tuesday, December 9** End of Life, Part IV – Transformation & Self Care
Please read and be prepared to discuss: Jacobs, Chapter 9, Patton, Chapter 6