Winter - Spring 2012 – Course Offerings

Chaplain Karl A. Pölm-Faudré, PhD,
Director of Education, Research and Outreach, Division of Spiritual Care
100 N. Academy Ave (Nursing Ed Bldg Rm #133), Danville, PA 17822-0403
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All classes and workshops are free of charge and open to the general public and hospital community.

**SCIENCE AND RELIGION SERIES**

**A BIOGRAPHY OF CANCER**
Using the acclaimed book, *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Dr. Mukherjee, a study of cancer from its first documentation thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the twentieth century to contemporary cure, control and a radical new understanding.

Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30, January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7 and 14, 2012.   HHCHR
Snow make-up date: February 21, 2012.

**ALONE IN A HIGH-TECH WORLD**
What is the shape, feel and nature of a high-tech world in which we increasingly create, navigate and carry out our social and emotional lives through technological media? What is the impact on our understanding of identity, humanness, relationships, family, community and the world? We explore this with Sherry Turkle, the professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT, and a licensed clinical psychologist, in her book *Alone Together*.

Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30, February 28, March 6, 13 and 20, 2012.   HHCHR

**INTERFAITH SPIRITUALITY SERIES**

**STAGES OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**
By popular demand, this course is back. What are the common threads that scientists, psychologists, philosophers and theologians of the great world religions have identified concerning a person’s spiritual development over a life-time? What is spiritual maturity?

Wednesday evenings, 7:00-9:00, January 4 and 11, 2012.   HHCHR

**MYSTIC VIEWS OF GOD: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY and ISLAM**
What do the mystics of the three great theistic world religions have to say about the being, nature, will and self-revelation of God?

Thursday afternoons, 1:00-3:00, April 19 and 26, 2012.
Christ Memorial Episcopal, 120 N. Market Street, Danville, PA 17821.

**ISLAMIC STUDIES SERIES**

**SUFI**
In the Islamic Studies series to date we have undertaken an introductory course to Islam, and have looked in detail in another course at the sources of Islam – the Qur’an, Hadith and Sunnah. We continued our study in a course on the history, movements, culture religion and practices of Islam. We now pick up on Sufism, a blend of the mystical and rational tendencies within Islam, with the Islamic international journalist, Stephen Schwartz, using his book, *The Other Islam*.

Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 and 15, 2012   HHCHR
JEWISH STUDIES SERIES

GENESIS WITH THE RABBIS
The Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles do not all contain exactly the same texts. Even more fascinating is the differing understanding, interpretations and significance each tradition attributes to the texts they do hold in common. This course is an opportunity to study the Book of Genesis (Bereishit) with the Rabbis, looking at the breadth of Jewish understanding through modern Jewish commentators in an interfaith environment.

Thursday afternoons, 1:00-3:00, January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2 and 9, 2012.
Shiloh UCC, 500 Bloom Street, Danville, PA 17821

BUDDHIST STUDIES SERIES

DESTRUCTIVE EMOTIONS
What is the nature and role of emotions in the life of a human being? How do we deal with emotions and feelings that are harmful or destructive? The Mind and Life Institute – an on-going series of convocations of psychologists, psychiatrists, family therapists, developmentalists, neurologists and philosophers in dialogue with the Dalai Lama and Buddhists – have published some of the work and findings. There are fascinating insights and practical interventions for interested persons!

Wednesday Evenings, 7:00-8:30, HHCHR
January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2012.

LOCATION:
The location for all workshops and classes, unless otherwise specified, is the HHCHR – Henry Hood Center for Health Research, Intermediate Conference Room #4 Geisinger Medical Center campus, Danville, PA

PARKING for all classes held at the Henry Hood Center for Health Research (HHCHR) is provided in the lot off Center Street behind the ‘Old Nursing Dorm’ (NEC), directly across from the street from the research center.

You may copy and share this information with any interested persons.

If you would like to receive our schedule and course flyers by electronic mail, please email Chaplain Karl (kafaudre@geisinger.edu) with your request, including: Name, Contact Phone, Email Address and the name of the community in which you live. This information will not in any manner be shared or used for any other purpose.

Snow and bad weather cancelations:
(1) A decision regarding cancellation of a class session will be made by 12:00 noon on any given day that a class is scheduled.
(2) If the Danville and/or Bloomsburg area schools are closed for the day, we will not hold class. If the Danville or Bloomsburg schools are letting out early, we will not hold class that evening.
(3) If the schools in your local area – Berwick, Catawissa, Elysburg, Shamokin, Sunbury, Selinsgrove, Lewisburg or Milton – are closed or dismissing early, please assume we are not having class or it is not safe for you to be on the road.

Please understand that part of my responsibility is outreach in the community. I am not in my office every day. I will respond to email and phone messages as promptly as possible.
A Biography of Cancer

SCIENCE AND RELIGION SERIES

Division of Spiritual Care
Geisinger Medical Center
Danville, PA 17822

Tuesday Evenings: 7:00-8:30pm
Jan 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb 7 and 14, 2012
Snow make-up date: Feb 21, 2012.

Location:
Henry Hood Center for Health Research, Intermediate Conference Room #4
Parking available behind the old Nursing Dorm on Center Street across from the research center.

This course will use as its basis the acclaimed book, The Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD. This magnum opus is a magnificent, profoundly humane ‘biography’ of cancer, from its first documented appearances thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the twentieth century to cure, control, and conquer cancer, to a radical new understanding of cancer’s essence. Physician, researcher, and award-winning science writer, Dr. Mukherjee examines cancer with a cellular biologist’s precision, a historian’s perspective, and a biographer’s passion. The result is an astonishingly lucid and eloquent chronicle of a disease humans have lived with, and perished from, for more than five thousand years. Dr. Mukherjee provides a fascinating glimpse into the future of cancer treatments.

INSTRUCTOR:
Karl A. Pölm-Faudré, PhD, Director of Education, Research and Outreach for the Division of Spiritual Care at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA.

REQUIRED TEXT:

READING SCHEDULE:  Please read before each class session to facilitate discussion.
Jan 10 – Prologue and Part One   Jan 31 – Part Four
Jan 17 – Part Two               Feb 7 – Part Five
Jan 24 – Part Three             Feb 14 – Part Six and Atossa’s War

No registration required and no fee. Open to the hospital and community at large. All welcome.
“Consider facebook – it’s human contact, only easier to engage with and easier to avoid. Developing technology promises closeness. Sometimes it delivers, but much of our modern life leaves us less connected with people and more connected to simulations of them.”

What are the shape, feel and nature of a high-tech world in which we increasingly create, navigate and carry out our social and emotional lives through technological media? What is the impact on our understanding of identity, humanness, relationships, family, community and the world? We explore this with Sherry Turkle, the professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT, and a licensed clinical psychologist, in her book Alone Together.

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REQUIRED TEXT:

READING SCHEDULE: Please read before each class session to facilitate discussion.
- February 28 Introduction, Part One – Chapters 1-3
- March 6 Part One – Chapters 4-7
- March 13 Part Two – Chapters 8-10
- March 20 Part Two – Chapters 11-14, Conclusion & Epilogue

No registration required and no fee. Open to the hospital and community at large. All welcome.
Stages of Spiritual Development: 
An Interdisciplinary Study

WORLD SPIRITUALITY SERIES

Division of Spiritual Care
Geisinger Medical Center
Danville, PA 17822

Wednesday Evenings:
Jan 4 and 11, 2012
7:00-9:00pm

Location:
Henry Hood Center for Health Research, Intermediate Conference Room #4
Parking available behind the old Nursing Dorm on Center Street across from the research center.

Can a person be spiritually immature as differentiated from spiritually mature? The scriptures of all the world religions indicate such to be the case. What would be the characteristics of ‘spiritual’ maturity, and how would it be attained?

Employing the developmental model, an evolving international and interdisciplinary consensus among theologians, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists and neuropsychologists suggests a paradigm of six stages of spiritual development.

In this two-session workshop, we will examine this paradigm as it applies to the nature of the divine, human nature, good and evil, divine-human and human-to-human relationships, salvation and the meaningful existence. Illustrations of the stages will be offered from Judaism, Buddhism and Christianity.

INSTRUCTOR:
Karl A. Pölm-Faudré, PhD, Director of Education, Research and Outreach for the Division of Spiritual Care at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA.

REQUIRED TEXT: NONE
Class participants will be provided with handout materials at each session.

To assure the preparation of an adequate number of copies of handouts, please declare your intention to attend these sessions by leaving your name, phone number and course title on Dr. Pölm-Faudré’s answering machine at 570-214-5091. Thank you.

There is no course fee. Open to the hospital and community at large. All welcome.
Mystic Views of God:  
Judaism, Christianity and Islam

WORLD SPIRITUALITY SERIES

Division of Spiritual Care  
Geisinger Medical Center  
Danville, PA 17822

Thursday Afternoons:  
April 19 and 26, 2012  
1:00-3:00pm

Location:  
Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 120 N. Market Street, Danville, PA 17821

Mystics of the three great theistic world religions seek an unmediated union with God out of a loving devotion and a profound sense of service. God, however, if not an idol fashioned from the human mind out of its own projected needs, is beyond human conception or understanding. The finite cannot comprehend the infinite, nor reduce it to human concepts or air-tight orthodoxies. Thus, the threat of mysticism to rigid theological systems and fixed doctrinal structures.

What do the traditions and recorded experiences within Judaism, Christianity and Islam say about the mystic pursuit? How is the mystic path undertaken and understood? Once encountered, how does the mystic speak of God? What is the fruit of mystic union in terms of responsibility and service to the world? Come share in the exploration of these topics.

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Sufism

ISLAMIC STUDIES SERIES

Division of Spiritual Care
Geisinger Medical Center
Danville, PA 17822

Tuesday Evenings, 7:00-8:30
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 and 15, 2012.

Henry Hood Center for Health Research, Intermediate Conference Room #4
Parking available behind the old Nursing Dorm on Center Street across from the research center.

Lovers find secret places inside this violent world
where they make transactions with beauty.
Reason says, Nonsense...There are no places like that.
Love says, There are.

– Rumi

Sufism, a blend of the mystical and rational tendencies within Islam, emerged soon after the revelation of the Prophet Muhammad. A reforming movement against the increasing worldliness of Muslim society, it focuses on Islam’s spiritual dimension. Described as ‘Islam of the Heart’, Sufism has attracted adherents among both Sunni and Shi’a Muslims, and has influenced and been influenced by other Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist and Christian schools of mysticism.

In this course, we will trace the origins and history of Sufism, elucidating its teachings, and illustrating the links to other religious traditions. The author of our text, Stephen Schwartz, an internationally published Muslim journalist, features in his treatment of the subject such celebrated Sufi poets and philosophers as Rumi and Al-Ghazali, and offers a fresh survey of Sufism in today’s Islamic world, noting an intellectual and mystical renaissance of faith and alternatives to fundamentalism.

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REQUIRED TEXT:

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Genesis with the Rabbis

JEWISH STUDIES SERIES
CHRISTIAN STUDIES SERIES

Division of Spiritual Care
Geisinger Medical Center
Danville, PA 17822

Thursday Afternoons:
Jan 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb 2 and 9, 2012
1:00-3:00pm

Location:
Shiloh UCC, 500 Bloom Street, Danville, PA 17821

The Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles do not all contain exactly the same texts. Even more fascinating is the differing understanding, interpretations and significance each tradition attributes to the texts they do hold in common. This course is an opportunity to study the Book of Genesis (Bereishit) with the Rabbis, looking at the breadth of Jewish understanding through modern Jewish commentators in an interfaith environment.

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REQUIRED TEXTS: All Bibles and Commentaries are available on www.Amazon.com.
(1) Each participant is asked to bring a Bible, one you already own or one of the following:

(2) Each participant is asked to bring one of the following Rabbinic Jewish Commentaries:

No registration required and no fee. Open to the hospital and community at large. All welcome.
Buddhism: 
Destructive Emotions

BUDDHIST STUDIES SERIES

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May 2, 9 and 16, 2012.

Henry Hood Center for Health Research, Intermediate Conference Room #4
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Imagine sitting with the Dalai Lama in his private meeting room with a small group of world-class Buddhist scholars, western psychologists, neuroscientists and philosophers. The talk is lively and fascinating as these leading minds grapple with age-old questions of compelling contemporary urgency: what are the root causes of destructive behavior; can we control the emotions that drive these impulses; and, can we learn to live at peace with ourselves and others? This series of scientific presentations and dialogues are captured and presented in the text narrated by Daniel Goleman, with contributors including Richard J. Davidson, Paul Ekman, Mark Greenberg, Qwen Flanagan, Thupten Jinpa, Matthieu Ricard, Jeanne Tsai, Francisco J. Varela and Alan Wallace. The class discussion will follow the subsections of the book: a scientific collaboration; what are destructive emotions; feelings in everyday life; windows into the brain; mastering emotional skills; and, reasons for optimism. The insights gained and skills learned can be applied to one’s personal life, family and close relationships, as well as society and international relations.

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