

Title:

Foundations for spiritual care: How can scholarly research influence clinical practice?

Author:

Leslie Van Dover, PhD, PN, RN; Shannon Fernando, BSN, RN¹

Content:

Aim(s) of the workshop/presentation: Share both faculty and student perspectives and experiences of an intensive course in spiritual care. Students engage in scholarly research, personal reflection, and inductive reasoning, to produce a 25 page paper that reflects formation of both the mind and the heart. Participants will learn the value of this course for academic and spiritual formation, readying students to give and receive spiritual care.

Summary of the content of the workshop/presentation: Faculty/student presenters will explain the teaching/learning process of a spiritual care course that focuses on concepts relevant to Christianity and nursing. What do concepts like mercy, pain, obedience, and wholeness have to do with spiritual care? Students explore Old and New Testament scriptures and historical writings through six time periods to answer this and other questions. Concepts are examined and compared with those studied by classmates. Students also examine relevant modern nursing literature on these concepts, drawing implications for nurses and their clinical work with patients. Student experiences of this academic/spiritual process and samples of work at various stages of development will be shared.

¹ School of Nursing, Azusa Pacific University (APU), Azusa, California, U.S.A., LVanDover@apu.edu