



Grace Communion Seminary

Glendora, California

CM03 - Introduction to Pastoral Counseling Short Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION: INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL COUNSELING

This course provides an introduction to the nature of counsel, and highlights various elements of counselor development. Topics include biblical and presuppositional basis for pastoral counseling, basic dynamics of the counseling process, appreciating a biblical view of human needs, and applying appropriate skills for helping those in need.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Note: The use of these books as a text or reference does not necessarily mean that the instructor or Grace Communion Seminary endorse or agree with all of their contents.

Adams, Jay Edward. *The Christian Counselor's Manual: The Practice of Nouthetic Counseling*. Ministry Resources Library. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub., 1973. Reprint, 1986. ISBN: 0-310-51150-X

McMinn, Mark R. *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling : An Integrative Paradigm*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2008.

Moorehead, Bob. *Counsel Yourself & Others from the Bible : The First Place to Turn for Life's Tough Issues*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1994. ISBN: 0-88070-636-8

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Define the nature and scope of the counseling role of a pastor.
2. Understand the presuppositional basis for biblical counseling.
3. Define and pursue the qualifications and skill set necessary for an effective counseling ministry.
4. Understand the dynamics of the counseling process.
5. Understand how to facilitate biblical change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Due to the nature of this course, in addition to the required readings, students are expected to place a special emphasis on each lecture content, class participation and role play activities. The student's understanding of the lecture content will be assessed through a weekly quiz, and is expected to be demonstrated in class interactions. A final writing project will demonstrate the ability of the student to interact with the contents of the course and use appropriate critical thinking which will reflect a biblical worldview.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Student will complete and submit each module as outlined below. Modules 1 and 2 are weekly and apply to each lecture.

Module 1: (Weekly) Read the lectures toward the beginning of the week and complete the assigned reading and class participation during the course of the week.

Module 2: (Weekly) Toward the end of the week, take the quiz posted for that lecture.

Module 3: At the end of the course, prepare and submit a final research paper addressing the materials presented in the course and demonstrating appropriate critical thinking and a biblical worldview. The paper will be no more than 15-20 pages long (this length does not include the bibliography) and should draw from the resources used in the course as well as additional resources available to the student. All resources should be properly cited according to Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, published by the University of Chicago Press.

WEEKLY TOPICS:

The course is divided into ten weekly lectures, each with its own set of assignments. In addition to the ten weeks needed for the lectures, the student will have four weeks time to complete and submit the final writing project.

1. Worldview and pastoral counseling
2. Understanding the role and the scope of biblical counseling
3. Qualifications and skill set of the biblical counselor
4. The process of biblical counseling
5. Understanding and facilitating change, Pt. 1: The biblical meaning of change
6. Understanding and facilitating change, Pt. 2: Defining the problem, blame shifting and laying the foundation for change
7. Understanding and facilitating change, Pt. 3: Taking action
8. Case study in change: Setting the course
9. Case study in change: Discussion and role play
10. Debriefing: Responses and insights from class interaction