



## **Counseling in Ministry COUN5202**

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

### **Division of Church and Community Ministries**

### **Fall 2016 Hybrid**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is Characteristic Excellence.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of Christian counseling and basic counseling skills.

Biblically-based foundations and approaches to counseling will be examined. In addition, the class will address

skill development and application and will examine counseling issues such as marital and family relationship problems, depression, anxiety, anger, forgiveness and reconciliation, substance abuse problems, and spiritual direction.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to perform counseling effectively with the knowledge and skills necessary, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to understand the basic foundations and dimensions of biblically-based Christian counseling, including theological, pastoral, historical, scientific, and psychological elements and counseling models.
2. Be able to apply a biblically-based knowledge of pastoral care and counseling to the difficulties commonly faced by church members and their families.
3. Be able to evaluate personal limits in counseling and to know how and when to make appropriate referrals.
4. Be able to communicate effectively using basic counseling skills.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies:

As this course is being taught on the Internet, its primary learning activity is interaction with required readings and material posted to the course's website. Each week you will be asked to interact with different types of materials, including lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, class texts, exercises or practical activities, and responses from other students. Students will participate in a weekly threaded discussion on Blackboard.

### **Embedded Assignment**

This course will be assessed for quality and improvement through the use of an embedded assignment. The research paper, required to be completed by all students for all sections of this course, will serve as the basis for this assessment. The rubric for grading the paper is in the course requirements section below.

### **Textbooks**

#### **Required Textbooks**

Bible—your preferred translation

Jones, Ian F. (2006). *The Counsel of Heaven on Earth: Foundations for Biblical Christian Counseling*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman. ISBN# 10: 0-8054-4343-6

Sphar, Asa R. III, and Argile Smith (2003). *Helping Hurting People: A Handbook on Reconciliation-Focused Counseling and Preaching*. University Press of America, Inc. ISBN# 0-7618-2477-4

Collins, Gary. (2007). *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*. Revised and Updated Third Edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. ISBN# 13: 978-1-4185-0329-1

#### **Recommended Reading**

(Although these books are not required, they provide helpful information for further study in areas covered by the course.)

Bolton, Robert (1979) *People Skills: How to Assert Yourself, Listen to Others, and Resolve Conflicts*. New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster.

Clinton, Timothy, & George Ohlschlager (Eds.). (2002). *Competent Christian Counseling, Volume One: Foundations & Practice of Compassionate Soul Care*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: WaterBrook Press.

Clinton, Tim, Archibald Hart, & George Ohlschlager. Editors (2006). *Caring for People God's Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma*. Nashville, TN: Nelson Reference & Electronic.

Sande, Ken (2004). *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*. Third Edition, Revised and Updated. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books.

## Course Requirements

### Examinations:

(Midterm—20%, Final—20%)

Exams will cover material from assigned readings and PowerPoint presentations. They will be posted on Blackboard, along with instructions.

### Discussion Board:

20%

Students will be required to participate in weekly discussion on Blackboard. Questions and activities will be posted throughout the semester. Each student will be responsible for one primary post in response to *each* of the instructor questions, and a minimum of two secondary post responses per unit, commenting on primary posts from other students.

As an example – in Week 1, you will make a primary post addressing the instructor question for 1.1. Then, you will be responsible for commenting on two posts during the week from your fellow students – these are your secondary posts for 1.1. So, your total minimum posting for the week is 1 primary post and 2 secondary posts. Feel free to make more secondary posts and to keep the discussion going. You will repeat this process in Week 2 and in subsequent weeks. See the Reading and Assignments Schedule below for specific dates.

A new discussion board will be posted at the beginning of each week (on Sunday of each week at 12:00 AM). In order to facilitate better discussion, *students must post their primary responses as early as possible in the week, no later than Wednesday, end of day*. Discussion boards will be closed on Saturday at 11:59 PM (CST) each week. Discussion board will not be reopened once they are closed.

Posts will be graded for content quality and synthesis of course reading materials. Primary posts must demonstrate an understanding of the reading, presentation, or assigned activity, with a normal expectation of approximately one paragraph in length. Secondary posts may be shorter (a few sentences to a paragraph), but must demonstrate evidence of quality and informed reflection on the subject.

### Book Review:

15%

Students will write a book review of not less than five pages, excluding cover sheet, of the book *The Counsel of Heaven on Earth* by Ian F. Jones. The review will be double spaced, in accordance with current APA style for counseling majors or Turabian style for all other students. The book review should include (1) a brief summary of content, (2) an evaluation of the strengths and limitations of the work, and (3) its applicability to Christian ministry and counseling. Submit the review on Blackboard at the designated place under Assignments.

### Research Paper:

#### Part One: Draft Research Paper

5%

Each student will write a first draft of the research paper. The draft must be a complete paper, conforming to all standards as detailed in the “Part Two: Final Research Paper” section (see below) and rubric in this syllabus. **This first draft will be submitted to the NOBTS Writing Center by the due date in the course schedule. Students must also upload a copy of the writing center receipt to Blackboard in the Assignments section.** Information about the Writing Center and the process for submitting papers can be found at <http://www.nobts.edu/writing>. The writing center staff will review the paper, notify the professor of the submission, and work with the student as necessary to improve it before the final paper is submitted. Working with the writing center should help you in all of your academic writing, as well as help you produce an excellent research paper for this course.

#### Part Two: Final Research Paper

20%

Each student will write a paper on a counseling issue (see possible topics below), approximately 20 pages in length (not counting cover sheet, endnotes or bibliography).

The paper should consist of:

1. An introduction to the topic, including definitions, description and extent of the problem, and significant related issues.
2. How the Scripture speaks to the issue and information gathered from research in the field (particularly evidence-based research).
3. An awareness of biblical insights along with possible counseling interventions and resources.

Possible sources for information include Bible commentaries, books on the subject, counseling texts, journals, and organizations dedicated to addressing the problem—one place to start your search is the syllabus bibliography. Caution: although you may gather information from multiple sources, you need to be careful about the use of

material found on the Internet, much of which is of dubious quality. Check your sources carefully. Submit the paper on Blackboard at the designated place under Assignments.

**Possible Research Topics:** The following topics are generally broad. You may need to narrow the topic in order to cover the material within the requirements of the paper. Students may also choose topics from the chapter headings in the Collins text. The professor must approve other topics.

1. The Use of Scripture in Counseling
2. Marriage Counseling for \_\_\_\_\_ (You select the issue)
3. Bereavement, Grief and Loss Counseling
4. Problem-Solving and Resolving Conflict in Relationships
5. Ethical Issues for Christian Counselors
6. The Essentials of Pre-Marital Counseling
7. Counseling Parents of Troubled Teens
8. Counseling Parents of Troubled Children
9. Counseling with Single Parents
10. Counseling with Singles
11. Counseling People with Terminal Illnesses
12. Counseling Divorced Church Members
13. Counseling Substance Abusers
14. Counseling Children of Alcoholic Parents
15. Counseling Skills for a Successful Pastoral Counselor
16. Group Counseling in a Church Setting
17. Counseling People in Financial Crisis
18. Communication Skills in Relationships and Counseling
19. Anxiety & Depression Counseling
20. Trauma and Stress Counseling
21. Self-Harm and Suicide Counseling
22. Counseling and Spiritual Crises
23. Counseling and Spiritual Warfare
24. Counseling Victims of Incest/Rape or other Sexual Abuse
25. Counseling: Brief vs. Long-Term Therapy
26. Other topics as approved by the professor.

The paper will be in the APA format for counseling majors and Turabian for all other majors. The paper will include a bibliography with a minimum of ten references other than the texts for this course. Papers will be scanned for plagiarism. (See the seminary statement in the Student Handbook under General Policies [p. 9] at <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf> )

**Embedded Assignment**

*This paper is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment in accordance with the syllabus and this rubric. (See below. Assessment of the Student Learning Objectives will be drawn, in particular, from Sections 2-4 in the rubric.)*

**Rubric for Research Paper (Embedded Assignment Sections 2-4) Name:**

Grade:

Research Paper	Unacceptable (0)	Basic/Poor (70)	Competent/Fair (80)	Good (90)	Excellent (100)
Abstract/ Introduction  Weight: 5%	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Abstract/summary is missing or fails to address the structure and nature of the paper	80% (4 pts.) A summary or introduction is present, but incomplete.	90% (4.5 pts.) The summary or introduction covers the content, but it is not clearly articulated	100% (5 pts.) Well-written abstract/summary of paper or introduction of the paper

<b>Sec. 2</b> <b>UNDERSTANDING</b> Description of Biblically-based Counseling Model or Approach Weight: 15%	0%	70% (10.5 pts.) Subject matter is missing.	80% (12 pts.) Inadequate discussion of subject matter.	90% (13.5 pts.) Adequate discussion of the subject matter	100% (15 pts.) Excellent discussion of the subject matter
<b>Sec. 3</b> <b>COMMUNICATION</b> Evaluation of Personal Counseling Skills Weight: 15%	0%	70% (10.5 pts.) Discussion of basic counseling skills and assessment is missing or not adequately addressed	80% (12 pts.) Incomplete discussion of basic counseling skills and assessment.	90% (13.5 pts.) Some basic counseling skills are identified with limited assessment.	100% (15 pts.) Basic counseling skills are identified and comprehensively assessed.
<b>Sec. 4</b> <b>APPLICATION</b> Counseling Issue Description & Analysis Weight: 30%	0%	70% (21 pts.) Discussion on a counseling issue is missing or fails to adequately address the issue	80% (24 pts.) Incomplete discussion of a counseling issue, lacking biblical insights, interventions, evaluation, and use of research	90% (27 pts.) Counseling issue is discussed along with some biblical insights, interventions, critical evaluation, and use of research	100% (30 pts.) Excellent examination of a counseling issue, including biblical insights, appropriate interventions, critical evaluation, and use of evidenced- based research
Conclusion Weight: 5%	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Conclusion missing	80% (4 pts.) Incomplete conclusion, failing to draw contents of the paper together	90% (4.5 pts.) Adequate conclusion, but fails to tie all areas of the paper together	100% (5 pts.) Excellent concluding summary drawing together and applying all components of the paper
Organization, Grammar and Spelling Weight: 10%	0%	70% (7 pts.) Paper lacks organization and is not clearly structured; many style, spelling and grammar errors	80% (8 pts.) Incomplete or unclear organization and numerous style, spelling, and grammar errors	90% (9 pts.) Paper is adequately organized, with few style, spelling, or grammar errors	100% (10 pts.) Paper is well-organized, with no obvious style, typographical, spelling or grammar errors
Documentation Weight: 10%	0%	70% (7 pts.) Evidence of plagiarism and failure to document appropriately	80% (8 pts.) Sources are not properly documented or cited, or are missing	90% (9 pts.) Sources are documented and properly cited in most cases. Few errors	100% (10 pts.) All sources are documented and properly cited. Documentation is error free
Bibliography Weight: 5%	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Bibliography is missing or lacks	80% (4 pts.) Bibliography is lacking, failing	90% (4.5 pts.) Bibliography	100% (5 pts.) Bibliography is comprehensive

		use of basic books and articles in the field	to meet minimum requirements	is adequate, generally meeting minimum requirements	and relevant to the subject, with use of significant supporting books and journal articles and a minimum of 10 references
Format Weight: 5%	0%	70% (3.5 pts.) Form and writing does not meet the standard APA or Turabian guidelines. Many significant errors	80% (4 pts.) Form and writing only minimally follows the standard APA or Turabian guidelines and contains numerous errors	90% (4.5 pts.) Form and writing does not completely follow the standard APA or Turabian guidelines. Some errors	100% (5 pts.) Form and writing follows the standard APA or Turabian guidelines, with no obvious errors

### Due Dates and Times

All assignments are due on their respective due dates as detailed in the Reading and Assignments Schedule. Assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard by “end of day” (11:59 PM Central Standard Time) on the dates they are due. *Late assignments will be assessed a 4-point per day penalty.*

If technical difficulty precludes your submitting an assignment through Blackboard, you may email it as an attachment to the instructor and it will be graded according to the date & time stamp on your email. Please use the email option only as a last resort.

### Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1. Exam 1 (Midterm) 20%
2. Exam 2 (Final) 20%
3. Discussion Board 20%
4. Book Review 15%
5. Draft Research Paper 5%
6. Final Research Paper 20%

### Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used at NOBTS (see the Graduate Catalog, available online at <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/GraduateCatalog.pdf>):

- A: 93-100
- B: 85-92
- C: 77-84
- D: 70-76
- F: Below 70

### Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other paragraphs might be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

### Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### Course Schedule

#### Tentative Schedule and Reading Assignments

*CC = Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide. HHP = Helping Hurting People*

Unit # Class	Date/Discussion Board	Reading & Assignments Schedule
Class 1 8/22	1.1 8/22-8/27	CC – Part 1: Introductory Issues Ch. 1-3 HHP – Ch. 1
	1.2 8/28-9/3	
	2.1 9/4-9/10	CC – Part 1: Introductory Issues Ch. 4-7 HHP Ch. 2-3
	2.2 9/11-9/17	<b>Due: Book Review (submit to Blackboard by 9/17/16 end of day)</b>
Class 2 9/19	3.1 9/18-9/24	CC – Part 2: Prominent Issues Ch. 8-12 HHP – Ch. 4
	3.2 9/25-10/1	
	4.1 10/2-10/8	CC – Part 3: Developmental Issues Ch. 13-17 HHP – Ch. 5
	4.2 10/9-10/15	<b>Due: Exam/Midterm (10/15/16, end of day)</b>
Class 3 10/10	5.1 10/16-10/22	CC – Part 4: Interpersonal Issues Ch. 18-22
	5.2 10/23-10/29	<b>Due: Draft Research Paper (10/29/16, to the NOBTS Writing Center)</b> <b>Due: Copy of the Writing Center receipt to Blackboard (3/26/16, end of day)</b>
	6.1 10/30-11/5	CC – Part 5: Identity Issues Ch. 23-27
Class 4 11/7	6.2 11/6-11/12	
	7.1 11/13-11/19	CC – Part 6: Family Issues Ch. 28-32
	7.2 11/20-11/26	<b>Due: Research Paper (11/19/16, end of day)</b>
	8.1 11/27-12/3	CC – Part 7: Control Issues Ch. 33-37
FINAL EXAM	8.2 12/4-12/10	CC – Part 8: Control Issues Ch. 38-42
	12/11-12/14	<b>DUE: Final Exam</b> (may be taken online any time from 12/10/16 at 12:00 AM to 12/14/16 at 11:59 PM.)

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### Websites

- Society for Christian Psychology: <http://www.christianpsych.org/>,
- Christian Association for Psychological Studies: <http://www.caps.net/>
- American Association of Christian Counselors: <http://www.aacc.net/>
- Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation (CCEF) (<http://www.ccef.org/>)
- Hope for the Heart: <http://www.hopefortheheart.org>
- Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) ([www.biblicalcounseling.com/](http://www.biblicalcounseling.com/)) (formerly known as the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors [NANC])
- Association of Biblical Counselors (<http://christiancounseling.com/>)
- RPM Ministries (<http://www.rpmministries.org/writing/equipping-counselors-for-your-church/>)

### Resource Networking and Clearinghouses

#### **Chosen Families** (<http://chosenfamilies.org/>)

A non-profit, charitable organization, providing information to parents, family members, religious leaders and the general public on effective solutions to living in families with hidden disabilities, such as Anxiety, Asperger, ADHD, Autism, Bipolar disorder, Depression, Epilepsy, Learning disabilities, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Schizophrenia, Sensory Processing Disorders, and Tourette syndrome.

Purpose & Mission: The purpose of *ChosenFamilies.org* is to help families living with hidden disabilities become fully included in the body of Christ. Our mission is to provide resources, connections and encouragement to families with hidden disabilities and to educate and provide resources to religious leaders as they minister to families with these needs.

#### **The Biblical Counseling Coalition** (<http://biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/>)

Mission: The BCC exists to multiply the ministry of the biblical counseling movement by strengthening churches, para-church organizations, and educational institutions through promoting unity and excellence in biblical counseling.

The Coalition seeks to foster collaborative relationships and to provide robust, relevant biblical resources

that equip the Body of Christ to change lives with Christ's changeless truth through the personal ministry of the Word.

**New Life Christian Counseling Network** (<http://newlife.com/counselors>) (Part of New Life Ministries)

A large network of professional, Christian counselors located throughout the country. The network counselors have gone through an extensive application and credentials verification process. They agree with the New Life Statement of Faith and meet specific professional standards set for members in the counseling network.

**Minds Renewed (formerly Transformed Minds): The Consortium for a Christlike Response to Mental Health** ([transformedmindsinfo.wordpress.com](http://transformedmindsinfo.wordpress.com))

Formed in 2013, the consortium works primarily through the internet to “inspire those needing help; inform them of resources available; and provide the connections needed to reach those resources.”