

PSYC 9412: Counseling in the Church

Ph. D. Seminar

Spring Semester 2013

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I. Mission Statement of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

The mission of the 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.

II. Seminar Description and Core Value

Description

This seminar will examine the ministry of counseling in the church. Areas of study will include: the biblical, theological, and historical foundations for counseling ministry, existing models of church counseling, preparation and development of counseling ministries, lay counseling, and ethical issues related to counseling ministries.

Course Content

The seminar will cover the following areas:

1. The theology of counseling in the church
 - a. Biblical foundations
 - b. Place of counseling in the body of Christ
 - i. Counseling in relationship to:
 1. Evangelism
 2. Discipleship
 3. Gifts—helps and service
 4. Benevolence
 - c. Historical examples
2. The purpose of counseling in the church
 - a. Counseling as caring for the saved and the lost
 - i. Building up the body
 - ii. Outreach: Caring for those at “enmity” with God
 - b. Lay counseling and professional counseling
3. The structure of counseling in the church
 - a. Preparation for development of a counseling ministry
 - b. Planning a counseling ministry
 - c. Implementing a counseling ministry
 - d. Evaluating a counseling ministry
4. Counseling in the church: Issues and application
 - a. Types of counseling
 - b. Ethical and legal issues
 - i. Dual-relationships
 - ii. Informed consent
 - iii. Boundary issues
 - c. Promotion of programs and public relations

Core Values

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary highlights five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. While all five core values are emphasized, the primary focus for the 2012-2013 academic year is *Servant Leadership*. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. Throughout this course students will be encouraged to consider how the core value of “servant leadership” impacts their development as Christian counselors being called to operate in the local church.

The curriculum at the Seminary is designed to develop seven competencies essential for effective ministry: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership.

III. Learning Objectives

The student who satisfactorily completes this course by fulfillment of the requirements should be able to:

1. Describe the biblical and theological foundations of counseling in the church, including:
 - a. The place of counseling in the body of Christ
 - b. The relationship of counseling to evangelism, discipleship, spiritual gifts, and benevolence.
 - c. Historical examples
2. Understand the purpose of counseling in the church, including:
 - a. The role of counseling in caring for the saved and the lost
 - b. The practice of lay counseling and professional counseling
3. Apply research and assessment skills in:
 - a. Studying the structure of counseling in the church
 - b. Planning a counseling ministry
 - c. Implementing a counseling ministry
 - d. Evaluating a counseling ministry
4. Identify important issues that must be addressed in developing a counseling ministry in the church, including:
 - a. Types of counseling
 - b. Ethical and legal issues, such as dual-relationships, informed consent, and boundary issues
 - c. Promotion of programs and public relations

IV. Required Texts:

Henry, Philip J., Figueroa, Lori Marie, & Miller, David R. (2007). *The Christian therapist's notebook: Homework, handouts, and activities for use in Christian counseling*. New York: The Haworth Press.

Jones, Ian F. (2006). *The counsel of heaven on earth: Foundations for Biblical Christian counseling*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishers.

- Kellemen, Robert (2011). *Equipping counselors for your church*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.
- Kellemen, Robert W. (2005, 2007). *Soul physicians: A theology of soul care and spiritual direction*. Taneytown, MD: RPM Books; Revised and Updated: Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books.
- Oden, Thomas C. (1987). *Classical pastoral care: Vol. 3: Pastoral counsel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.
- Wilson, Rod J. K. (1995, 2003). *Counseling and community: Using the Church relationships to reinforce counseling*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College Publishing.

V. Course Requirements:

Reading Assignments:

1. Read the syllabus thoroughly.
2. Examine the bibliography in the syllabus and become familiar with the resources. Search websites and journals related to the field of study.
3. Be prepared to submit a reading report at the end of the semester that indicates the percentage of pages read for each of the required texts, along with a list of additional readings (identify author, title, and number of pages read for each article or book), and a final total of all pages read.

Resources:

Connect on-line to the NOBTS Library and become familiar with the on-line services, interlibrary loan, and other resources (e.g., EBSCOhost, ProQuest Religion, and Christian Periodicals Index).

Plan your visits to the NOBTS Library. If you are unable to visit the library on-site on a regular basis, then begin developing a strategy for accessing resources, particularly books and journals. You will need access to articles in, for example, the *Journal of Marital & Family Therapy*, *Journal of Family Therapy*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *American Journal of Family Therapy*, *Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal*, *Family Process*, *Family Therapy Magazine*, *Family Relations*, *Psychotherapy Networker* (formerly *Family Therapy Networker*), *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, and the *Journal of Psychology and Theology*.

Seminar Paper:

Select a topic for your seminar paper. See the Seminar Paper Assignment section in the syllabus for possible topics and expectations for the paper. Begin research for the paper.

Discussion Board:

Discussion Board will be available for posting comments on your readings, and on any books, articles, references, or information that might be helpful or of interest for other class members. Read other posts and respond when appropriate.

Weekly Time Requirements:

Be prepared to average around 20 hours per week on work for the seminar. From the Ph.D. Manual:

Although there is no set amount of time required for research, a general guide is that students need to allocate about twenty hours of research time per week for each seminar. Thus, students taking a full load (two seminars and one supervised reading colloquium) should plan to be engaged in research a minimum of forty hours per week. ("Weekly Time Requirements," Policies and Procedures, G-2, *NOBTS Manual for Research Doctoral Programs*, 2010, p. II-3.)

Seminar On-Site Dates

First Meeting: Thursday, February 14-Friday, February 15, 2013

Second Meeting: April 4-5

Third Meeting: May 3-4

Seminar Paper Assignment

Students will write a seminar paper on a topic related to the practice of counseling in the local church. Possible topic areas are identified below. Paper topics and assignment dates (the second or third meeting in the semester) will be accepted by the instructor on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Structure of paper: The paper will be written in APA style, following the academic expectations for content and form (see below). The paper will follow the structure of a journal article (see the *Journal of Marital & Family Therapy*, *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* or the *Journal of Psychology and Theology* for representative examples). As such, the body of the paper should be approximately 20-25 pages in length. It should begin with an introduction to the topic, along with a thesis and review the literature, followed by a development of the argument and discussion. The paper should reflect engagement and understanding of a biblical world view and implications for Christian ministry and counseling. Open the paper with a brief abstract and conclude with references that reflect a comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge of the issue addressed. References must include journal articles. Any internet information, outside of accessed professional resources, should be used with caution.

Expectations for Content and Form in a Doctoral-Level Seminar Paper

Content:

- Demonstrate the ability to research a topic in journals and books
- Demonstrate knowledge of all relevant sources
- Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between experts and non experts (academic and popular)
- Demonstrate the ability to research and understand the philosophies and theologies that underlie various expert points of view
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically all the possible points of view
- Demonstrate the ability to understand various perspectives within some historical context
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically all the possible points of view (e.g., to distinguish between sound argument and mere rhetoric)
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate various points of view objectively (not reactively)

- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate various points of view with balance, considering the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective (not selectively)
- Demonstrate the ability to come to judiciously stated conclusions that are supported by the literature, the data, and logic (not superficial, global statements like those that one hears in popular literature)

Form:

- Carefully constructed paper to demonstrate the above
- Adequate length to demonstrate the above
- Adequate bibliography to demonstrate the above
- Adequate review of the literature to demonstrate the above

Students may select a paper topic from the following areas:

- Development of a Church counseling program
 - For example, a full description of the proposal and implementation of a counseling program, including organizational structure, standards, counselor training and requirements, purpose of ministry, publicity or promotion of the program, rules and regulations, means of evaluating, and related forms and financial, legal, and ethical issues.
- Examination of particular issues in Church counseling.
 - For example, ethical and legal issues such as dual relationships, informed consent, and boundary issues.
- Additional topic options: May be selected in consultation with the instructor.

Paper Submission and Presentation:

Papers must be submitted on SafeAssign in Blackboard no later than one week before they are to be presented in the seminar. Be prepared to present and lead discussion on your paper topic, as assigned, during either the second or third meetings of the seminar.

Department Policies

The Department of Psychology and Counseling has adopted the following policies for use in all psychology and counseling classes.

<p>Papers or Assignments</p>	<p>All assignments are to be typed in either Times New Roman 12 or Courier 10. Any deviation in this will result in the deduction of points.</p> <p>Assignments will be turned in at the beginning of the class on the date due. Papers or assignments turned in after this time will be considered late. Late assignments will result in a deduction of four points per class period for classes that meet 2 times per week (an equivalent deduction will be determined for one and three day classes).</p> <p>Assignments must be turned in to the professor, grader, or departmental secretary. The time and date of submission will be noted. No assignments may be submitted by fax or e-mail without prior approval.</p> <p>All counseling students will write papers in accordance to standards set in the APA Publication Manual.</p>
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Quizzes	Quizzes will not be given to students late for class. A grade of zero will be given for any missed quiz. No makeup quizzes will be given.
Exams	If there is a conflict with a scheduled test, you may request to take it early. Only under extreme circumstances will late exams be administered. If you find yourself in an extreme circumstance, please contact the professor, grader, or the departmental secretary as soon as possible. Taking a late final exam requires the approval of the registrar's office.
Study Guide	Students should not assume that the study guide, if one is given, is comprehensive to what will be on the exam.
Plagiarism	A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are <u>strictly forbidden</u> . All sources must be cited. The Psychology and Counseling department adheres to the seminary's policy on plagiarism found in both the student handbook and graduate catalog. All infractions will be handled according to procedures outlined in the seminary's policy on plagiarism.
Class Participation	Working on assignments for other classes or playing games on electronic devices during class time are examples of behavior that will not be tolerated. If you feel the need to study during class time, then please choose to be absent that day.

Seminar Schedule

1st Meeting (or Section)

Primary Theme: Biblical, Historical, and Theological Foundations for Counseling in the Local Church

We will explore the views of counseling and soul care in the biblical world and historical church, along with the theological foundations for church counseling. Each seminar participant will identify his or her personal theoretical framework, including relevant foundational biblical principles and Christian doctrines, for counseling in the church.

Assignments:

1. Read Jones, *The counsel of heaven on earth*; Kellemen, *Soul physicians: A theology of soul care and spiritual direction*; and, Oden, *Classical pastoral care: Vol. 3: Pastoral counsel*.
 - a. Complete and post assigned chapter summaries.
 - b. Be prepared to lead a discussion on a chapter or topic in the assigned books.
2. Write a brief (5-6 pages double-spaced, APA-style), personal, biblically and theologically-informed position paper on the role of counseling in the church. (Post your paper on SafeAssign in BlackBoard no later than one week before the start of the seminar meeting.) Include in your discussion:
 - a. Your understanding of the nature and purpose of Christian counseling, particularly as it relates to the local church.
 - b. Philosophical, historical, and theological foundations, spiritual truths, and relevant scriptures.

2nd Meeting (or Section)

Primary Theme: Assessing counseling programs in the church, and developing and building biblically-based counseling ministries.

We will examine counseling programs suitable for ministry in the local church and identify components of effective counseling and lay-counseling church programs.

Assignments:

1. Read Henry, Figueroa, & Miller, *The Christian therapist's notebook: Homework, handouts, and activities for use in Christian counseling*; and, Kellemen, *Equipping counselors for your church*.
 - a. Complete and post assigned chapter summaries.
 - b. Be prepared to lead a discussion on a chapter or topic in the assigned books.
2. Select and describe an example of a counseling program currently running in a church. The example should have, at minimum, a description of the counseling program, including its purpose or philosophy, the structure of the program within the church, and related information or literature. After explaining the program, write a brief (3-5 pages) critical evaluation of its value, including perceived strengths and weaknesses and a biblical assessment. Post your report on SafeAssign in Blackboard before the second meeting. Read and evaluate all the posted papers.
3. Read the seminar papers posted for presentation. Be prepared, if you are assigned, to present your paper. Prepare written responses to each paper.

3rd Meeting (or Section)

Primary Theme: Discussion and evaluation of issues related to counseling in the church.

Assignments:

1. Read Wilson, *Counseling and community: Using the Church relationships to reinforce counseling*. Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College Publishing.
 - a. Complete and post assigned chapter summaries.
 - b. Be prepared to lead a discussion on a chapter or topic in the assigned book.
2. Read the seminar papers posted for presentation. Be prepared, if you are assigned, to present your paper. Prepare written responses to each paper.
3. Come prepared to engage in a productive discussion on the nature and implications of counseling in the church.

Reference Bibliography:

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Websites

American Association of Christian Counselors: <http://www.aacc.net/>

Hope for the Heart: <http://www.hopefortheheart.org>

National Association of Nouthetic Counselors: <https://www.nanc.org/>