Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the pastor’s role and responsibility as Biblical counselor in the local church. A system of counseling grounded in Biblical presuppositions will be taught as well as basic counseling process and practice. The student will also receive foundational knowledge and understanding of typical individual, marital, and family problems with an emphasis on applying Scriptural principles to these life issues. Case studies will be reviewed and a system of premarital counseling will be presented as well.

Required Reading:

Recommended Resources for your Counseling Library:
A reading list will be handed out during the course

Assignments:
Reading
Students will follow the course schedule

Book Reports
Write two-page, typed reviews of the following three (3) books: Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands, How People Change, and CrossTalk.
Due: September 16, October 7, November 4

Philosophy of Counseling Paper
Write a paper presenting your philosophy of pastoral counseling. Make sure to include:
1. A Scriptural foundation to your counseling
2. Your vision for how much and what types of counseling you will do in your ministry.
3. The place of psychological theories and/or techniques in your counseling.
4. How you believe Reformed theology and various psychologies integrate.
5. The role of the church in counseling.
Requirements: 6-8 pages, double-spaced 12 point typeset with standard margins. Cite at least five sources, listed at the end of the paper.
Due: November 18
Case Studies
Interact with and write up ten (10) case studies throughout the semester. Instructions will be given during the course.
Due: December 12

Final Exam
The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam which will cover content from all of the lectures and all of the required reading (broad, general concepts).

Grading:

- 10% - Class Attendance/Participation
- 15% - Book Reports
- 20% - Case Studies
- 25% - Philosophy of Counseling Paper
- 30% - Final Exam

Class Schedule:
Class will meet on Thursdays from 1:00-3:55 p.m.

Week 1 (08/26)
Introduction and History of Pastoral Counseling
Reading: Tripp Chapters 1-5

Week 2 (09/02)
Counseling Presuppositions
Reading: Tripp Chapters 6-10

Week 3 (09/9)
Counseling Process
Reading: Tripp Chapters 11-14

Week 4 (09/16)
Counseling Practice
Reading: Lane & Tripp Chapters 1-5
Book Report #1 (Tripp) Due

Week 5 (09/23)
Basic Counseling Problems I: Self Problems, Anxiety
Reading: Lane & Tripp Chapters 6-10

Week 6 (9/30)
Basic Counseling Problems II: Depression, Anger
Reading: Lane & Tripp Chapters 11-16
Week 7 (10/7)
Basic Counseling Problems III: Addictions, More complex problems
Reading: Emlet Chapters 1-3
Book Report #2 (Lane & Tripp) Due

READING WEEK

Week 8 (10/21)
Church Discipline; Crisis Counseling
Reading: Emlet Chapters 4-7

Week 9 (10/28)
Guest Lecturer: Rev. Carl Kalberkamp
Reading: Emlet Chapters 8-11

Week 10 (11/4)
Pre-Marital Counseling
Reading: Harvey Chapters 1-4
Book Report # 3 (Emlet) Due

Week 11 (11/11)
Marital Counseling I
Reading: Harvey Chapters 5-7

Week 12 (11/18)
Marital Counseling II
Reading: Harvey Chapters 8-10
Philosophy of Counseling Paper Due

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 13 (12/2)
Youth and childhood issues
Case Studies Due

FINAL EXAM: TBA. Possibly December 9th