

PASTORAL COUNSELING

4PT 516



Instructor:
James Coffield Ph.D.
jcoffield@rts.edu

Requirements

Attendance & participation (10%)

Reading (20%)

Creative Illness paper (15%)

12 step meetings (10%)

Lab day (20 %)

Book reviews (15%):
Allender, Eldredge,
Buechner

Prepare/Enrich training (10 %)

COURSE PURPOSE

The class will provide an overview of current trends in counseling theory and practice and the role of counseling in church and business settings. Basic counseling skills taught in this course include interviewing, assessment and therapeutic listening in a laboratory situation. Application is made to family, crisis, grief and substance abuse counseling, with emphasis on developing strategies and applying scriptural principles. The class will provide a basic groundwork for pastoral care. The class will provide a paradigm for listening and caring for others.

COMPETENCIES

At the completion of this class a successful student should be able to:

- Compare and contrast basic counseling approaches and develop an initial biblical model of counseling that can be explored further and utilized in ministry.
- Become familiar with some of the basic categories of problems which may be faced by counselors, pastors and managers.
- Complete an honest self-assessment concerning his/her ability to participate in a counseling ministry.
- Become familiar with the concept of “creative illness” and apply that concept to self and others.
- Be aware of theories, issues, strategies and interventions in crisis counseling, grief counseling, suicide prevention and substance abuse concerns.
- Develop interview and listening skills to facilitate the counseling process.
- Develop a professional vocabulary which will allow for effective communication between the counselor/pastor and lay persons or other professionals.
- Develop some basic “discernment” concerning the assessment of emotional problems of clients and/or parishioners .

Prior to the first class...

Read two articles found at www.leaderu.com

- 1) *What's wrong with Us?*
By Dan Allender
- 2) *Less-wild Lovers*
By Eldredge & Curtis from chapter 9 of [The Sacred Romance](#)
- 3) *The Pastor as a Minor Poet* by Barnes

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday November 18th/ Saturday November 19th/ Monday November 21/ Friday December 9/ Saturday December 10 – class will meet from 8:30–5:00.

This class will utilize small group, discussion and lecture format; therefore attendance and participation is expected for a successful experience. On “Lab Day” students will practice counseling skills which will require some limited self disclosure in a small group setting. Additional personnel will be utilized on the lab day. There will be an on-line discussion board that all students will be asked to participate and engage with TA led discussions. The on line discussion will begin during the first week on November. The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus as needed to meet the course goals. The participants have the right to change and negotiate changes in the class if they find the format or content to not be helpful.

Class	Topics
<u>Day 1</u>	Introduction
11/18	Basic Theories Assumptions Views on integration of psychology and theology
<u>Day 2</u>	Basic Biblical model
11/19	Depression Anxiety Family crisis/ addiction
<u>Day 3</u>	Sexuality
11/21	Parenting *Pre-marital counseling *PREPARE/ENRICH training
<u>Day 4</u>	Lab day
12/9	Grief
<u>Day 5</u>	Personality Disorders
12/10	Short term pastoral counseling/ Questions and catch-up

TEXTS

The following texts are required

The Elements of Counseling by Davis & Meier ISBN# 0-534-57418-1

To Be Told By Allender ISBN– 13# 978-1578569519

The Pastor as a Minor Poet by Barnes ISBN-13# 978-0802829627

The following texts are only recommended and not required for the class

The Emotionally Healthy Church by Scazzero

Telling Secrets by Buechner ISBN# 0-06-060936-2

Understanding People by Crabb ISBN#0-310-22600-7

Friendship Counseling by Huggins ISBN# 1-57683-299-6

The Healing Path by Dan Allender ISBN-13# 978-1578563913

Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands By Tripp ISBN #0875526071

A Thousand Miles in a Thousand Years by D. Miller ISBN-13# 978-0785213062



PLEASE NOTE...

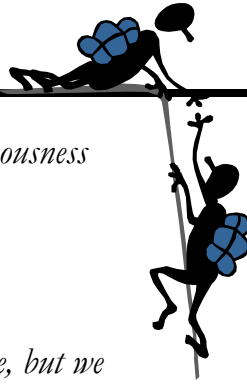
*Students will be trained and certified to administer the Pre-prepare/Enrich marital counseling tool. The materials cost for PREPARE/ENRICH will be approximately \$95.00 and will be paid on the first day of class. Students must be present for the entire presentation on Pre-prepare/Enrich in order to be certified.

Lab Day topics include

basic listening skills
using the here & now
using the relationship
for healing

*We are not machines
that need to be fixed, or
simply dutiful servants
with jobs to be done —
we are relational beings
full of passions, dreams,
hopes, longings and
terrors which must be
faced*





*This life, therefore, is not righteousness
but growth in righteousness,
Not health but healing,
Not being but becoming,
Not rest but exercise.
We are not yet what we shall be, but we
are growing toward it;
The process is not yet finished but it is
going on;
This is not the end but it is the road.
All does not yet gleam in glory but all is
being purified.*

Martin Luther on the Christian Life

Academic Polices

- Computers are a welcome educational tool and your use of a lap top computer during our class time is encouraged. However, please do not distract yourself or others by using wireless internet to check e-mail or surf the net during our class time. Do not play games on personal computers during class time.
- Please retain a personal copy of all of your work.
- **All work is due by Friday December 16, 2011.**

Grading Scale

A (100-95)
A- (94-93)
B+ (92-91)
B (90-85)
B- (84-83)
C+(82-81)
C (80-77)
C- (76-75)
D (74-70)
F (Below 70)

Prepare/Enrich Certification

A Prepare/Enrich Certification Seminar will be included within the class time Prepare/Enrich is a singularly effective tool for pre-marital and marital counseling. Training is necessary to be certified to use the testing instrument. The training fee includes certification, a manual, sample tests and a certificate for test processing worth \$29. Training normally costs \$150 –\$250. Class members cost at RTS is \$95. RTS will make no profit on this training. If you have already been trained in use of this tool your attendance for the day will still be required. We will include lectures on couples counseling during the training.

Participation Grade

You will be expected to be in class on time at each scheduled meeting. Additionally, each student will once weekly check-in and engage with the class discussion/question of the week. The class discussion will be moderated by the class TA, Fritz Schalmo. The discussion will begin November 1st with reaction to the articles.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)