

# SYLLABUS

## CRITICAL ISSUES IN COUNSELING 04C0761/11

Reformed Theological Seminary: Atlanta

Professor: Rod Mays

JANUARY 18-21, 2016

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### Course Description

This is a counseling elective that will focus on pertinent and recurring themes that biblical counselors face and will address practical ways to approach these issues. Topics will include: Anxiety, Suffering, Depression, Suicide, Abuse and Sexual sins.

### Course Requirements

- Reading: Students will read completely the required texts and will write a two- page book review of each.
- Students will write a two-page paper on ways they have been exposed to one of the above topics.
- Students will write a seven-page paper that includes a counseling plan for one of the above topics. The plan will include research, scriptural exegesis, and homework.
- During the class, students will participate in group case studies and role play.

### Exams

- No Exams

### Class Participation

- It is required that students be present for all class sessions. If a student is “providentially hindered” from attending class, if possible, please notify the instructor. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and complete assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction, unless other arrangements have been made.

### Grading

- Book reports 35%
- Papers 65%

### Assignments Due \*

- All papers and book reports are due February 29, 2016 and should comply with RTS-A writing standards.

## LECTURES

LECTURE I	What is crisis counseling?
LECTURE II	Reality of suffering.
LECTURE III	Suffering leads to glory.
LECTURE IV	What is mental illness?
LECTURE V	Moving Toward People with Psychiatric Disorders
LECTURE VI	Fear and Anxiety
LECTURE VII	Depression
LECTURE VIII	Suicide
LECTURE IX	Sexual Sins
LECTURE X	Abuse

### ★Paper and Book Reports Due

Two Page Paper on;” My Exposure to a Counseling Crisis”

Two Page Book Reports on All of the Books on the Required Reading List

Seven Page Topic Paper on a Counseling Plan

## **Required Book List**

- 1. Spurgeon's Sorrows, Zach Eswine**
- 2. Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering, Tim Keller**
- 3. Running Scared, Ed Welch**
- 4. Wounded Heart, Dan Allender**

### **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)

