Course Description:
This course builds upon the basic concepts and principles of PT 516 (required), with a continued focus on pastoral counseling in the local church. The first hour of each class will be lecture and discussion on the typical issues pastors and church leaders face, with instruction in individual, marital, and group counseling. The second hour will be dedicated to simulated counseling sessions, including critique, recommendations, and individualized feedback. Readings on various current counseling subjects will be required, as well as significant practice hours of counseling/discipleship outside of class.

Required Reading:
MacDonald, J. (Ed.) (2013). *Christ-Centered Biblical Counseling*

Assignments:
Reading
Students will follow the course schedule (read only selected chapters).

Reflective Paper
Write a paper reflecting on your personal growth as a counselor. Make sure to include:
1. Your history as a counselor/discipler/friend to others.
2. Your strengths and weaknesses as a communicator (talker and listener).
3. Your growth as a “practical theologian”—applying Scriptural principles to life.
4. Any of your own personal counseling issues that need attention.
5. Your future hopes/plans for growth as a counselor.

Requirements: 5-7 pages, double-spaced 12 point typeset with standard margins.
Due: March 30

Counseling Log
Keep a log of all your counseling/discipleship interactions: A minimum of 20 hours is required.
These interactions must be with at least four different people.
Your counseling log will include:
1. Date, time, length of interaction.
2. Description of person and problem area(s).
4. Brief reflection on the interaction.

Due: May 4

Simulations/Role Plays
Each student will participate in counseling simulations in class each week.
Final Exam
The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam which will cover content from all of the lectures as well as counseling simulations.

Grading:
10% - Required Reading
15% - Class Attendance/Participation in simulations
20% - Reflective Paper
25% - Required counseling interactions and log
30% - Final Exam

Class Schedule:
Class will meet on Thursdays from 1:00-2:55 p.m.

Week 1 (02/02)
Let’s get it started
Praxis: The first counseling appointment
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 1-3

Week 2 (02/09)
After the first session, then what?
Praxis: The follow-up and accountability
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 4-6

Week 3 (02/16)
A look at human suffering in 3D
Praxis: When is a counselor necessary?
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 7-9

Week 4 (02/23)
Can we blame it on the brain?
Praxis: Interaction of physical and non-physical
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 10-12

Week 5 (03/02)
Dealing with the past: Shame and Guilt
Praxis: Confusion regarding repentance and forgiveness
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 13-14

Week 6 (03/09)
Relationships: Are they really a mess worth making?
Praxis: Boundaries, vulnerability, love, grace, wisdom
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 15-Conclusion

NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK (03/16)

Week 7 (03/23)
Sexuality, gender, sexual orientation
Praxis: Biblical standards and cultural pressure
Reading: MacDonald Chapters 1,3,8
Week 8  (03/30)
Marriage. Gospel-Driven style
Praxis: Individual vs. joint counseling
Reading: MacDonald Chapters 10,11,13
Reflective Paper Due

Week 9  (04/06)
Marriage: Difficult Stuck Situations
Praxis: The Stuck couple
Reading: MacDonald Chapters 15-17

Week 10  (04/13)
We are (a dysfunctional) Family
Praxis: Keeping up with the Joneses
Reading: MacDonald Chapters 18-20

Week 11 (04/20)
Counseling children and youth
Praxis: Whom should you counsel?
Reading: MacDonald Chapters 23-25

Week 12 (04/27)
Group counseling in the church
Praxis: The Support Group
Reading: MacDonald Chapters 26-28

Week 13  (05/04)
Handling Church Discipline cases
Praxis: Working with your elders
Counseling Log Due

FINAL EXAM: TBA
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
## With Mini-Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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</table>