

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus
Phoenixville, PA
July 26-30, 2004

PCPB 548 COUNSELING ESSENTIALS
(3 Credits)

David Scolforo, D. Min.

Summer 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the theoretical foundations and skill training that enables professional counselors, chaplains, and pastors to understand client problems and intervene effectively. The helper-client relationship will be examined in-depth including the necessary qualities of the counselor-client relationship and the required skills for helping clients achieve desired changes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In providing advanced professional and theological training, the course objectives for students are as follows:

1. To explain the role of counseling in pastoral or para-church ministry.
2. To introduce the student to several major schools of personality theory.
3. To help the student to evaluate these theories and their therapeutic approaches from a theistic presuppositional perspective.
4. To assist the student in developing an understanding of the underlying causes within the person that motivates behavior.
5. To help the student in gaining the skills necessary for addressing the needs typically encountered by pastoral and clinical counselors.
6. To assist the student in applying a solution-focused approach to counseling.
7. To help the student in making informed decisions about referrals to mental health professionals.
8. To assist the student in identifying potential pitfalls of the client-counselor relationship.
9. To assist the student in identifying behaviors that promotes personal well being.

10. To acquaint the student with the DSM-IV.

TEXTBOOKS

Collins, Gary R. Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide. Revised Edition. Dallas: Word Books, 1988. ISBN: 0-8499-3124-X

Parrott, Les III. Counseling and Psychotherapy, 2nd Edition. Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole/Thompson, 2002. ISBN: 0-534-59337-2

COURSE METHODOLOGY

- Lectures
- Small group activities/discussions
- Student presentations
- Video presentations

COURSE OUTLINE

A. Pre-Session Requirements

1. Read assigned textbooks
 - Collins: Chapters 1-10; 16-21; 23-27; 29-33; 36.
 - Parrot: Complete text
2. Complete the following interview project:
 - Meet with a minimum of two professional people (e.g., psychologist, licensed professional counselor, social worker) to discuss common counseling issues such as (but not limited to):
 - (1) Marital therapy
 - (2) Developing a therapeutic relationship
 - (3) Grief recovery
 - (4) The counselor's approach to counseling
 - (5) Referral practices
 - (6) Managing counseling-related stress
 - (7) Legal concerns
 - (8) The insights and personal reflections you gain from this interaction must be compiled in a 5-page paper and presented for class discussion. This paper is due the first day of class.

B. Session Requirements

1. Classroom attendance, punctuality, and class participation in all sessions.

2. Present the results of your interview project to the class.
3. Participate in small group discussions involving textbook material.

C. Post-Session Requirements

1. Choose one of the following research paper/project options:
 - Write a research paper (15 page maximum) covering an aspect of pastoral counseling that is of special interest to the student. Roughly 4/5 of the paper must focus on scholarly research and 1/5 must include practical applications of your research in a counseling context. The bibliography should contain a minimum of 15 references (books, journal articles etc.). Papers must be written according to APA format.
 - Develop a seminar that addresses a human crises/need (e.g., grief recovery, addictions, premarital counseling, divorce recovery, sexual abuse) As a part of your seminar, develop handouts, references, outline, etc. Be creative and practical as you integrate your research. The bibliography should contain a minimum of 15 references (books, journal articles etc.).
2. A final take-home exam will be given to you during the week. It will be due one week after the course is completed.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grades will be determined on the basis of the student's successful completion of all course work. Late assignments will receive grade deductions.

- Research paper/project (30%).
- Final take-home exam (30%).
- Interview assignment and class presentation (15%)
- Completion of reading assignments (15%).
- Class participation (10%).

DUE: The research paper/project must be **postmarked** (or via e-mail attachment) no later than **October 30, 2004**. Submit the assignment to:

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Valley Forge Christian College
1401 Charlestown Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: (610) 917-3952
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NOTE: A change of grade fee of \$15.00 may be assessed on any work submitted past the postmark date, even if the professor has granted an extension. Late work may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by David Scolforo in April 2004.