

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Branch Campus at Valley Forge Christian College
May 15-19, 2006

PCPB 626 Dying, Grief, and Crises Counseling
(3 credit hours)

David Scolforo, D. Min.

Summer 2006

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A focus on the theory and practice of helping persons in crisis or grief. Emphasis is on maximizing pastoral effectiveness in brief grief and crisis counseling. Specific skills of intervention are identified and studied. This course also encourages coming to grips with one's own mortality to enrich one's life. It helps the student offer pastoral care and counseling to the terminally ill and to those involved in sudden tragedy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this class the student will be able to:

1. Confront personal attitudes regarding dying and death.
2. Differentiate normal and pathological grief.
3. Identify factors that influence the grief response.
4. Articulate therapeutic interventions for counseling those who suffer loss.
5. Identify coping mechanisms for the dying patient.
6. Describe the various stages common to persons who face terminal illness.
7. Recognize the diverse issues that arise under different bereavement situations.
8. Identify personal concerns facing the caregiver.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1961.

Mitchell, Kenneth R. and Herbert Anderson. *All Our Loses All Our Grievs: Resources for Pastoral Care*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1983.

Rando, Therese A. *Grief, Dying, and Death: Clinical Interventions for Caregivers*. Champaign: Research Press Company, 1984.

Wiersbe, Warren. *When Life Falls Apart*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

Readings, lectures, class discussion, video, writing assignments, small group activities and guest lecturers will be utilized to achieve course objectives.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session Requirements

1. Read all assigned textbooks.
2. Write three, three-page reflection papers on the Lewis, Wiersbe, and Mitchell/Anderson textbooks. Each reflection paper should focus on topics from these readings that were most significant to the student. Reflection papers are DUE the first day of class Monday, May 15.

B. Session Requirements

1. Attend all classes.
2. Active participation in class discussions.
3. Class presentation based on reflection papers.
4. A final exam will be given covering class material and the textbooks.

C. Post-Session Requirements

1. Write a 15-page research paper on one of the major aspects of the course (e.g., Tasks of the Dying Patient; The Grief of Children; Personal Concerns of the Caregiver; The Dynamics of Grief). The bibliography must contain a minimum of 15 professional references. Papers are to be typed, double-spaced, following Turabian's 6th edition.

DUE: All post-session assignments must be **postmarked** no later than Monday, June 26, 2006. Submit assignments to:

David Scolforo
142 Center Road
Douglassville, PA 19518
Phone: (610) 917-3952
E-mail: dmscolforo@vfcc.edu

NOTE: A \$30.00 fee will be charged to the student's account for every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

GRADING

Research paper	30%
Reflection papers/class presentation	20%
Completion of reading assignments	20%
Final exam	20%
Class participation	10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beginning on page 447, a detailed reference list is included in Grief, Death, and Dying: Clinical Interventions for Caregivers.

Syllabus prepared in December 2005 by David Scolforo, D. Min.