



## COURSE SYLLABUS

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates the dynamics of the significant relationships in the life of the leader. It will present a developmental perspective on the leader's own marriage and family roles, including Christian perspectives on sexual behavior. The course will look at the interpersonal skills that are necessary to develop and maintain effective relationships, and present skills to deal with inter-personal conflict. Finally, it will provide an introduction to short-term counseling and equip leaders to deal with the common behavioral problems that they are likely to encounter in ministry.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students should be able to

1. Identify the areas in their lives that need to be developed in order to become effective listeners and persons with healthy inter-personal relationships
2. Evaluate and assess their own personal vulnerability to the inevitability of sexual pressures as they stand in leadership positions
3. Design an effective counseling intervention program that will promote the Biblical principles of discipleship for persons in every stage of human development
4. Develop a pre-marital intervention program that would promote Biblical values of sexuality and facilitate healthy marital adjustment
5. Provide guidance to individuals, couples and families using short-term helping strategies to facilitate their adjustments and deal with a wide variety of personal and family adjustment problems and dysfunctions
6. Identify the most common mental illnesses of the DSM-IV that are likely to be seen by Christian leaders and know when, and how, to refer such a person to appropriate helping professionals
7. Develop an integrated conceptual framework for an integrated, short-term Christian counseling model for a local church that accommodates psychological and biblical perspectives on mental illness as well as psychological health

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Benner, David G. (2003). *Strategic pastoral counseling: A Short-term structured model (Second Edition)*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

Bradberry, T. & Greaves, J. (2003). *The Emotional Intelligence Quickbook: Everything you need to know*. Talentsmart: San Diego, CA

Clinton, T. & Ohlschlager, G. (2002). *Competent Christian counseling: Foundations & practice of compassionate soul care (Volume 1)*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: WaterBrook Press.

Johnson, W.B. & Johnson, W.L. (2002). *The pastor's guide to psychological disorders and treatments*. New York: Haworth Pastoral Press.

Smalley, Gary; Smalley, Greg; Smalley, M; & Paul, R.S. (2004). *The DNA of relationships*. Tyndale House: Wheaton, Ill.

In addition to these books, you will be required to buy a \$25 voucher at the bookstore for counseling tests that will form a part of the process for this course.

## **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

The recommended textbooks explore in greater detail some of the issues that are introduced in this course. These books would add great value to the library of any leader who needs to increase his knowledge in the field of Christian counseling.

For “integration” of psychology and theology:

Collins, G.R. (2001). *The Biblical basis of Christian counseling for people helpers*. Colorado Springs: Navpress.

Carter, J.D. & Narramore, B. (1979). *The integration of psychology and theology: An introduction*. Grand Rapids: Academie Books.

For counseling from a Biblical perspective:

Benner, David G. (2001). *Care of Souls*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Collins, G. R. (1988). *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide* (Revised Edition). Nelson Reference, Grand Rapids.

Jones, S. L. & Butman, R. E. (1991). *Modern Psychotherapies*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Kruise, John G. (2001). *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Grand Rapids: Intervarsity Press.

For diagnosis of mental illness:

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, text revision* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

or

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Desk reference to the diagnostic criteria from DSM-IV-TR*. Washington, DC: Author.

For marriage and family issues from a biblical perspective:

Balswick, J.O. & Balswick, J.K. (1999). *The Family: A Christian perspective on the contemporary home*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

Chapman, G. (2003). *Covenant marriage*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Ingram, C. (2003). *Love, sex, and lasting relationships*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

Stoop, D.S. & Stoop, J.S. (Eds.) (2002). *The complete marriage book*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell.

Stoop, D.S. & Stoop, J.S. (Eds.) (2004). *The complete parenting book*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The course will consist of lectures, instructional videos, dialogues, regular assessments, personality profile analyses, personal research projects and focused interviews.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course requirements are explained in more detail below, as are the relative weights given to each requirement.

1. Students are required to actively participate in class discussions and to submit confidential weekly reflections to the professor on their personal development as they interact with the contents of the classes. A grade will be given based on the level of participation in these two activities, but not on the contents provided in them.

2. Students will be required to provide a weekly abstract and review of a peer-reviewed journal article in accordance with guidelines that will be provided during the first classes of the semester.
3. Weekly class tests will monitor the student's mastery of the content that had been prescribed and discussed the previous week.
4. Two-page book reflections on the five prescribed books will be due at times throughout the semester as indicated by the professor. These reflections will replace the weekly reflections mentioned above for that week, but will be graded with regard to content and insight attained.
5. A summative research project of 10 to 12 pages, and in accordance with writing standards that will be discussed in class, will be required on a date toward the end of the semester as indicated by the professor.
6. A final examination will cover the semester's course work.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The course grade will be calculated in the following manner:

1. Weekly reflection and active participation in class: 10%
2. Weekly article reviews: 15%
3. Weekly class tests: 15%
4. Prescribed book reflections: 20%
5. Summative research project: 20%
6. Final exam: 20%

### **GRADE SYSTEM**

Work is Publishable = A+  
94% - 100% = A Excellent  
90% - 93% = A- Excellent (but)  
87% - 89% = B+ Very Good  
84% - 86% = B Good Work  
80% - 83% = B- Good (but)  
77% - 79% = C+ Fair but almost good enough  
74% - 76% = C Fair  
70% - 73% = C- Just Passable  
67% - 69% = D+ Poor but almost made it  
64% - 66% = D Poor  
60% - 63% = D- Highly questionable

## **RESEARCH REPORT**

Students will be required to **research and submit a report** (10 to 12-pages, double-spaced, on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper) on a leadership counseling issue that has been approved by the professor. This research report will look in more detail at one of the leadership relations issues that are dealt with in the course. The student will be required to integrate secular literature, and theological and personal insights into the report. The subject of the report needs to be approved by the professor before a date determined by the professor. The approval request must be submitted electronically and the subject line of the emails on this subject should state: **PTH 554/Research Report Subject Approval/Your Name**.

Scholarly books, journal articles and/or tapes in the library should be utilized and a bibliography of at least 12 sources (none older than 10 years) should be included at the end of the paper. At least half of these sources should be scholarly journals. Internet resources and journals are generally not considered scholarly journals. They need to be used very sparingly. The presentation of the report can be in accordance with the American Psychological Association (APA) style manual but other formats with which the student is more familiar may also be used. The report will be due at midnight on a date to be determined in class.

The report must be submitted electronically to the professor and the subject line of the email should state: **PTH 554/Research Report/Your Name**. The header of the report **must include** your name and your email address so that the report can be returned to you expeditiously. A corrected version, with a grade will be returned to the students by email if they provided their email address in the header of the report.

The **summative research report** will be allocated 25% of the overall grade. This paper will be weighted as follows (out of a possible 100 points):

- 25 points for the quality of research (including quality, number and age of articles, books and references consulted)
- 50 points for the quality of content (including appropriateness and presentation of content, clarity of presentation, language usage, spelling and syntax)
- 25 points for a theological and Biblical integration of subject matter. The student needs to show how this subject matter is relevant for the church or impacts the life of the church.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES**

A list of assignments and due dates will be provided to students on the first day of the course.

Note: This syllabus was prepared by Dr. Johan Mostert on November 10, 2006. Due to the fact that this is the first time that this course will be presented at AGTS the contents or requirements as presented here may undergo alteration before the commencement of the course.