



15800 Calvary Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

**Course:** CO436-E & EN: Death, Dying and Grief Counseling  
**Credit:** 3 Semester hours  
**Semester:** Fall, 2020  
**Time:** Tuesdays, October 20 – December 8 (6pm – 9pm Central Time)  
**Professor:** Jeff Campa  
**Email:** [jeff.campa@calvary.edu](mailto:jeff.campa@calvary.edu)

## I. DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to help the student understand the various dynamics of death, dying, and grief through a conscientious study of God's Word (Prerequisite: CO244 Introduction to Counseling).

Students will be exposed to sensitive subject matter throughout this course. It will be important to demonstrate self-awareness and sensitivity while engaging in this material.

*This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the class in person, online students attend the class via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.*

## II. OBJECTIVES

### A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Students will learn the Biblical worldview of death, dying, and grief (PLO 1, 2).
2. Students will learn a Biblical approach to caring for the grieving person (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).
3. The student will receive practical tools for caring for counselees through the grieving process (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).
4. Students will learn how to assess the spiritual and physical needs of those facing death, dying, and grief situations (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved:**

1. Students will be able to articulate the Biblical worldview of death, dying, and grief (PLO 1, 2).
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate the Biblical worldview of death, dying, and grief response through appropriate evangelism and discipleship ministry (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to utilize the Biblical approach in caring for those facing death, dying and grief situations (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).

**III. REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Reading Assignments**

Note: Use as a textbook in this class does not imply full approval of author's viewpoint(s). Students are expected to evaluate content of textbooks through the lens of Scripture. Students will be accountable for reading as posted in the assignments schedule and for reading content covered in quizzes.

**B. Written Assignments**

1. Position Papers (GC 1, 2; SC 1, 2):  
Students will write two original papers in APA research format. Each paper will be 5-7 pages long (excluding cover page and bibliography) and will include a minimum of 7 sources (Scripture, 2 textbooks, 2 other books, 1 journal, 1 website).
  - a. Biblical Examples of Grief
  - b. Biblical Theology of Death
2. Scenario Papers (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3):  
Students will write 3 original scenario papers following the template provided in CANVAS. Each paper will be 2 pages long with one page dedicated to assumptions, questions, and assessment of needs and the second page dedicated to a plan of proposed ministry and support for specific needs.
  - a. Scenario Paper 1= Terminal Illness
  - b. Scenario Paper 2 = Traumatic Death
  - c. Scenario Paper 3 = Suicide
3. Discussion Posts and Responses (GC 1, 2, 4; SC 1, 2, 3) :  
Students will write 6 discussion posts in CANVAS and respond to 1 post from any classmate (1 original post and one response in each category). Each original post will be a minimum of 500 words and present three things for discussion: (1) Summary of content including author's/presenter's theme and main point, (2) Highlights the student found in the material, and (3) Specific aspects that can be used to build a Biblical counseling approach from the material presented.

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*

Each response will be a minimum of 300 words and provide the reader's perspective and response to the 3 elements presented in the original post.

- a. Chapter from Powlison Text
- b. Supplemental Video 1
- c. Chapter from Guthrie Text
- d. Chapter from Lutzer Text
- e. Supplemental Video 2
- f. Chapter from Eareckson-Tada Text

**C. Quizzes** (GC 1, 2; SC 1, 2)

Two quizzes will cover content from class lectures, assigned readings, and supplemental videos.

**D. Class Behavior**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, prompt and excellent attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Students are to refrain from using cell phones and handheld devices during class. Playing games, browsing the internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc. are considered unacceptable when class is in session. In addition, the student will be expected to contribute to class discussions in a positive manner which shows respect for the views of others. Failure to maintain this standard may result in a **full letter grade deduction from their overall grade.**

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*

**IV. METHODS**

A. Teaching

1. Lectures by the instructor
2. Large group discussion
3. Research and writing
4. Projects and Presentations

B. Grading Scale

1. Weight given to each assignment

**Reading**

**140 points**

- Powlison (10 points)
- Guthrie (20 points)
- Lutzer (20 points)
- Eareckson-Tada (20 points)
- Tautges (20 points)
- Alcorn (50 points)

**Writing**

**550 points**

- Biblical Examples of Grief (200 points)
- Biblical Theology of Death (200 points)
- Scenario Paper 1 (50 points)
- Scenario Paper 2 (50 points)
- Scenario Paper 3 (50 points)

**Grading Scale**

Grade Value Grade Point Value  
Per Semester Hour

A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.3
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.3
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.3
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	0.7
F	59-0	0.0

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*

**A. Grading Points (1,000 total)**

<b>Reading</b>	<b>140 points</b>
Powlison (10 points)	
Guthrie (20 points)	
Lutzer (20 points)	
Eareckson-Tada (20 points)	
Tautges (20 points)	
Alcorn (50 points)	
<b>Writing</b>	<b>550 points</b>
Biblical Examples of Grief (200 points)	
Biblical Theology of Death (200 points)	
Scenario Paper 1 (50 points)	
Scenario Paper 2 (50 points)	
Scenario Paper 3 (50 points)	
<b>Posts/Responses</b>	<b>210 points</b>
(Post = 20 points; Response = 15 points)	
Chapter from Powlison Text	
Supplemental Video	
Chapter from Guthrie Text	
Chapter from Lutzer Text	
Supplemental Video 2	
Chapter from Eareckson-Tada Text	
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>100 points</b>
Quiz 1 = 50 points	
Quiz 2 = 50 points	
	<b><u>Total Points = 1,000</u></b>

**V. MATERIALS**

Required Textbooks

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Tautges, Paul. *Comfort Those Who Grieve: Ministering God's Grace in Times of Loss*. Day One Publications, 2009. ISBN# 978-1-84625-155-9 Price: 10.00

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*

Alcorn, Randy. *If God is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil*. Multnomah Books, 2009. ISBN# 978-1-60142-132-6 Price: 8.00

Guthrie, Nancy. *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go: Facing Death with Courageous Confidence in God*. Crossway Publishers, 2011. ISBN# 978-1-4335-1618-4 Price: 13.00

Eareckson-Tada, Joni. *The Life and Death Dilemma: Families Facing Health Care Choices*. Zondervan Publishing House, 1992. ISBN# 0-31058571-6 Price: 12.00

Powlison, David. *Grieving a Suicide: Help For the Aftershock*. New Growth Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1-935273-68-4 Price: 4.00

Lutzer, Erwin. *One Minute After You Die*. Moody Publishers, 1997. ISBN# 0-8024-6306-1 Price: 4.00

## VI. CLASS POLICIES

### Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.

### Writing Style

All class papers must follow the APA style according to *APA Publication Manual 6<sup>th</sup> edition*. The student can find APA style by using the following resource:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/apa\\_sample\\_paper.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html).

**Late work:** Due dates posted in the syllabus are final. Late projects will be assessed the following penalties:

- Position papers = 10-point reduction
- Scenario papers = 5-point reduction
- Discussion Posts/Responses will not be accepted past the due date

### Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing Lisa Haney the DSS Director ([dss@calvary.edu](mailto:dss@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

### Learning Center

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

**Commented [LRS1]:** We are not doing Turabian style formatting in this department any longer. We have switched, due to our discipline, to APA. I will send you all APA formatting documents to give to your students.

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*

VII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Due Dates:	Read	Write	Watch	Quiz	Post/Respond
Oct 26		Personal Intro	Welcome/Intro	Syllabus	Powlison
Nov 2	Powlison/Guthrie		Video 1		Video 1
Nov 9					Guthrie
Nov 16	Lutzer/Eareckson-Tada	Examples Paper		Quiz 1	
Nov 23		Scenario 1			Lutzer
Nov 30		Scenario 2	Video 2		Video 2
Dec 7		Scenario 3			Eareckson-Tada
Dec 14	Alcorn/Tautges	Theology Paper		Quiz 2	

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*

### VIII. Suggested Bibliography

Teterud, Wesley M. *Caring for Widows: You and Your Church can Make a Difference*. Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids MI, 1993

Wolfelt, Alan. *Healing a Parents Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas after your Child Dies*. Companion Press, Bozeman, MT, 2002

Burpo, Todd. *Heaven is for Real: A little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back*. Thomas Nelson Publishing, Dallas, TX, 2010

Wiersbe, David and Warren. *Ministering to the Mourning: A practical guide for Pastors, Church Leaders, and other Caregivers*. Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 2006

Kubler Ross, Elizabeth. *On Death and Dying*. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc. NY, 1974

Piper, John and Taylor, Justin. *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*. Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 2006

Packer, J.I. *The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*. Gospel Mission Press, Choteau, MT., 1980

Tripp, Paul David. *When Grief Enters Your Door*. Journal of Biblical Counseling;

Morey, Robert A. *Death and the Afterlife*. Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1984

Graham, Billy. *Death and the Life After Death*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN., 1987

*Surviving the Holidays*, Grief Share, Pamphlet, Published by Church Initiative, Wake Forest, NC., 1984

*Through a Season of Grief: Devotions For Your Journey From Mourning to Joy*; Dunn, Bill & Leonard, Kathy; Thomas Nelson Publications, Nashville, TN, 20094

*Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.*