

Course: CO449 Senior Counseling Project
Semester: Cycle 2 & 3 (Aug-Dec)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
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I. DESCRIPTION

This course will assess the student's cumulative theological and counseling understanding through the development of written statements in response to a series of questions provided for the student. This project will allow the student to complete much of the testing section of the certification process. The student will also be required to develop a personal philosophy of counseling consistent with a biblical worldview. (The student must have completed their junior year and 15 hours of Biblical Counseling courses. Admission by permission of the Biblical Counseling Department Chair.)

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Compose answers to the questions in two major areas: theology and counseling (PLO 1, 5, 6).
2. Demonstrate a knowledgeable and biblical approach to important theological and counseling issues (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
3. Write personal beliefs concerning theological and counseling issues (PLO 2).
4. Prepare the student for IABC (International Association of Biblical Counselors) certification by completing the testing phase (PLO 1, 3, 4, 5, 6).
5. Prepare students for Master's level work in Biblical counseling (PLO 5, 6).

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Compose theological questions that are consistent with the biblical worldview (PLO 1, 5, 6).
2. Answer the counseling questions that are consistent with the undergraduate biblical counseling department and IABC (PLO 3, 4).
3. Produce a written personal philosophy of Biblical Counseling that is consistent with the Biblical Counseling Dept. and the IABC (PLO 2).

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

III. REQUIREMENTS

This project consists of four sections: theology questions, affirmation and denial, counseling questions, and a personal philosophy of counseling. The student will also meet Learning Center requirements and accountability requirements (see pg. 3-5).

Section I: Theological Evaluation Questions (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3)

- *Store a secure, backed-up electronic file of all answers to the evaluation questions (e.g.: Google Drive, Dropbox, USB stick, etc.).*
- Include the section as the header of each page (e.g., Theological Evaluation Questions) on which you are working.
- Reproduce each question **in bold** and provide your answer.
- The answers are to be (1 to 1-1/2 pages), and they need to express *your own personal response* to each question. Clear, concise, and correct theology and counseling principles are the goal.
- Support your answers with Scripture. Do not fill a page by quoting Scripture, a reference is sufficient.
- You must cite your sources in reference list form according to the APA according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* 6th edition guidelines at the end of each section. Use quality sources for the Theological Questions (Blogs, unknown Internet sources, Wikipedia, etc., are not quality sources). This is to be completed at the end of the Theological Questions.
- **Double space and number the pages of the project** straight through (meaning no numbering sections or divisions by question, topic, etc.).
- E-mail questions to the Learning Center (see Learning Center Requirement below). At the beginning of the semester, you could also schedule weekly appointments with the CAC to help you be held accountable to complete your work on time.
- You may turn the project in early – **when you do so all check-ins STOP** (see pg. 3-4).
- See Final Submission Checklist below for final requirements (pg. 4).

Section II: Affirmation & Denial (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3)

- You are to choose **one** affirmation and denial and write a three to four (3-4) page paper and develop a solid biblical basis for defending the affirmation & denial that you chose. Please use requirements found in the **Theological Evaluation Questions** for this section.
- Be sure to include the appropriate heading.

Section III: Counseling Questions (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2, 3)

- This section discusses how you would use the word of God in various counseling situations. You are to answer all of the thirteen (13) questions using the requirements found in the **Theological Evaluation Questions** section.
- Be sure to include the appropriate heading.

Section IV: Personal Philosophy of Counseling (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 3)

- This can be written in first person, no reference list is necessary.
- The student is to write a concise and clear personal philosophy of biblical counseling. This should be no longer than 150 words (or 1/3 of a page).
- Be sure to include the appropriate heading with the topic (Personal Philosophy) See Final Submission Checklist below for final requirements.
- Be sure to include the appropriate heading.

Learning Center Requirement

The Clark Academic Center (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.

E-mail the appropriate questions to the Learning Center *well in advance* according to the Accountability Schedule.

The purpose of this requirement is to help with *form, grammar, and clarity*. The Learning Center *will not* and *should not* help extensively with formulating content or with the actual writing of the paper. Again, do not come to the Learning Center for your appointment with anything less than a *completed* and *proofed* paper. **Remember: the Learning Center is doing you a great service. Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on their part.**

This is a Final Senior Project and must be your best work. It is the culmination of your counseling classes and counseling knowledge. Only *high-quality* work should be submitted. There can be *no* grammatical, spelling errors, etc., within this paper. The Learning Center will help you accomplish that goal. However, the responsibility is not *theirs*, but *yours*.

IV. METHODS

The student will research and prepare answers to the assigned questions.

FINAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

At the end of the class, the student will submit a hard copy of the entire project according to the following requirements:

- Proof-read carefully
- Include all theology questions, affirmation & denial, and counseling questions
- Includes reference sheets for each section of questions
- Includes your Personal Philosophy of Biblical Counseling
- Includes page numbers from 1 to the end of the project (meaning no numbering sections or divisions) and your name and category (e.g. Theological Questions) on every page
- Is placed in a **thesis folder** (not a notebook, no hole-punches, staples, paper clips, etc.)

Once the project is complete, the student can expect 1 of 4 possible outcomes:

- 1—No revisions, project complete**
- 2—Minor revisions, project complete**
- 3—Major revisions, project incomplete**
- 4—Fail to complete**

Grading

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Theology Questions (36 @ 15 each) | 540 points |
| Counseling Questions (13 @ 20 each) | 260 points |
| Affirmation/Denial (1 @ 20) | 20 points |
| Personal Philosophy | 100 points |
| Learning Center (4 @ 20 each) | <u>80 points</u> |
| Total | 1000 points |

V. MATERIALS

A. 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.

Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks *before* class begins so that you are able to complete all of the readings assigned. Please make sure that you have all of your assigned textbooks prior to the start of class. Failure to have your assigned textbooks at the start of the class will result in a zero in every assignment that is not completed.

B. Research data plus all theology and counseling class notes.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Coordinator (dss@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Academic Dishonesty

Note: 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

This project must follow the APA style according to *the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th edition*.

Late Projects

This project and the assignment associated with it are due at the period assigned. Unless under extreme circumstances, which will be determined at the discretion of the instructor, **no late work will be accepted.**

SECTION I: THEOLOGICAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Using essay style writing, please respond thoroughly to each of these statements. Compose your answers clearly and precisely, defining all terms. Please follow these formatting instructions carefully. Use 1 inch margins, double spacing, and 12 point Times New Roman font. Your answers should be 1 page to 1-½ pages in length. Support all your answers with Scripture. This is an open book exam but you must use parenthetical citations and include a reference list at the end of each of the two sections that require cited sources: Theological Questions and Counseling Questions.

1) AUTHORITY & SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE (Bibliology)

- a) Demonstrate by using your Bible, its own claim to authority.
- b) What is meant by the term "The Inspiration of Scripture?"
- c) Give your understanding of "Biblical Inerrancy."
- d) Explain your understanding of the "Sufficiency of Scripture."
- e) Explain the following statement: "As inerrancy speaks to the rule of faith, so sufficiency speaks to the rule of practice."
- f) Explain the importance of: (1) General Revelation and (2) Special Revelation to the process of Biblical Counseling.

2) GOD THE FATHER (Theology Proper)

- a) What is the unique ministry of God the Father in the Godhead?
- b) What difference does the fatherhood of God make in your life?
- c) Choose and define five attributes of God.
- d) Define: "The Decrees of God."
- e) Defend Biblically how the sovereignty of God and man's free will are both essential truths.

3) GOD THE SON (Christology)

- a) Give your understanding of who Jesus is.
- b) What is meant by the term "the deity of Christ?"
- c) What is the role, if any, of the Lordship of Christ in Biblical Counseling?

4) GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (Pneumatology)

- a) Describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Give scriptural evidence of His deity and personhood.
- b) Give your understanding of the Trinity.
- c) Describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the context of counseling.

5) MAN (Anthropology)

- a) Describe your view of man's nature.
- b) How would you depict man's present condition?
- c) What is meant by the "depravity of man" and why is it important to understand this doctrine in counseling?

d) What is the problem with the present day “self-esteem” theology?

e) How would you describe a believer's new identity in Christ?

6) SALVATION (Soteriology)

a) How do you believe a person is "saved?"

b) Is it ethical or unethical to explain the Gospel in a counseling session? Why?

c) Describe how important it is to bring a counselee to Christ.

d) Describe what role, if any, baptism plays in your salvation.

e) How does one attain greater intimacy with God?

7) SATAN (Demonology)

a) What is your understanding of "spiritual warfare?"

b) Using Scripture, describe your understanding of Satan.

8) THE CHURCH (Ecclesiology)

a) Explain why you agree or disagree with the following statements: i) We affirm that Biblical Counseling falls under the authority and oversight of the body of Christ, the Church. ii) We deny that Biblical Counseling falls under the authority of psychology. iii) We affirm active church participation is vital for the counselor and counselee.

9) CHRISTIAN LIVING (Practical Theology)

a) Is counseling alone sufficient for the long-term maturity of the counselee?

b) How does Biblical Counseling relate to the Biblical mandate of discipleship?

c) Using Scripture to support your answer, explain the following affirmation: “Sanctification is a lifelong process, not a one-time event.”

10) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (Biblical Sociology)

a) Using Ephesian 5, explain the Biblical roles of the husband and wife.

b) Using Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-21, explain the Biblical responsibilities of the parents and children.

c) Under what conditions, if any, is divorce permitted? Use Scripture references to defend your answer.

SECTION II: AFFIRMATION & DENIAL QUESTIONS

Please choose one (1) AFFIRMATION AND DENIAL (other than those assigned above) and develop a solid Biblical basis for defending it.

Article I: Revelation

A: We affirm that God reveals Himself through both Special and General Revelation.

D: We deny that General Revelation is God's only means of revealing Himself.

A: We affirm that Special Revelation is God's means of revealing truths pertinent to human belief and practice.

D: We deny counseling theories and practices that are not based on the Special Revelation of the Bible.

A: We affirm that God's revelations in total (including both General and Special Revelation) are necessary for holding man accountable to God.

D: We deny that General Revelation alone was intended to provide the data necessary for life and godliness.

A: We affirm Special Revelation (the Bible) to be the immutable, supreme, and absolute expression of God's truth to man.

D: We deny that either man's wisdom or General Revelation can be given equal authority with Scripture.

Article II: The Authority and Sufficiency of God's Word

A: We affirm that Biblical truths are sufficient, when presented in the power of the Holy Spirit, to enable the Christian to love and obey God and to seek to please Him in every way.

D: We deny that man's wisdom (secular theories and practices) can enable the Christian to love and obey God and to seek to please Him in every way.

A: We affirm the Bible to be the indispensable textbook on human and divine relationships and behavior.

D: We deny a lesser role for the Bible in addressing all aspects of human behavior and relationship to God.

A: We affirm God's Word as the voice of God to us today.

D: We deny that there are other voices of God ("truths") other than God's Word (Jer. 23:25-31).

A: We affirm that the Bible establishes the norms for right and effective living.

D: We deny that secular sources are sufficient to establish norms for right and effective living.

Article III: The Nature of Biblical Counseling

A: We affirm the fundamentals of Biblical Christian faith as the foundation for Biblical Counseling.

D: We deny the validity of any counseling model that ignores or minimizes the fundamentals of

Biblical Christian faith.

A: We affirm that the Biblical Counselor builds his system of counseling, including its presuppositions, principles, and theories from Special Revelation.

D: We deny that the counselor can build a “Biblical” system of counseling that syncretizes secular sources and the Holy Scriptures.

A: We affirm that evangelism and discipleship are indispensable parts of the Biblical Counseling process.

D: We deny that it is unethical or unnecessary for a Christian who counsels to share his/her faith in the counseling process.

A: We affirm the necessity of a close, vital relationship with Jesus Christ for spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being, and that this is the objective of Biblical Counseling in the life of the counselee.

D: We deny the value of anything that hinders or supersedes the necessity of a close, vital walk with Jesus Christ.

A: We affirm that principles of behavior are to be drawn from Scripture and observation guided by Biblical information.

D: We deny that principles of behavior can be determined on the basis of observation alone.

Article IV: The Calling and Equipping of The Biblical Counselor

A: We affirm that the equipping of the saints, the work of service, and the building up of believers, all are to be done by those within the Body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

D: We deny that mental health professionals, by virtue of their training in secular theories and practices, are qualified to equip the saints or build up the Body of Christ through psychological theories and practices.

A: We affirm that the equipping of the saints, the work of service, and the building up of believers, all are to be done by those within the Body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

D: We deny that Christians, who depend on their training in secular theories and practices rather than the Bible, are qualified to equip the saints, build up the Body of Christ, or to aid in the process of sanctification.

A: We affirm that Biblical counseling falls under the authority and oversight of the Body of Christ, the Church.

D: We deny that Biblical counseling falls under the authority of psychology.

A: We affirm that Biblical counseling must be Christ-centered.

D: We deny that Biblical Counseling can be man-centered.

SECTION III: COUNSELING QUESTIONS

1. With what Christian counselor or counseling organization would you align your philosophy of counseling? Why?
2. Please list the five most influential counseling books you have read.
3. What is “integration” as applied to the discipline of Biblical Counseling? Why do you think IABC takes a non-integrationist stance?
4. Should a Biblical Counselor make the following statement? “You cannot really love God unless you love yourself.” Why or Why not?
5. Define the sovereignty of God and its importance to the counseling process.
6. Define the providence of God and its importance to the counseling process.
7. Define the justice of God and its importance to the counseling process.
8. Define the love of God and its importance to the counseling process.
9. How would you counsel someone struggling with fear concerning world events? What homework assignment might you assign him/her?
10. Explain the importance of James 4:1 to counseling a couple with communication problems.
11. To what portions of Scripture would you appeal to help someone who believes his trials indicate God is punishing him?
12. Define Biblical marriage, including the various roles.
13. Briefly explain the Biblical teachings on sexual sins including: homosexuality, transgender issues, and same-sex marriage. Please outline how you would help someone who wants to overcome a life of sexual sins.