



Syllabus

15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Course: CO436-E & EN: Death, Dying and Grief Counseling
Credit: 3 Semester hours
Semester: Fall, 2021
Time: Tuesdays, October 26 – December 14 (6pm – 9pm Central Time)
Professor: Jeff Campa
Email: 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).

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

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 five pages long (excluding cover page and bibliography) and will include a minimum of five sources (Scripture, 2 textbooks, 1 other book, 1 journal).
 - 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 three original papers following the template provided in CANVAS. Each paper will be two pages long and based off each of the following scenarios. One page will be dedicated to assumptions, questions, and assessment of needs and the second page will be 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. Interviews (GC 2, 3, 4; SC 2, 3)

Students will conduct two interviews and write a four-page reflection on each. These interviews are designed to allow the student to interact with others that have faced the challenges addressed in this course. Further instruction and templates will be provided by the instructor.

- a. Terminal Illness
- b. Grief Process

4. Discussion Posts and Responses (GC 1, 2, 4; SC 1, 2, 3)

Students will participate in six discussion posts in CANVAS. Each post will interact around 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.

- a. Chapter from Powlison Text
- b. Supplemental Video 1
- c. Chapter from Guthrie Text
- d. Chapter from Alcorn 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.

IV. Points (1,000 total)

Reading

120 points

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

Writing

570 points

- Biblical Examples of Grief (150 points)
- Biblical Theology of Death (150 points)
- Scenario Paper 1 (50 points)
- Scenario Paper 2 (50 points)
- Scenario Paper 3 (50 points)
- Interview 1 (60 points)
- Interview 2 (60 Points)

Posts/Responses **210 points**

(Post = 20 points; Response = 15 points)

Chapter from Powlison Text
Supplemental Video
Chapter from Guthrie Text
Chapter from Alcorn Text
Supplemental Video 2
Chapter from Eareckson-Tada Text

Quizzes **100 points**

Quiz 1 = 50 points
Quiz 2 = 50 points

Total Points = 1,000

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

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

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 6th 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.

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
- Interview 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 the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Learning Center

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. 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.

VII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Due Dates:	Read	Write	Watch	Quiz	Post/Respond
Oct 26		Personal Intro	Welcome/Intro	Syllabus	Powlison
Nov 1	Powlison/Guthrie		Video 1		Video 1
Nov 8					Guthrie
Nov 15	Eareckson-Tada	Examples Paper		Quiz 1	
Nov 22		Scenario 1			Alcorn
Nov 29		Scenario 2	Video 2		Video 2
Dec 6		Scenario 3			Eareckson-Tada
Dec 13	Alcorn/Tautges	Theology Paper		Quiz 2	
Dec 17		Interviews			

VIII. Suggested Bibliography

Baker, Bruce. *For Thou Art With Me: Biblical Help for the Terminally Ill and Those Who Love Them*. Larkspur, CO: Grace Acres Press, 2019.

Dunn, Bill. *Through a Season of Grief: Devotions For Your Journey From Mourning to Joy*. Thomas Nelson Publications, Nashville, TN, 2004.

Floyd, Scott. *Crisis Counseling: A Guide for Pastors and Professionals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2008.

McMinn, Shari Howard. *Death: Where is Thy Sting? Recovery from the Loss of Our Loved Ones and Preparation for Our Own Final Days*. Fort Morgan, CO: BCF Publishing, 2020.

Powlison, David. *Seeing With New Eyes: Counseling the Human Condition Through the Lens of Scripture*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003.

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.

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

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