

Course: RP343-D & ND Ethics in Biblical Counseling
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Spring 2022 Cycle 5 (March 14-May 6)
Time: Thurs. (1pm-4pm)
Room: East Education Building Rm. #105
Instructor: **Dr. Luther Smith.** MRS, MACP, Psy.D
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I. DESCRIPTION

This course will observe the ethics of Biblical counseling from a Biblical worldview. This course will examine Biblical counseling as a person and a professional, cross-cultural studies, how to serve counselees when counseling Biblically, confidentiality and accountability, boundaries in Biblical Counseling, group work, and community involvement. (Prerequisite: RP239)

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes 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. The student will:

1. Develop a proper Biblical worldview concerning ethics and Biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 5).
2. Analyze different ethical dilemmas so one will be able to think critically about situations in Biblical counseling (PLO 1, 4, 5).
3. Develop how to serve counselees with a proper Biblical counseling ethic (PLO 1, 4, 5).
4. Analyze Biblical Counseling Certification Agencies, state licensure, and their similarities and differences (PLO 1, 2, 6).

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

1. Identify areas of possible ethical dilemmas in Biblical counseling and how to address them from a Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5).
2. Articulate a Biblical reason for an ethic in Biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 5).
3. Express clearly the importance of confidentiality and informed consent in Biblical counseling (PLO 3, 6).

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

4. State clearly the importance of maintaining boundaries and multiple relationships (PLO 3, 6).
5. Identify the benefits of supervision in Biblical counseling (PLO 3, 6).

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1. **Reading Journals:** (3 pages maximum). The student will write a three (3) page **Journal** following **each class** period that demonstrates a mastery of the reading assignment and class material and the student's personal reflection with what they read from the chapters in the book. The student will also need to demonstrate an ability to compare and contrast this information to their current world view. Each Journal will be due according to the course schedule. There will be a **total of six (6) Journals**. Each journal will be worth 30 points (GC 1, 3; SC 2).
2. **Ethical Dilemma Vignettes:** (3 pages maximum) Student will write and comment on ethical dilemmas from the instructor where the student will examine different ethical dilemmas in Biblical Counseling. The student will identify the ethical dilemma, answer the questions pertaining to the vignette, and would give their process in how they would resolve this dilemma. **There will be a total of five (5) vignette reviews**. Each journal will be worth 50 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).
3. **Selected Reading Reflections:** (3 pages maximum) Student will write and comment on selected reflections supplied by the instructor in which the student will examine topics that are related to ethics in counseling and write a personal reflection on related topic. Topics will include the differences between ethics codes and statues, the pros and cons of internet counseling, payment, and other issues. These reflections are to be 2-3 pages in length. **There will be a total of six (6) reflections**. Each reflection will be worth 10 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).

B. Written Assignments

1. **Ethical Biblical Counseling Video Discussion:** **Note: You must have a webcam in order to complete this assignment.** Each week the instructor will give topics concerning ethics in Biblical counseling, which will be presented on the discussion board in Canvas. Some of the topics will include multiculturalism, group counseling and confidentiality, working with the opposite sex, etc. Student will post a 5–10-minute response video with a discussion that is supplied by the instructor on Canvas. Then each student will post a 3–5-minute reply video to at least two of their classmates. **There will be a total of six (6) counseling discussions**. Each discussion will be worth 50 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).

2. **Personal Improvement Project:** Student will work on the Personal Improvement Project (PIP) put together by Pat Miller and Dr. Ernie Baker (adapted by Dr. Luther Smith). Specific directions concerning this project are described below do not work ahead—further instruction will be given. This project, if you so choose, could be used as a part of your daily time with God during this course. **The initial contract is due on Week 2 (five (5) pages).** The entire assignment, which includes the initial contract, will be due on week eight. **The assignment is worth 400 points** (GC 3, 4; SC 4).

PIP Project Final Paper: Type a 10-page Final Paper of this Personal Improvement Project, which is due week eight. Give significant details from items 1 through 13 of the project (see sample). Then evaluate and assess where you think you have come, what change has taken place, what changes yet remain, where you have and have not made progress, the reasons for your failure to make more progress, what the obstacles have been, what obstacles still remain, how your tackling this issue has affected your ministry, what your plans are in reference to this issue for the future, and anything else you think relevant. Follow the outline of the **SAMPLE**. (For this paper the student will use her/his PIP Contract and add the results, response, what happened, what you did, what God taught you through His word, etc.? Add your results under each question in italics. Writing the results will lengthen the original contract from 5 to 10 pages). (GC 3, 4; SC 4).

Specific Directions for PIP Project:

1. **Problem Selection:** Select one problem or issue in your own life on which you want to work on improving during this course. Perhaps it will be an issue in your life with which you have the greatest trouble, one in which you sense a real deficiency, one that is of most interest to you, or maybe one that represents an issue that has challenged you most. This is a research paper, but of a different type! This is a paper about you! You will never understand biblical counseling until you understand the importance of sanctification in the Christian life. Throughout this course you will embark, maybe for the first time in your life, on a mission of personal improvement focused on one sin that you struggle with, bad habit, or pressure you face. This is an excellent opportunity for you to work on an area in your life that you have known needs to change in order to be more like Jesus Christ.

You may choose what appears to be a relatively minor habit (e.g., biting your fingernails). Or you may choose something major (e.g.,

wrong thinking, behaving, speech, emotions – a tendency to be withdrawn, uptight, evasive, aggressive, controlling, competitive, pushy, demanding, judgmental, negative, critical, a tendency to want to be the center of attention, a tendency to show off or try to impress people, a tendency to be performance-oriented in your school work, in your evaluation of people, in your evaluation of worth and value, etc.). If you choose to work on what many would consider a small bad habit, it possibly may lead you to more substantial issues. Working on not biting your fingernails may lead you to how you handle tension in general. Investigation of a seemingly insignificant area of life may have ripple effects in other areas of life.

If you choose a larger issue you will need to break it down into particular actions, attitudes, thoughts and feelings that manifest the problem. Remember, an avalanche is made of millions of snowflakes. Fundamental changes in attitudes, motives, and desires have ripple effects.

2. **Prayer:** After spending time in prayer, fine-tune your project into your PIP Contract (see attached sample in the syllabus, 5 pages in length, typed, and using the exact form as the sample).
3. **Detailed Journal:** Keep a journal on the computer of what happens in your life in this area throughout the course. Record specific occasions when the problem surfaces or when you are tempted. Keep this journal at least three times a week—be sure to date your entries. (Each dated entry is worth 5 points = 100 points total). In this journal record the prominent, significant features in your situation. What did you say, do, feel, and think? What were your controlling motives, desires? What are relevant biblical passages that illuminate the situation, define the problem, expose motives, and point to solutions?
4. **Application:** Apply information from this course and your reading to the particular problem you have chosen. Let honest prayer and honest thinking work together. Use class discussions and reading to spur your understanding of and solution to this problem.

On the due date of the final PIP paper, you will also hand in your journal (you are keeping on your computer). **The journal will be considered strictly confidential.** Please keep this journal on a

computer rather than a separate book and attach the printed-out pages to your final report.

- C. **Quizzes:** There will be **five (5)** quizzes in this course. The quizzes will cover information from the lectures from the previous week. They will consist of true/false Multiple choice and fill in the blank. Each quiz is worth 10 points each (GC 3; SC 2).
- D. **Ethics of Biblical Counseling Final Exam:** The student will be given a final exam. The final will be and will consist of 50 questions that are true/false, and multiple choice, and short answer questions. The final is worth 100 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3).
- E. **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.**

F. **Class Participation**

Campus Students: Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered. An Intensive last for 8 weeks. If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will not receive the points for that class session. No skips will be provided for this course. In addition, students who are late **two (2)** times or more in the course will receive a **full letter grade deduction** from their overall grade in the course.

Online Students: The online student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor. They are to be completed and uploaded on Canvas before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date they will not receive the points for the class session.

IV. **METHODS**

- A. Teaching
1. Lectures by the instructor
 2. Large group discussion
 3. Research and writing

V. GRADING

A. Grading

1. Weight given to course assignments

5 Ethical Dilemma Vignettes <i>50pts each</i>	250pts	25%
5 Selected Reading Reflections <i>20pts each</i>	100pts	10%
5 Quizzes <i>10pts each</i>	50pts	5%
6 Ethical Counseling Video Discussion <i>25pts each</i>	150pts	15%
6 Journals (completed according to schedule) <i>25pts each</i>	150pts	15%
Ethics in Biblical Counseling Final Exam	100pts	10%
Class Participation <i>25pts each</i>	200pts	20%

2. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

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

VI. MATERIALS

A. Bible

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.

B. Required Textbooks

Sanders, K (2013). *Christian Counseling Ethics: A Handbook for Psychologists, Therapists and Pastors 2nd Edition*. ISBN: 978-0830839940 \$38.13 Kindle version is not available.

Selected readings that would be given by your instructor.

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 receiving a zero for every assignment that must completed.

VII. CLASS POLICIES

Attendance

Campus/Livestream Students: Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered (as this also counts for class participation). If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are six (6) class sessions, which correspond to the eight week cycle. Each class participation session is worth 25 points.

Online Students: The online student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor (as this counts for class participation). They are to be completed and uploaded on Canvas before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are six (6) class sessions, which correspond to the eight week cycle. Each class participation session is worth 25 points.

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 the 7th edition. For questions, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed., 2nd printing).

Late Work

Papers, projects, etc. are due at the class period assigned. Unless under extreme circumstances, which will be determined at the discretion of the instructor, **no late work will be accepted.**

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.

Academic 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.

VIII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Class Topics	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Course Going over syllabus for the class Lecture: The Biblical Foundation For ethics in Biblical Counseling.	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 1-2) DUE Reading Journal DUE
Week 2	Quiz #1 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: The importance of Values and Spirituality in Counseling	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 3 & 9) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #1 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #1 DUE Selected Reading journal DUE
Week 3	Quiz #2 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Multicultural considerations In Biblical Counseling.	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 7) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #2 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #2 DUE Selected Reading journal DUE
Week 4	Quiz #3 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Informed Consent And Confidentiality	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 8 & 10) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #3 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #3 DUE Selected Reading journal DUE
Week 5	Quiz #4 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Competency & Self-Care	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 4 & 17) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #4 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #4 DUE Selected Reading Journal DUE
Week 6	Quiz #5 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Ethics in Marriage In Family Therapy	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 13 & 6) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #5 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #5 DUE Final Selected Reading Journal DUE
Week 7	Discussion on the reading Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Ethics in Group Therapy and Supervision	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 12 & 14) DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #6 DUE FINAL EXAM NEXT WEEK!
Week 8	Postmortem and debrief of class Lecture: Certification And Licensure	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 11, 15, AND 18) DUE FINAL EXAM DUE