



Syllabus

15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Course: CO436-N: Death, Dying and Grief Counseling (**Online Only**)
Credit: 3 Semester hours
Semester: Fall, 2024
Time: Session #2 (October 21st-December 13th)
Professor: Dr. Luther Smith MRS, MACP, Psy.D.
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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)

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 course includes both in-person and online students together. In-person students attend classes in person, online students attend the class via the online classroom (Canvas). All interaction and assignments for in-person and online students are done in the online classroom (Canvas).

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 the 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 Style 7th edition. Each paper will be five pages long (excluding cover page and bibliography) and will include a minimum of four sources (Scripture, 1 textbook, 1 other book, 1 journal).
 - a. Biblical Examples of Grief
 - b. Biblical Theology of Death
2. Scenario Case Study Papers (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3)
Students will write two original papers following the template provided in Canvas. Each paper will be two pages long and based on a case study of the following scenarios. One page will be dedicated to assessment, assumptions, questions, and assumption of needs and the second page will be dedicated to a plan of proposed ministry and support for specific needs identified in the assessment.
 - a. Scenario Paper 1= Medical Death (example: long-term/terminal illness)
 - b. Scenario Paper 2 = Traumatic Death (example: accident, violence, suicide)

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3. Interview (GC 2, 3, 4; SC 2, 3)
Students will conduct one interview and write a five-page assessment, reflection, and proposal of care that could/should have been provided in that specific instance. The interview is 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.

4. Discussion Posts and Responses (GC 1, 2, 4; SC 1, 2, 3)
Students will participate in six discussion posts on Canvas. Each post will interact around four things for discussion: (1) Summary of content including author's/presenter's theme and main point, (2) An assessment of how the content does/does not reflect the Biblical worldview, (3) Highlights the student found in the material, and (4) Specific aspects that can be used to build a Biblical counseling approach from the material presented.
 - a. Selected chapter from Powlison Text
 - b. Supplemental Video 1
 - c. Selected chapter from Guthrie Text
 - d. Selected chapter from Alcorn Text
 - e. Supplemental Video 2
 - f. Selected chapter from Erickson-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)	
Erickson-Tada (20 points)	
Tautges (20 points)	
Alcorn (50 points)	
Writing	590 points
Biblical Examples of Grief (145 points)	
Biblical Theology of Death (145 points)	
Scenario Paper 1 (100 points)	
Scenario Paper 2 (100 points)	
Interview 1 (100 points)	

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Posts/Responses

240 points

(Post = 20 points; Response = 20 points)

Chapter from Powlison Text

Supplemental Video

Chapter from Guthrie Text

Chapter from Alcorn Text

Supplemental Video 2

Chapter from Eareckson-Tada Text

Quizzes

50 points

Quiz 1 = 25 points

Quiz 2 = 25 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.

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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 7th 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 (exigent or emergent circumstances need to be discussed with the instructor):

Position papers = 10-point reduction

Scenario papers = 5-point reduction

Interview paper = 5-point reduction

Discussion Posts/Responses will not be accepted past the due date.

Accommodations Statement

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing Jamie Franz 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.

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VII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Schedule	Read	Write	Watch	Quiz	Post/Respond
Week 1		Personal Intro	Welcome/Intro	Syllabus	Powlison
Week 2	Powlison/Guthrie		Video 1		Video 1
Week 3					Guthrie
Week 4	Erickson-Tada	Examples Paper		Quiz 1	
Week 5		Scenario 1			Alcorn
Week 6		Scenario 2	Video 2		Video 2
Week 7					Eareckson-Tada
Week 8	Alcorn/Tautges	Theology Paper		Quiz 2	
		Interview			

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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.