

Course: CO246 D & N-D Theological Foundations of Biblical Counseling
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Spring 2026 (Session 1) (January 13th-March 7th)
Time: Monday & Friday (9:30am-10:50am)
Room: East Education #105
Instructor: **Dr. Luther Smith.** MRS, MACP, Psy.D.
Email: luther.smith@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

This course will study the theological foundations of Biblical counseling and how systematic theology impacts how an individual counsels. Secular humanism and its respective systematic theology will be contrasted and examined. (Prerequisite: CO244)

This course uses a blended model of delivery, 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 Canvas.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

1. Analyze the level of importance of a proper theological worldview, and how it influences one's counseling method and approach (PLO 1, 2).
2. Compare and contrast Reformed and Dispensational theology in terms of biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).

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

1. Articulate a proper theological view concerning biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
2. Apply the knowledge to elements of Secular humanism and formulate a defense against the worldview (PLO 1).
3. Compare and contrast the differences between the "Authoritative Foundational Approach" and the "Integrative Approach" to biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 4).
4. Utilize knowledge to each aspect of systematic theology, and how it relates practically to biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).
5. Utilize knowledge to articulate clearly biblical counseling from the perspective of Reformed and Dispensational theology (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6).

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1. **Reading Journals:** (four (4) pages each) The student will write a **four (4) page Journal** following **each class** period that demonstrates a mastery of the reading assignment and class material and the student's personal reflection on what they read from the chapters in the book. The student will also need to demonstrate an ability to compare and contrast this information with their current world view. The journal format will be provided by the instructor on the first day of class. 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, 2; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).
2. **Selected Reading Reflections:** (One to Two (1-2) pages each) Student will write and comment on selected supplied by the instructor in which the student will examine different counseling models and share their perspectives on each model from a Biblical worldview. **There will be a total of six (6) reflections**. Each reflection will be worth 50 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

B. Written Assignments

1. **Theological Counseling Paper** –The student will write a Theological Counseling paper in which they will examine a model of counseling and examine the theology within the counseling model. The theology in this model, and the source of authority, will then be examined to the theology found in the Bible, and student will note the similarities and differences between the theologies. The paper will be 8-10 pages in length, which does not include the cover page and the reference page. The model that the student examines cannot be a model that is mentioned in the course syllabus or in the lectures. The paper is worth 450 points (GC 1, 2; SC 1, 2, 3, 4).
- C. **Quizzes:** There will be seven quizzes to prepare for. The quizzes will cover information from the lectures from the previous week. They will consist of true/false, and Multiple choice. Each quiz is worth 10 points each (GC 1, 2; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

D. Class Participation & 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.**

IV. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. Lectures by the instructor
2. Large group discussion
3. Research and writing
4. Quizzes on the lectures

B. Grading

1. Weight given to course assignments.

| | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| 6 Journals (completed according to schedule) <i>30pts each</i> | 180 pts | 18% |
| 6 Selected Reading Reflections <i>50pts each</i> | 300 pts | 30% |
| 7 Quizzes on Lectures <i>10pts each</i> | 70 pts | 7% |
| Theological Counseling Paper | 450 pts | 45% |

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 |

V. 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

Smith, L. (2024). *Counseling biblically: beyond the foundations: A supplement to foundations for counseling biblically*. Independently published. ISBN: 979-8333316189. \$10.00. Kindle version not available.

Smith, L. (2022). *Philosophical Foundations for Counseling Biblically Book. 1*. Independently Published. ISBN: 0310303419. \$24.50. kindle version not available.

Smith L. (2022). *Theological Foundations for Counseling Biblically Workbook*. Independently Published. ISBN: 9798836817756. \$16.55. No kindle version **(optional as these are the class notes)**.

Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks before class begins so that you can complete all the readings assigned. Please make sure that you have all 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 be completed.

C. Selected Readings, which will be passed out by the instructor.

VII. CLASS POLICIES

Attendance

Campus 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 eight (8) 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 these questions count 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 eight (8)

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 content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

A Secondary Statement Regarding Using AI For All Reports/Projects

Artificial intelligence (AI) in academic use could be beneficial for you as the student. However, when misused it may limit your ability to think critically. As the professor *I cannot catch nor stop you in the act of using AI for your papers and research.* However, it is my expectation that you as the student will do your best by your ability and skill as a human being in the subject(s) that you desire to study. Below is the percentage threshold concerning the effort you place in your paper and the presence of AI within your paper.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 0-10 percent of AI* | No points deducted from your paper/project. |
| 11-20 percent of AI* | A third of your overall points are deducted from your paper/project. |
| 21-30 percent of AI* | 75% of your overall points will be deducted from your paper/project. |
| 30+ Percent of AI | You will receive no points for the paper/project. |

***Keep in mind this deduction is *added* to the points that you would lose due to other things (Improper writing style, grammar, etc.).**

Writing Style

All class papers must follow the APA style according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition*. You can find APA resources under the **Getting Started Checklist** located in the *Theological Foundations of Biblical Counseling* Course on Canvas.

Late Work

Papers, projects, etc. are due at the class period assigned. Unless under extreme circumstances, which are 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.

Learning Center

The Clark Academic Center, located in the library building, provides 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 Overview of syllabus Lecture #1: Laying the Foundation Biblical & Source of Authority | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap.1) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (Chap. 1) Theo Found. Of Bib. Counsel journal reading #1 DUE |
| Week 2 | Review on Quiz #1 Discussion on the reading Lecture #2: Covenant Theology & Dispensational Thought | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap. 2) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (Chap. 2) Theo Found of Bib. Counsel Sel. Read Reflection DUE Theo Found. Of Bib. Counsel journal reading #2 DUE Theo. Found Of Bib. Counsel Quiz #1 DUE |
| Week 3 | Review on Quiz #2 Discussion on the reading Lecture #3: Covenant, Dispensationalism & Diagnosis in Biblical Counseling | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap. 3) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (Chap. 3) Theo Found of Bib. Counsel Sel. Read Reflection DUE Theo Found. Of Bib. Counsel journal reading #3 DUE Theo. Found of Bib. Counsel Quiz #2 DUE |
| Week 4 | Review of Quiz #3 Discussion on the reading Lecture #4: Covenant, Dispensationalism & the Holy Spirit in Biblical Counseling | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap. 4) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (Chaps. 4-5) Theo Found of Bib. Counsel Sel. Read Reflection DUE Theo Found. Of Bib. Counsel journal reading #4 DUE Theo. Found of Bib. Counsel Quiz #3 DUE |
| Week 5 | Review of Quiz #4 Discussion on the reading Lecture #5: Covenant, Dispensationalism & The Law of God in Biblical Counseling | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap. 5) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (Chaps. 6-7) Theo Found of Bib. Counsel Sel. Read Reflection DUE Theo Found. Of Bib. Counsel journal reading #5 DUE Theo. Found of Bib. Counsel Quiz #4 DUE |
| Week 6 | Review of Quiz #5 Discussion on the reading Lecture #6: Covenant, Dispensationalism & Idolatry in Counseling | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap. 6) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (chaps. 8-9) Theo Found of Bib. Counsel Sel. Read Reflection DUE Theo Found. Of Bib. Counsel journal reading #6 DUE Theo. Found of Bib. Counsel Quiz #5 DUE |
| Week 7 | Review of Quiz #6 Discussion on the reading Lecture #7: Covenant, Dispensationalism and Professionalism in Biblical Counseling | Read <i>Counseling Biblically</i> (Chap. 7) Read <i>Philo. Found.</i> (Chaps. 10-11) Theo. Found of Bib. Counsel Quiz #6 DUE WRITING PROJECT DUE NEXT WEEK! |

Week 8

Theological Counseling
Presentations from students.
Postmortem of Class

Read *Counseling Biblically* (Chap. 8)
Read *Philo. Found.* (chap.12)
Theo. Found of Bib. Counsel. Writing project **DUE**