



15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Syllabus

Course: CO340 LS & NE Counseling Youth
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2026 Session 1 (January 12th - March 6th)
Time: Online-Tuesday (6pm-9pm)
Instructor: Jan Larkins, M.Ed.
Email: jan.larkins@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

This course seeks to help biblical counselors be more effective in their work with youth by addressing the specific developmental tasks and challenges (both personal and interpersonal) that youth face as part of their maturation process. The specific struggles of youth will be addressed with biblical solutions. **(Prerequisite: CO244)**

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved are:

1. The student will identify developmental stages of the adolescent in various areas of maturation, including: physical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual (PLO 2, 5, 6).
2. The student will express a counseling philosophy and methodology most conducive to working effectively with adolescents (PLO 1, 3, 5).
3. The student will identify the moral and social influences on today's youth as well as the trends and pressures they face in contemporary society (PLO 1, 3, 5).
4. The student will state the role the local church must fill to be both biblically credible and practically relevant (PLO 2, 5).

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

B. Specific competencies to be achieved are:

1. The student will explain a personal philosophy of youth counseling (PLO 2).
2. The student will be able to better conceptualize adolescents within their multidimensional developmental context (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5).
3. The student will research and examine modern social/moral/emotional/spiritual issues as they relate to the adolescent for the purpose of intervening within a biblically and theologically sound framework (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5).

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments (see tentative schedule)

Reading Journals: For each assigned textbook, turn in a two-page double-spaced typewritten book response that includes the following information and heading:

1. Personal reflection – not just a summary; what did you learn?
2. Personal application – how can you apply what you learned to your life and/or your counseling?
3. Any concerns or questions regarding the read material.
4. Note: include information from any additional reading, such as journal articles (1/4 page per section/additional reading).

There will be a **total of 8 Journals**. Each journal will be worth 30 points (GC 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3).

B. Written Assignments

1. **Counseling Youth Response Journal:** Using your *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling Youth*, you will need to choose **five** different topics and then turn in **five** journal entries (1–2-page max per entry), covering, but not limited to, the following aspects:
 - a. How has this issue been a part of your life?
 - b. What invitation is Jesus extending to you within the context of this topic?
 - c. If you were to grow in sanctification in this part of your life, what do you think that would potentially look like?

This journal is **due at the end of week eight** is worth 150 points (GC 2; SC 1, 2, 3).

2. **Young Adult Interview:** Interview, for at least one hour, a young adult (teenager) with whom you have little to no involvement (***Do not choose a youth group or location that you currently are involved with or are familiar with the participants, to give you more anonymity, objectivity and a fresh perspective***); **OR**, choose one group of teens to watch (primarily) and journal about the dynamics of their group and your observations of their social interactions, as well as individual characteristics. This can be submitted in paper or outline

form. The information gathered will be used for your Interview Presentation. The Young Adult Interview is worth 100 points (GC 3; SC 2, 3) and is **due at the end of week five**.

3. **Young Adult Interview Presentation:** You will present your findings concerning the adolescent(s) that you interviewed, or your observations about the young adult group dynamics to the class. You will integrate the questions that you asked with the material you have read in your textbooks, along with the lectures in class and your personal reflection to give the class a perspective on the adolescent and your approach to them. The presentation should be about 5-7 PowerPoint slides **minimum** and should be about 5-10 minutes long. If you are not an on-campus student and you cannot attend the live presentations, then you must record your PowerPoint presentation with you on camera. In-person students will **present live** on weeks 7 and 8. The Young Adult Presentation is worth 100 points (GC 3; SC 2, 3).

4. **Philosophy of Counseling Youth Paper:** *This is not a research paper.* Students will put together their top take-away from the required reading from the course, lectures, and write how they conceptualize their future work with youth. The paper must include:
 1. How you make sense of the social and spiritual context of today's youth,
 2. how you would go about counseling youth,
 3. what goals you have for the youth you counsel,
 4. the differences in working with Christian and non-Christian youth,
 5. and the settings in which you see yourselves working with youth.

Paper should be between 6-8 pages (excluding cover page and possible reference page). The Philosophy of Counseling Youth Paper will be worth 100 points (GC 1, 2; SC 2, 3) and is **due at the end of week six**.

C. Final Portfolio

There will be a final exam that will cover the lectures, textbooks and materials used in class in week 8. Final exams are open book/notes, and the exam will contain short answer and short essay questions. The final will be worth 200 points. (GC 1, 3; SC 2, 3).

D. Class Participation and Behavior

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 eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 10 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 eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 10 points.**

Behavior: Class participation is required. 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. Lectures

exam

B. Grading

1. Approximate	weight	of	course	assignments:
Class Participation (6 weeks @10 points each)			60 pts	6%
Reading Journals (8 total @ 30 points each)			240 pts	24%
Young Adult Interview			100 pts	10%
Young Adult Interview Presentation			100 pts	10%
Philosophy of Counseling Youth Paper			100 pts	10%
Counseling Youth Response Journal (10 points each)			200 pts	20%
Final Professional Portfolio			200 pts	20%
Total Possible Points			1000 pts	

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

Clark, C. *Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers*. Baker Academic, 2004. ISBN# 080103941X. Retail price: \$15.99. Kindle version available. \$15.99

Mueller, W. *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews and Christian Truth*. IVP, 2006. ISBN# 0830833374. Retail price: \$13.48. Kindle version available. \$12.81

Miller, P. & Miller, K. *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling Youth*. Baker Books, 2006. ISBN# 0801066085. Retail price: \$15.99. Kindle version available. \$9.99

Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks *before* class begins so that you can 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 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 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 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.

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 on the Canvas homepage.

Late Work

Papers and projects and quizzes must be completed by the end of each week. 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.

Learning Center

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) provides free academic assistance for Calvary University 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.