

Course: RP343D & N-D Ethics in Biblical Counseling
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Spring 2026 (Session #2) (March 16th-May 8th)
Time: Monday & Wednesday (1:00 pm-2:20 pm)
Room: East Education Building Rm #116
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: RP100)

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 40 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).

B. Written Assignments

1. **Ethical Biblical Counseling Video Discussion:** **Note: You must have a webcam 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).

- 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, and multiple choice. 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. Intensives 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>40pts each</i> | 200pts | 20% |
| 5 Quizzes <i>10pts each</i> | 50pts | 5% |
| 6 Ethical Counseling Video Discussion <i>25pts each</i> | 150pts | 15% |

| | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| 6 Reading Journals <i>50pts each</i> | 300pts | 30% |
| 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 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 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 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 these 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 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. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content 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. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

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 put 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 *Ethics In Biblical Counseling* Course on Canvas.

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 (cac@calvary.edu) 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 Going over syllabus for the class Lecture: The Biblical Foundation For ethics in Biblical Counseling. | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> 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 | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> Reading (Chap. 3 & 9) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #1 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #1 DUE |
| Week 3 | Quiz #2 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Multicultural considerations In Biblical Counseling. | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> Reading (Chap. 7) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #2 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #2 DUE |
| Week 4 | Quiz #3 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Informed Consent And Confidentiality | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> Reading (Chap. 8 & 10) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #3 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #3 DUE |
| Week 5 | Quiz #4 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Competency & Self-Care | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> Reading (Chap. 4 & 17) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #4 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #4 DUE |
| Week 6 | Quiz #5 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Ethics in Marriage In Family Therapy | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> Reading (Chap. 13 & 6) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #5 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #5 DUE |
| Week 7 | Discussion on the reading Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Ethics in Group Therapy and Supervision | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> 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 | <i>Christian Counseling Ethics</i> Reading (Chap. 11, 15, AND 18) DUE FINAL EXAM DUE |