INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL COUNSELING AND ISSUES IN COUNSELING MINISTRY
Trinity International University: CM5000/6000 Graduate

INSTRUCTOR: Daniel R. Green, Ph.D.
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Selected Readings to be distributed on the group web site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An introduction to the principles, techniques, and theories of counseling with emphasis on counselor characteristics, helping skills, the various types of pastoral counseling, the most common counseling problems, and the uniqueness of Christian Counseling.

OBJECTIVES
Students will be expected to
- become familiar with the history of pastoral care/counseling and how current pastoral counseling has been shaped,
- become familiar with and be able to critique the major approaches to counseling,
- become familiar with approaches to the integration of psychology and theology,
- learn and practice basic counseling skills which are foundational to an effective counseling ministry,
- recognize both their degree of competence and their limitations in counseling ministry and understand when and how to make appropriate referrals,
- develop a basic knowledge base of the psychological, social, behavioral, spiritual, and ethical challenges that are commonly encountered by pastoral counselors, and
- recognize personal, legal, and professional issues that may arise in the practice of counseling within the church.

The course is appropriate for seminary students, lay counselors, individuals involved in pastoral ministry, and others interested in counseling from a Christian perspective.

REQUIREMENTS
1. Readings: outlined in the course schedule. Readings should be completed prior to class.
2. Exams: A mid-term exam covering the material (both readings and class discussions) from the first six weeks of the course will be distributed on 03/06, due the following week. The final exam will be distributed on 05/01 and will be due on 05/08. Both exams are take-home and are to be submitted by email.

3. Special Issues Annotated Bibliography: Each student will prepare an annotated bibliography on a counseling issues of interest to him or her (e.g., depression, grief, anxiety, shame and guilt, domestic violence, etc.). This bibliography must contain at least 10 sources (5 articles and 5 books, no more than two articles from any one journal may be used) and should include not only a brief summary of each source but also a statement of any particular strengths or weaknesses for each one. Please submit the Annotated Bibliography electronically (i.e., via email) as it will be posted on the group web site. Please discuss your choice for topic with the instructor prior to the first exam.

4. Role Play Skills Video: Each student will video record a counseling session with a classmate. The presenting problem will be randomly assigned according to prearranged scenarios designed by your instructor. The session should be at least 30 minutes long and include allowing the client to present his/her problem, a demonstration of listening skills, problem definition and possibly offering an intervention. Following the session, each student will submit a 3-5 page evaluation of the session, including both strengths and areas for improvement. Thus, each student will write an evaluation from the experience of being in the counselor role and a second evaluation from their experience in the client role. Only the final report (not the recording) will be submitted.

Grading
The final course grade will be determined by the following formula:
Exam (each) = 30%; Special Issue Annotated Bibliography = 20%; Role Play Report = 20%

Course Outline & Readings

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RECOMMENDED READINGS: