



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

CO-607G: Basic Counseling

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Saturday

9/10, 10/8, 11/5, 12/10

Spring Semester 2011

[Greenville, SC.](#)

Toney C. Parks; D. Min

Office Hours: Please call to schedule appointments 30 minutes prior to class meeting.

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[McCain Library](#) (toll free) 1-877-876-4348

Seminary Policies

Click this link and read carefully as part of this syllabus contract:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSStudents.pdf

Course Description

This course seeks to equip the pastor and teacher with basic skills needed for counseling parishioners in the local church. Attention is devoted to development of the spiritual life of the counselor, understanding the dynamics of the counseling process, adopting a Biblical view of human needs, and applying appropriate skills for helping those in need. *Required.* Three hours.

Course Objectives

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary (ETS) is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church in faithfulness to the Bible, the Reformed tradition, and the standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church while showing respect for denominational diversity. One of the seminary's goals is that graduates will be prepared to understand and minister to people and communities through pastoral care and counseling. This course seeks to improve the counselor's understanding of personal development so that appropriate implications for counseling of persons might be developed and implemented. By the conclusion of this course, it is hoped that each student will have made progress in:

1. Understanding the fundamental differences, and similarities, between secular and Biblical approaches to counseling;
2. Being able to see, assess, and counsel people from a Biblical perspective in a manner that is respectful and helpful to the person, and that brings glory to God;
3. Developing and improving one's use of the basic skills of personal counseling;
4. Growing in one's self-understanding as a person in need of God's grace and guidance.

Required Texts (2)

Capps, Donald. *Giving Counsel: A Minister's Guidebook*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-8272-1247-X.

Powlison, David. *Seeing with New Eyes: Counseling and the Human Condition Through the Lens of Scripture*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2003. ISBN: 0-87552-608-X.

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Guidelines/Requirements for Assignments:

- 1) **Jay Adams Response:** After reviewing Jay Adams film, write a three (3) page reflection of the video. Identify the key terms and counseling concepts mentioned in the lecture. Make sure you have defined both the theological and secular terms mentioned in the lecture. Conclude your reflection by stating your position or stance on the subject of Biblical counseling vs. secular counseling. (*Due October 8th Class Participation /Discussion*)

- 2) **Before beginning to read Powlison's *Seeing with New Eyes*,** look within yourself and perform a self evaluation of at least one behavior or sin and ask God to give you a renewed spirit, and outlook on life. Identify the "Heart Issue" using David's encounter with Nathan as an example. Look at yourself from a spiritual viewpoint. Describe and identify the behavior; select a scripture that best characterizes your behavior; show how the scripture passage or narrative influences your behavior, and what effect or change has occurred. (*Due November 5th, must be posted on Eden*)

- 3) **Seeing with New Eyes & Giving Counsel Report** – After you have read both **Powlison and Capps**, ask God to show you how you would go about developing a Biblical Counseling Ministry Manual in your local church. Use the different models and techniques discussed in the text and class lecture. Including the necessary guidelines to perform counseling in the local church, this counseling ministry manual is to serve as a resource in your existing ministry. The manual should consist of all the necessary components for an effective counseling ministry. Give a detailed description of your counseling format to be used in the manual. You are to identify the various phases/steps of your counseling ministry and show me that you understand the various components of the counseling ministry. The paper should be double spaced, no more than 7-10 pages, using a font size and style similar to that found in this syllabus, which is Times New Roman, 12-point. Each student should be ready to discuss and defend their ministry

manual during an oral presentation on December 10th. **(Must be posted on Eden prior to class)**

- *Counseling Mission Statement*
- *Counseling Philosophy*
- *Theological Statement*
- *Data Sheet/Information Sheet*
- *Counseling Mode/Model*
- *Counseling terms and techniques from readings and lectures must be used*

4) Final Exam – Oral Presentation: Students are required to prepare a power-point presentation, describing a counseling model from one of the models discussed in the book. You are to describe the various practices and boundaries you plan to use in your ministry. This will be an oral presentation, no more than 10 minutes in length. You may use reading material from Powlison and Capps to support your presentation. Be prepared to defend your counseling model. **(Due Dec 10th)**

1. Identify a behavior/counseling issue and show the clinical definition of this behavior from the secular view.
2. Identify the primary scripture/s that deal with the behavior.
3. From your readings, develop a five step-counseling model you plan to use in your counseling ministry.
4. After you identify the counseling model, show how you plan to execute your counseling ministry manual.
5. This is to be a power-point presentation with no more than 10 slides, and a maximum of 15 minutes.

Note: Students will receive 20 points for each step of the presentation process, totaling 100 points. Oral Presentation is 50% of your grade.

Course Grading

Regular attendance and appropriate, active participation in class are assumed for a passing grade. The absence of regular attendance and active participation will affect one's final grade. Otherwise, the final grade will be calculated on the standard seminary scale as follows: ***Late papers will not be accepted.***

Reports (2), Skill Demonstration & in-class assignments, and Final Exam -

Jay Adams Reflection Paper 10%

Powlison and Capps Counseling Manual 30%

Final Exam Oral Presentation 50%

Reading Review 10%

Class Schedule

September 10th: Introduction to Class Participants / Course, Jay Adams Film & Lectures

Students are to write a three-page response paper to the Jay Adams Lecture Film. Place the response paper on Eden by October 8th class session.

October 8th: Lecture/Discussion of Powlison's "Seeing With New Eyes"

November 5th: Lecture/Discuss Capps chapter 1-5 & Professional Counseling Ethics

December 3rd: Power-point presentation & counseling manuals discussed

Note: All assignments must be attached to EVC Hybrid Classroom (Basic Counseling –Greenville)