



ERSKINE
S E M I N A R Y

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

CO 552

Applied Biblical Counseling

Toney C. Parks, D. Min.

Summer 2009

June 6th, June 20th, July 18th, July 25th

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Course Description:

CO 552 APPLIED BIBLICAL COUNSELING

This course focuses upon the application of Biblical counseling methods and principles to the 10 most commonly encountered severe counseling problems (including alcoholism, homosexuality, and depression). A Biblical model is applied to each of these counseling problems. The use of encouragement groups as supplemental support for the counseling process receives particular emphasis. *Required for M.A.C.M. students. Summer term only. Three hours.*

Course Goals:

A. General Mission of Erskine Seminary

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian church.”

1. To know and understand the depth of Scripture.
2. To biblically understand common life problems/behaviors (e.g., guilt, suffering, fear and anger) and minister to those who struggle with them in ways that are meaningful.

B. By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Apply the essential themes of biblical counseling to any problem.
2. Describe the differences, strengths and weaknesses of psychotherapy and biblical counseling models of diagnosis
3. Develop and apply methods of helping people facing various problems of living
4. Articulate a model of change and its various applications
5. Develop categories in which to understand counseling issues

I. Assignments/Theological Response Paper

A. Response 20% each (Due June 20th & July 18th)

1. Two response papers should be written. Topics for response papers must be approved by professor in advance. Each student will be expected to write 1-3 page paper on the behavior of a

psychological or social issue to be presented and discussed in class.
(Each student will select a different topic)

2. Student will be expected to give an oral presentation of their paper during each class session.

3. Response papers are due on the day of the class. Failing to submit and present your paper constitute a zero for that class session. (NO EXCEPTIONS)

B. Content of Response Paper:

1. *Identify the Behavior*-What is the primary problem (sin) or symptoms of the identified behavior? (Give an example of the problem/behavior)

2. *Theology of the counseling issue*-What is the spiritual nature of the problem as defined in the Bible? (Give scripture support of your explanation by identifying key scriptures directly relating to the behavior)

3. *Clinical Definition of the counseling issue*-What does the psychotherapist say about the behavior (research therapeutic approach, medical, pathological studies of the behavior)

4. *Treatment/Spiritual Transformation*-What type of treatment would you suggest based on your study of this specific behavior? What method would you suggest in the treatment of this behavior, Biblical, Therapeutic or Integrated Mode? Defend your position.

5. *State Your Biblical/Worldview*-State your position on the behavior
**Select one of the behaviors listed below.*

- a) Anger
- b) Anxiety
- c) Suffering
- d) Depression
- e) Suffering and Pain
- f) Fear of Man
- g) Sexual Abuse
- h) Homosexuality
- i) Pornography

C. How To Apply your Theology:

Reading: Reflection of your reading assignment 30%

1. Write a five to seven page response of the book, "How People Change". Respond to salient points of the book and note the implications of the views presented and how those views will affect the way you do counseling.

2. Once you have finished your reflections, demonstrate your ability to use the material in the book by applying the material to a Professional Journal article related to an issue in today society, such as "Same Sex Marriage," "Homosexuality," "Divorce, Remarriage," "Marital Conflict," "Church Discipline," "Drug Addiction." etc.

3. Using the material from the book, describe how you would bring about spiritual transformation in the lives of those you will counsel on the selected behavior. This is to be presented in class as your final exam. (Due July 25th)

Required Texts (2) Available from the Erskine Theological Seminary Online Bookstore at <http://www.ecampus.com/erskine>.

Timothy S. Lane; Paul David Tripp (1999) "*How People Change*". (Required)

Edward T. Welch (2001). *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave*". (Required)

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: *All Late papers will be penalized one letter grade.*

- 1st Response Paper 25%
- 2nd Response Paper 25%
- Reflection Paper 30%
- Oral Presentation 20%

Class Schedule:

June 6 th	Lecture "How People Change" Three Trees Lecture
June 20	Lecture "Applying Scripture" & Presentation
July 18	Lecture "Banquet In the Grave" & Presentations
July 25	Journal Article Presentation

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Drop/Add/Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **binding contract** and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to

withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

Incompletes

The grade of "I" or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An "I" in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you

need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend **all** class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the "Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs" (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation.

Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted

Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester

Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

End of Syllabus