

Erskine Theological Seminary
Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

607C: Basic Counseling

Spring 2008, 9:00 A.M. to 5 P.M., Saturday
Feb. 23rd, March, 15th, April. 12th, May. 10th

Charleston, SC.

Toney C. Parks, D. Min.

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

Office (864) 379-6693; Cell (864) 350-8409; Home (864)-268-2199 before 10 p.m.

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ETS FAX (864) 379-3171; P. O. Box 668, Due West, SC 29639

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

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 and,
4. growing in one's self-understanding as a person in need of God's grace and guidance.

Required Texts (2)

These required texts may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine from January 4, 2008.

Capps, Donald. *Giving Counsel: A Minister's Guidebook*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001.

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

Course Requirements & Expectations

Attendance – Your presence at, preparation for, and participation in all class sessions are required for a passing grade. Each student, therefore, is expected to arrive on time, including following class breaks, and to attend all class meetings for their duration. In the event that an absence is necessary—for whatever reason, including pastoral duties, work, or family responsibilities—the student is responsible for all assignments and all work done in class. Absences in excess of three (3) hours, may limit one's final grade to no higher than a "B." Absences in excess of seven (7) hours will result in receiving no credit for the course. Any student who misses seven or more cumulative hours of class should contact the registrar in writing and withdraw from the course rather than fail it. Students who miss more than three hours of class are required to do extra work and are expected to take the initiative to secure the assignments from the professor. Failure to complete extra work by the final day of class will result in the reduction of one's final course grade by one full letter grade.

Assignments – All assignments are due on the designated date. An absence does not negate this requirement unless prior arrangements have been made. Late work will be accepted up to one week after the assignment is due, but will receive a penalty of up to one letter grade. All make-up work is due by the last day of class. Written work should conform to Erskine Seminary's "Style and Form Standards for Master's Level Programs." Essential guidelines to assist in formatting papers are available from the professor. Do NOT submit work in folders; simply supply a cover/title sheet and staple pages (numbered!) together. Give careful attention to spelling, grammar, syntax, style, and form; these items are considered in grading. Proofread all papers before submission! Permission **may** be granted for one below average paper (< C) to be re-done one time to improve one's grade (limited to a maximum of a "B+"). This option does not exist for any papers turned in the final day of class.

Inclusive Language – The seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.

Other Seminary Policies – Students should familiarize themselves with, and abide by, policies regarding plagiarism, the payment of accounts, the granting of an "Incomplete," library privileges, etc. as set forth in the ETS Catalog & the Student Handbook. NOTE: Students guilty of plagiarism may receive a failing grade for the entire course with a notation of such in their permanent academic record!

NOTE: Once you have completed, signed, and submitted your registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **BINDING CONTRACT**, and your billing will be based upon this registration. If you decide not to take this class, you must complete a “drop/add” form with the appropriate signatures. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.**

Office Hours – While I do post and keep regular office hours on campus, my schedule may change due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise. Therefore, if you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call my cell number (864-350-8409) to schedule an appointment.

Guidelines/Requirements for Assignments:

Before beginning to read Powlison’s “Seeing with New Eyes”, ask God to show you how to view the lives of others from a spiritual viewpoint. Select a biblical character, and describe as much historical data as you can about this person’s life, family, personality. As you study this individual, ask God to help you discern the root and nature of their sinful behavior. After you have determined the “heart issue”, determine what biblical text you would use to introduce change into their life. This paper should be 3-5 pages double spaced. Assignment Due **March 15th**

1) Giving Counsel Report - Before beginning to read Capps' *Giving Counsel*, ask God to show you how you would go about developing a Biblical Counseling Ministry in your local church. Use the different models and techniques discussed in the text and class. This counseling ministry manual is to be brief with all the necessary guidelines to perform counseling in the local church. This Counseling Ministry Manual should consist of all the necessary components for an effective counseling ministry. Please describe each component used in the manual to show why, how and the importance of its function. The paper should be double spaced no more than 5 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 **April 12th**.

2) Counseling Skills Demonstration - Working both in assigned small groups; as well as, the larger classroom setting, students will demonstrate their progress in acquiring and honing some of the basic counseling skills including listening skills, accurate empathy, appropriate responses, proper boundary setting, assessment, etc.

3) Final Exam – Oral Presentation: Students will be required to prepare a power-point presentation describing the type of counseling model, practices and boundaries you plan to use in your ministry. This will be an oral presentation, which is no more than 10 minutes in length. You may use material from Powlison and Capps readings to support your presentation. Be prepared to defend your counseling model. **May 10th**.

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.***

Reports (2), Skill Demonstration & in-class assignments, and Final Exam - 25% each

- Jay Adams Reflection Paper 25%
- Seeing with New Eyes assignment 25%
- Giving Counsel Assignment 25%
- Final Exam Oral Presentation 25%

Class Schedule

Feb/23rd - Introduction to Class Participants / Course, Jay Adams Film & Lectures
Students are to write a three page response paper to the Jay Adams Lecture Film. Paper is to be emailed before March 3rd.

March 15th - Lecture/Discussion of Powlison's Chapter 1-3 "Seeing With New Eyes"

April 12th -Lecture/Discuss Capps chapter 1-5

May 5th - Lecture on Professional Counseling Ethics & Oral Presentation

End of Syllabus