

BRIERCREST

CO 620 Pastoral Counselling Spring 2023

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Course Dates: Monday evenings: May 1 – June 26, 2023

Online Modular Course

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer biblical perspectives and foundational theory and practice for pastoral care and counselling. Topics include: a brief review of the place of pastoral care and counselling in a church's ministry, understanding the fundamentals of the therapeutic process including basic interviewing skills, preliminary assessment, referral options, and documentation. Emphases will include ethical practice, confidentiality, and circle of care.

COURSE INTEGRATION

This course intends to orient and to prepare persons in ministry for the work of shepherding in the church. A large proportion of people seeking help still turn first to pastors. The church's ministry of making disciples has included the work of pastoral care from the very beginning. This course is intended to provide a theological and biblical basis for the work of pastoral care, a review of counselling skills required for this task, and a consideration of how the local church participates in the care of its people.

REQUIRED READING

Benner, David G. (1998). *Care of souls: Revisioning Christian nurture and counsel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. ISBN:0-85364-960-X

Clinebell, Howard J. (2011) *Basic types of pastoral counseling: Resources for the ministry of healing and growth, Third edition*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon. ISBN: 978-0-687-66380-4

Hauerwas, Stanley (2022) Being with the wounded: Pastoral care within the life of the church.
<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/wounded-pastoral-care-within-the-life-of-the-church/10708802>

Kollar, Charles A. (2011) *Solution-focused pastoral counseling: An effective short-term approach for getting people back on track*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN: 9780310329299

Liens, C. J. K. (2021) What makes pastoral counseling so pastoral? Distinguishing between pastoral care and clinical practice in modern life. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 40, 4, 257-364.

Sanders, R. K., Ed., (2013) *Christian counseling ethics: A handbook for psychologists, therapists and pastors*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP:
Ch. 14. Pastors who counsel by B. Blackburn
Ch. 15. Lay counselor training by S.-Y. Tan

Wimberley, Edward P. (1994) *Using scripture in pastoral counseling*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon. ISBN: 0-687-00251-6

OTHER RECOMMENDED READING

Augsburger, David (1986) *Pastoral Counseling across Cultures*

Benner, David G. (2003) *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structured Model*

Crabb, Larry (2007) *Becoming a true spiritual community: A profound vision of what the church can be*. Thomas Nelson.

Kraft, Charles H. (2012) *I give you authority: Practicing the authority Jesus gave us*.

Thomas, Frank, and Cockburn, Jack (1998) *Competency-based counseling: Building on client strengths*. In Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling Series, Howard Stone, editor.

Van Deusen Hunsinger, Deborah (1995) *Theology and pastoral counseling: A new interdisciplinary approach*. Eerdmans.

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. Thinking

- An understanding of the biblical and theological foundations of pastoral care in the local church.
- An awareness of the various kinds of approaches to pastoral care in the history of the Christian movement.
- A knowledge of theories of change.
- The examination of the various kinds of presenting problems that come to pastors.

2. Valuing and Feeling

- An appreciation of the profound importance of pastoral care in the life of the local congregation.

- A developing passion for the role of the local church in the shepherding of the congregation.

3. Skill

- A developing confidence in the use of basic skills in listening, asking questions and conducting a counselling conversation.
- An empathic self-awareness that leads to confidence in being able to enter the “fellowship of suffering” that pastoral care offers.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Below is an approximate schedule of the topics we will cover in class, subject to change according to needs and questions from the students, and the whims of the instructor.

Week 1: May 1 – Biblical, theological, and historical foundations of pastoral care

Week 2: May 8 – Psychological correlates: understanding people, problems and how we change

Week 3: May 15 – Basic pastoral counselling skills: listening, questioning, guiding

May 22 – Break

Week 4: May 29 – Some approaches to pastoral care: the use of stories

Week 5: June 5 - Issues in pastoral care and counselling – illness, trauma and bereavement

Week 6: June 12 – Issues in pastoral care and counselling – Multicultural issues; demonic influence, sexual abuse, addiction, group counselling

Week 7: June 19 – Issues in pastoral care and counselling – theodicy, Anxiety, depression and addiction

Week 8: June 26 – Issues in pastoral care and counselling – Ministry to marriage and family

CLASS PROCEDURES

We will meet online using the Zoom platform each Monday evening beginning May 1, 2023, from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Saskatchewan time. Each week, you will be sent a link via email inviting you to join the meeting. Content of our meetings will include lectures, discussion and student presentations. Assignments for the presentations will be given on the first day of class. The two hours of instruction will be supplemented by small group interaction based on the content of the previous two hours, additional readings, and various other means to enrich the learning experience.

ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all written assignments to Canvas.

Pre-Course Assignments:

Read each of the seven required readings and write a one-page review of each. Include at least one question that each of the authors raises for you.

Due: May 1, 2023

Value: 30%

Mid-Course Assignments:

Each student will prepare a PowerPoint presentation in keeping with the themes of the week. These will be shared with the class each week and will be included in the weekly class discussion. The student will also submit the presentations on Canvas for evaluation.

Due: end of the week of presentation

Value: 30%

Post-Course Assignments:

1. Write a brief paper describing your biblical and theological understanding of the foundations of the pastoral care ministry of the church.
2. Write a brief paper exploring one pastoral care issue that interests you. Include a discussion of the pastoral care needs of the issue, an approach you would take, resources you might include, and the hopeful outcome that you might anticipate.

Both papers should be supported by a strong list of resources supporting your research.

Length: 1200 words each

Due: August 21, 2023

Value: 20% x 2 = 40%

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit fully from a seminary education, to be good stewards of time and finances, and to be considerate of their classmates and faculty members, students must be in class at every opportunity.

Modular Courses

Students are expected to attend 100 per cent of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one (1) full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Online Courses

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending scheduled meeting times, then up to 20% of meeting time can be foregone. Students missing scheduled meeting times should make every effort to inform the course professor prior to any time missed. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

Semester-Based Courses

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%). A student may appeal a course failure due to excessive absences. Successful appeals will be granted only in rare cases where all absences are clearly beyond the student's control. Appeals must be made through the Academic Appeal Process.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the

syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or health condition who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Academic Resource Centre Coordinator in person (L234 in the Library) or by email (ntooke@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appleby, D. W., and Ohlschlager, G. eds. (2013). *Transformative encounters: the intervention of God in Christian counseling and pastoral care*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Augsburger, D. W. (1986). *Pastoral counseling across cultures*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press.

Benner, David G. (1998). *Care of souls: revisioning Christian nurture and counsel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

Clinebell, Howard John (2011). *Basic types of pastoral care and counseling: Resources for the ministry of healing and growth*. Nashville: Abingdon

Cooper-White, P. (2007). *Many voices: pastoral psychology in relational and theological perspective*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Crabb, Larry (1999). *The safest place on earth: Where people connect and are forever changed*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson

Gingrich, Heather Davediuk, and Gingrich, Fred. C. (2017). *Treating trauma in Christian counseling*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- Hunsinger, Deborah van Deusen (1995). *Theology and pastoral counseling: A new interdisciplinary approach*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Johnson, E. L. (2018) *God and soul care: The therapeutic resources of the Christian faith*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.
- Kollar, Charles Allen (1997). *Solution-focused pastoral counseling: An effective short-term approach for getting people back on track*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Kraft, C. H. (2012). *I give you authority: practicing the authority Jesus gave us, revised edition*. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books.
- Malony, H. Newton, and Augsburger, David W. (2007) *Christian counseling: An introduction*. Nashville: Abingdon
- Mason, Karen (2014). *Preventing suicide: A handbook for pastors, chaplains, and pastoral counselors*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Oden, T. C. (1989) *Pastoral counsel*. New York: Crossroad.
- Oden, T. C., and Browning, D. S., eds. (1984). *Care of souls in the classic tradition*. Philadelphia; Fortress Press.
- Simpson, Amy (2013) *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: InverVarsity Press
- Thomas, Frank, and Cockburn, Jack (1998). *Competency based counseling: Building on client strengths*. Creative pastoral care and counseling series, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress.
- Wimberley, Edward P. (1994). *Using scripture in pastoral counseling*. Nashville: Abingdon.