

**Winter/Spring Semester 2020
Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Spring 2020
BC7624 Readings in Biblical Counseling
Professor: Dr. Howard Eyrich
Class Hours: 2

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Class Seminar Hours: 8-10 a.m. (CST) Saturday: Jan 25, Feb. 22, March 28, April 25

COURSE PURPOSE

Readings in Biblical Counseling is an opportunity for exposure to current works in the field that students are not likely to have experienced as course textbooks. The purpose of this course is to broaden the student's spectrum regarding methodology, recent developments and theoretical implications in the discipline of Biblical Counseling.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this you, you will be able to:

- (1) Identify the principles useful in practice
- (2) Identify advancement in understanding human problems theologically
- (3) Identify and acquire and create homework for biblical counseling
- (4) Build an awareness of authors writing in the field and recent developments
- (5) More effectively utilize Scripture in the counseling enterprise

REQUIRED TEXTS AND ASSOCIATED ASSIGNMENTS

Due dates include the books following date until the next due date. There are three books and accompanying assignments for each class meeting.

[Please note the need to order a subscription to the Journal of Biblical Counseling—if you already have a subscription then you are good, jut complete the assignment and indicated at the tope left side of page one—I already have a subscription]

ASSIGNMENTS are due on the date the books are to be discussed.

DUE—January 25`

1. Adams, Jay E. *Committed to Craftsmanship*. Institute for Nouthetic Studies (January 11, 2019) ISBN-10: 1949737004 ISBN-13: 978-1949737004

Reading strategy: Read this book with the assignment in mind.

Assignment: You will write a letter to a friend who has just be awarded certification in ACBC high lightening the three most important concepts for the new journey they are now beginning as a Biblical Counselor No more than two pages.

2. Brauns, Chris, *Unpacking Forgiveness*, Wheaton, II: New Crossway, 2008. 218 pages ISBN-10: 1-58134-980-7

Reading strategy: Brauns book gives a very good overview of concept of forgiveness. Take note give attention to the details of this concept.

Assignment: You will write and submit a lecture to deliver to your Lay Counseling class extolling the value of the process of the concept of forgiveness and the implications thereof. This lecture should be in a sentence outline form. No more than three pages.

3. Powlison, David. *Speaking the Truth in Love*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press. 2005, 202 pages

Reading strategy: Being asking yourself, “What motivated Powlison to write this book? And, “Why did he think it was necessary?”

Assignment: Choose someone in your sphere of influence that you think needs to read this book (no names of course) and write an email/letter of no more than one page in which you encourage him/her to read the book in a manner that will wet his/her appetite to do so.

DUE February 22

1. Greggo, Stephen, P. and Timothy A. Sisemore (eds), *Counseling and Christianity, Five Approaches*. Downers Grove, IL: 2012, 250 pages.

Reading strategy: Since Adams launched the modern biblical counseling movement in 1970, biblical counselors have tenaciously argued that counseling is a ministry of the Word. Note the variance of this perspective as well as that of sufficiency and authority articulated in this book.

Assignment: You will write an article for the Biblical Counseling Coalition blog in which you will delineate how and why Scott's counsel is superior to the other approaches. No more than five pages.

2. Welch, Edward, T. *Shame Interrupted*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2012, 334 pages.

Reading Strategy:

Read with your friend or counselee in mind whom you have observed struggling with shame and/or rejection.

Assignment:

When you finish reading, write that person a letter that gives counsel and practical steps toward freedom.

3. Walker, Andrew T. *God and the Transgender Debate*. The Good Book Company, 2017, 171 pages.

Reading strategy: Read this book with the mind set of being interviewed by a hostile reporter when you complete reading it.

Assignment: Determine the three most vexing questions the reporter might ask you and write a two to three paragraph answer for each question.

DUE March 28

1. Street, John D. *Passions of the Heart*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2019, 256 pages
ISBN: 978629954028

Reading Strategy:

Observe the centrality of sexual sin and its many roots and its many products.

Assignment: In chapter 10, Street offers strategies for maintaining purity of sexuality in marriage. In five to seven sentences, evaluate each one in the context of the rest of this book. After each one state whether or not you agree or disagree and why.

2. Emler, Michael. *Descriptions and Prescriptions: A Biblical Perspective on Psychiatric Diagnoses and Medications*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press: 2017. 112 pages
ISBN-10: 194527011X

Reading strategy: Emlet sheds light on how our cultural context influences our reading of Scripture and in turn our reading of culture. As you read, look for how your reading of Scripture might have been skewed because of your assumptions in either direction.

Assignment: You will write an essay on how you have viewed these matters and how you appraised your assumptions from reading this book. Finish with a paragraph as to how your approach will or will not change regarding these matters.

3. Logos Study: Using your Logos system, complete a study on Greek *φαρμακεύς* and Hebrew *לְהַטִּים*, *קְשָׁפִים*, and *לְהַטִּים*.

Strategy and Assignment Logos Research: Write a two-page essay interacting with Emlet's work.

DUE April 25

1. James, Joel. **Counsel with Confidence: A Quick Reference Guide for Biblical Counselors and Disciplers.** Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2018, 224 Pages

Reading strategy and assignment: Read this book with a view to writing a one-page review for the Journal of Biblical Counseling

2. Journal of Biblical Counseling:

Reading Strategy: Obtain a subscription of your choice: <https://www.ccef.org/journal-of-biblical-counseling>.

Assignment: Read an article of your choice and submit a review of the article. Include your receipt of the purchase.

3. Anderson, Ryan T. **When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Movement.** Encounter Books, 2019, 272 pages.

Reading Strategy: Read with the question in mind, "Would I give this book to a teenager who was struggling with gender dysphoria?"

Assignment: Write a two-page essay on the question above explaining if, why you would; if not, why you would not.

NOTE: If you have read any of the above books you may choose one from the following bibliography of collateral texts [of approximates the same number of page] to replace it and do the same assignment as attached to the one you have previously read.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Read the required texts.
- (2) Attend/participate in the seminars. During the seminars you will be asked to summarize assignments you have completed and to propose and response to questions posed by professor and other students. I will moderate.
- (3) Complete all papers delineated above with textbooks.

COURSE GRADING

Seminars: 30% of the grade. This grade is computed: 100 points for attendance and up to 100 points for preparedness for participation.

Papers: 70% of the grade. Grades for all assignment will be added and divided by # of assignments. Thus, this grade will be 70% of the final grade.

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

BTS uses the Turabian style of formatting as a standard for papers. However, students should regard individual professor preferences if they communicate any variance in outlining their requirements for papers. Professors retain discretion in determining how “formal” a paper must be. In this technological age, information is readily available; make sure that you understand about giving reference sources the proper recognition. Please refer to the BTS Student Handbook section on plagiarism for guidance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND COLLATERAL TEXTS

Published November 2016 to 2017

All available on Amazon

Pamela Gannon & Beverly Moore, *In the Aftermath: Past the Pain of Childhood Sexual Abuse*

Bob Kellemen, *Counseling Under the Cross: How Martin Luther Applied the Gospel to Daily Life*

Sean Perron & Spencer Harmon, *Letters to a Romantic: On Engagement*

Paul Tautges, *Pray About Everything: Cultivating God-Dependency*

Jim Newheiser, *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: Critical Questions and Answers*

Edward T. Welch, *A Small Book about a Big Problem: Meditations on Anger, Patience, and Peace*

David Powlison, *How Does Sanctification Work?*

Wayne A. Mack, *Anger and Stress Management God's Way*

John & Janie Street, *The Biblical Counseling Guide for Women*

Greg E. Gifford, *Helping Your Family Through PTSD*

Lambert, Heath, *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible Says about Sexual Orientation and Change.*