



Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Fall 2020

BC7622 Biblical Approach to Addictions

Professor: Howard Eyrich, DMin

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Class Hours: 2

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COURSE PURPOSE

Alcohol, gambling, sex, and spending have all become part of the addiction scene in America and in the American church. A biblical understanding of the dynamics of addiction and special attention to a biblical approach to helping those addicted will form the core of this course. The course may include lectures, guest lectures, films, and role-plays. **PREREQUISITE: BC7501. REQUIRED FOR M.A.B.C. - Two Credit Hours**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will identify the basic elements of addictive behavior.
2. The student will discern commonly identifiable addictive behaviors, thoughts, and ruling heart motives.
3. The student will discover biblical concepts for counseling addicts and their families.
4. The student will gain insight into heart issues and tendencies toward addiction.
5. The student will contrast secular methodologies for addiction with the biblical approach.

Note on objectives. Like a classical musical piece has undulating integration of the orchestra's variety of instruments, so are the five objectives in this course. The student will find all four are being serviced throughout the textbooks, lectures, and the assignments.

BTS Mission:

Providing sound Biblical and practical theological training to equip leaders for Christ's Church

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required Texts:

Adams, Jay. *A Theology of Counseling*, Zondervan, 353 Pages June 1986 (ISBN- 0310511011)

Hersh, Sharon, *The Last Addiction: Own Your Desire, Live Beyond Recovery, Find Lasting Freedom*. 240 Pages, February 2008 (ISBN-10: 0877882037)

Shaw, Mark. *The Heart of Addictions*, Focus Publishing 301 Pages March 2014 (ISBN-10: 1885904681)

_____. *Relapse: Biblical Prevention Strategies*, Focus Publishing. 112 pages, July 2011 ISBN-10: 1885904916

Welch, Edward. *A Banquet in the Grave: Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel*, P & R Publishing 320 pages Nov 2001 ISBN-10: 0875526063

Collateral Texts:

Eyrich, Howard A. *Life Lessons from Ancient Prophets* ISBN-10: 1987524934

Fitzpatrick, Elyse. *Idols of the Heart*, P & R, 240 Pages, January 2016, ISBN-10: 1629952109

_____. *Love to Eat. Hate to Eat*, Harvest House, 264 Pages, August 2005, ISBN-10: 0736914382

Lunndgard, Kris. *The Enemy Within*, P & R, 160 Pages, November 1998 ISBN-10: 0875522017

Playfair, William. *The Useful Lie*, Timeless Texts, 192 Pages, January 2017, ISBN-10: 1889032379

Bowen, Don. Where Sin Abounds, Grace Abound More, Author House, 260 Pages, ISBN-10: 142593624,

Welch, Edward. *Crossroads: A Step-by-Step Guide Away from Addiction: Facilitator's Guide*. New Growth Press 102 pages, November 2008.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each week, students are expected to read the textbook PRIOR to class to facilitate discussion. Class discussion will be a portion of course and will be greatly enhanced by the students' faithful reading and completion of weekly assignments. Understanding of course material will increase as student works incrementally on assignments.

PROJECTS:

1. On the final class (December 03), submit a paper (5-6 pages) sharing your personal insights on addiction through the reading of texts, lectures, and time spent counseling or interviewing

- an “addict.” What did you learn and how will it affect you personally? How it will improve your skills as a biblical counselor in this arena?
2. Visit at least 2 self-help meeting for addiction (A.A., N.A. Ala-non) and at least 2 Celebrate Recovery meeting. Write a 5-page paper comparing the major differences between AA type philosophy and Celebrate Recovery philosophy. Be sure to reference the Bible, the reading of the required textbooks as well as lectures as your plum line.

[You will need to research the community to find meeting closest to you. When you attend the meetings, arrive early, introduce yourself to the leader and explain that you are in graduate biblical counseling program completing a course in addictions. Ask the leader what the protocol is for your attendance. Remember, this is courteous and represents the Lord and BTS well].
 3. Building off the overall biblical model for counseling an addiction, develop your personal perspective. Choose one addiction for your focus from the list below-- 5 to 6 pages:
 - 1- Eating addiction (overeating, bulimia, or anorexia – but only 1 of these!)
 - 2- Pornography addiction
 - 3- Anger as an “addiction”
 - 4- Nicotine addiction
 - 5- Caffeine addiction
 - 6- Sexual addiction, in terms of prostitution and/or adultery
 - 7- Shopping, spending addiction
 - 8- Cutting/Self-injury
 - 9- Cell phone “addiction”
 - 10- Video game, TV, and Internet “addiction”
 - 11- Gambling
 4. Write a two-page review for your counseling center Newsletter [Note this is not a professional journal article], The Biblical Counselor, comparing and contrasting *The Heart of Addiction* by Mark E. Shaw, *The Last Addiction* by Sharon A. Hersh, and *A Banquet in the Grave* by Ed Welch

Note: You are not being asked to write a formal professional level book critique/review. However, I am including the following for your edification. Your assignment is to write for the lay person on your counseling team. You want to reflect some of the following points, but less formal language nonetheless poignant.

Book Critique/Review

is to be a **critique** of the book. Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book’s strengths and weaknesses. Choose **one book** from the list on page one. As you read, ask yourself and answer these questions, read **critically**:

- ☞ Begin your critique with **the bibliographic information** (Title, author, publisher, place and date of publication) of the book you have chosen to critique.
- ☞ Write a **brief summary** of the **main** theme and any **major secondary themes** of the author. I do not want a book review. I already know the content. Just give me enough to show you have read and digested the material.
- ☞ Include your **analysis** of the arguments the author sets forth. Your analysis should be focused primarily upon **how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and**

applied the Scripture.

- ☞ Evaluate how they have either **succeeded or failed** in taking into account **all** of Scripture (in other words, is it a systematic argument or simply a use of some isolated proof texts?) **citing instances** from the book to support your evaluation.
- ☞ Tell me **why you agree or disagree** with their conclusion(s), using the Scriptures to support any differing views you may hold.
- ☞ Conclude with a paragraph that states **what you have gained personally, spiritually and professionally** from reading this book.

GRADING

Each of the four projects is worth 20% of the grade. The fifth 20% is based on your preparedness and participation for class discussion.

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

Note:

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. Times New Roman 12-point font is the BTS standard. 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

During different classes we will do a live interview with Dr. Mark Shaw; Ben Fankhauser, Director of the Refuge and with Oliver Underwood.

Week 1 Sept. Overview of Course

Cover the syllabus

Basics about Addictions—Idolatry at *Heart*

1. The Models of Addiction
2. Pathways to Addiction—
3. Crisis of Addiction—National US Problem

Week 2-3 Read *The Heart of "Addiction"* by Mark E. Shaw

Lecture: A comparative Study of *The Heart of Addiction*

- A. Theology of Addiction
- B. Model of Addiction
- C. AA Strategies and Biblical Emendations

Week 4-5 Read *The Last Addiction* by Sharon A Hersh

- Lecture: The Treatment Issues and Protocol
- Week 6-7 Read *A Banquet in the Grave* by Ed Welch
- Lecture: Behavioral and Process of Addiction
- Week 8-9 Read *Relapse Prevention Strategies*
Discussion: Recovery and Transformation
- Discussion: Comparison and Contrast Approaches
- Week 10-11 Discussion of Residential Facilities—Be sure to have your notes from the interviews with our guest and be prepared to think through value of residential centers and establishing a residential center.

Turabian: A Quick Guide

Title Page

- The title page should include the paper title, your name, and your class information
- All the text on the title page should be standard 12pt. font, centered and double-spaced
- The paper's title should be about one-third of the way down the page
- Your name and class information should be about two-thirds of the way down the page

Margins

- The left margin of each page is 1.5 inches; all other margins are 1 inch.

Font and Typeface

- Use only a 12-point Times New Roman font for main text and 10-point Times New Roman font for footnotes. For biblical languages, use 12-point (or a similar size) font.
- Italicize book titles and then names of the magazine or journal (do not underline).

Page Numbers

- Page numbers should begin on the first page of the paper's text, not on the title page.
- Place page numbers flush with the top right-hand margin.

Spacing/Indentation

- The entire paper should be double-spaced, apart from the following exceptions: **block quotes**, **footnotes**, bibliography, and **table titles** (all of which are single spaced).
- A terminal punctuation should be followed by single space.
- Indent the first line of paragraphs and entire block quotations 0.5 inch from the left margin.

Quotations

- Block quotations are used only with a prose quotation of five or more lines.
- Single space a block quotation and leave a blank line before and after it.
- Block quotations are 11-point font.

Citations/References

- Use superscript numbers both in the text and footnote numbers preceding the notes.

- Cited Bible passages should be in parentheses within the main text rather than in a footnote.
- Spell out book names of the Bible in the main text but use abbreviations in parenthetical or reference material. Example:
 Genesis 1:1 states, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
 The Bible states, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).
- Use the “traditional” style for abbreviations of books of the Bible; do not italicize.
- Cite unpublished interviews in the footnotes.

Voice and Style

- Papers generally should be written in the 3rd person (he, she, it) with an active voice. 1st person pronouns (I, we, us) can be used where appropriate, but the 2nd person pronoun (you) should be avoided.
- Capitalize pronouns when referring to any Person of the Godhead to minimize ambiguity.

GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

A to A-	B to B-	C to C-	D to D-
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Many errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, over used, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to Turabian’s <i>Manual for Writers</i>

Birmingham Theological Seminary Grading Sheet

Student Name: _____

Course Number: _____

Professors Name: _____

Course Name: _____

Points	Grade	BTS Course Points Grade Value			
		A 96-100 (4.0)	B 85-89 (3.0)	C 75-79 (2.0)	D 65-69 (1.0)
		A- 90-95 (3.5)	B- 80-84 (2.5)	C- 70-74 (1.5)	D- 60-64 (.5)
		F Below 60 (0)			

Grading Evaluation Criteria: Please incorporate comments throughout the assignment that will enhance, correct, and/or guide the student's current and continued knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Then summarize those comments under each section below and assign point value. Add the points in each section and record in the points section above.

Content - Selection and Utilization of Resources Sources: Academic, Theological, Primary, Secondary – Understanding and Application	Earned	Possible
		40

Critical Thinking – Analysis and Development of Resources and Concepts Analyzing, Creativity, Thought Process, Organization, Conceptual Development, Critiquing	Earned	Possible
		40

Writing – Document Format and Language Structure Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation, Syntax, Adherence to Turabian Style and Format	Earned	Possible
		20

Faculty Signature

