



**Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
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Fall 2020

7606 Using the Bible in Counseling

Professor: Howard Eyrich, MTh, DMin, (ABD) PhD

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Class Hours: 2

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COURSE PURPOSE

Designed to equip counselors to use Scripture accurately and effectively in a consistent and biblical way. The objective is the incorporation of the full counsel of God, avoiding proof-texting and easy answers, while bringing to bear the rubrics of reformational theology on daily living. PREREQUISITE BC7501 and ST3550 REQUIRED FOR M.A.B.C., C.B.C. – Two Credit Hours

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to describe the right use of the Bible
2. The student will be able to articulate the biblically mandated use of the Bible.
3. The student will be able to explain the concept of the use of biblical principle
4. The student will be able to use of the Bible in marriage and family counseling

BTS Mission:

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

COURSE TEXTS

Certificate student may elect to not read Wimberly and Adams books

Required Texts: NOTE: for this class, paperback books required (not electronic copies)

Adams, Jay E. *Insight & Creativity in Christian Counseling: A Study of the Usual & the Unique*. Institute for Nouthetic Studies. 170 pages ASIN: B0891Q9LR1 / ISBN-10: 1949737152

Reveals a significant insight into Jay Adams, pioneer of Biblical Counseling, and known for his exegetical use of Scripture in counseling.

Eyrich, Howard A. *Life Lessons from Ancient Prophets*. Growth Advantage Communications, May 2018, 138 pages ISBN-10: 1987524934 / ASIN: B07CV3CT1R

A unique illustration of practical use of Scripture for devotional life and counseling.

Eyrich, Howard A. *Psalm 119: Meditations for Christian Growth*. Growth Advantage Communications, May 2019, 66 pages ISBN-10: 1798113821 / ASIN: B07TZLCGFT

A brief introduction to inductive Bible Study illustrated from Ps 119 and practice using Ps 119.

Bob Kellemen, Jeff Forrey (Editor). *Scripture and Counseling: God's Word for Life in a Broken World*, Zondervan October 2014, 480 Pages ISBN-10: 0310516838

An array of authors under the guidance of Kellemen and editor Forrey teach the reader the how, the when and the what of using Scripture in counseling.

Holy Bible (Suggest a modern version) Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy-Esther, Daniel-Hoshea, approximately 600-1000 pages depending on the version you choose.

Student is expected to read these portions of the Bible with an eye to "How can I use passages in the counseling office".

Wimberly, Edward P. *Using Scripture in Pastoral Counseling* Abingdon Press. June 2019 130 pages ISBN-10: 0687002516

The author is an evangelical educated in a liberal seminary. While his language and imagery is not in accord with the evangelical and his methodology is not in accord with what a biblical counselor would practice. Students will find this work both interesting and useful given some effort to understand the author.

Collateral Text:

Ballard, Paul and Stephen R. Holmes (eds). *The Bible in Pastoral Practice: Readings in the Place and Function of Scripture in the Church*, Darton-Longman-Todd: The Cromwell Press, 2005, 316 pages. ISBN:0 23252611 7.

This is written from a liberal theological perspective. It is the product of an attempt to give a rationale

for using the Bible in the liberal Christianity for pastoral ministries. Obviously, it does not argue for an inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Scripture, but does argue for a valid personal response to the personal revelation derived from Scripture. This book is suggested reading for academically minded who would like to develop an apologetic with reference to the liberal's use of Scripture.

Hendricks, Howard. *Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible*, Moody Publishers, February 2007, 232 pages ISBN-10: 0802495389

This is an excellent extended work on inductive Bible Study by the most recognized (across denominational lines of evangelicalism) as a leading authority.

Zacharius, Ravi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPYRXop7aPA>

An interview just prior to Ravi's death.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance, participation, weekly assigned preparation: in the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences will drop the final grade one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignments on time. Keep a reading log—dates/pages/book. Submit on the last day of class. With the Old Testament reading you should be thinking—application/implementation to counseling cases-- You are on your honor to report accurately.
3. Write a critical book review of the text by Wimberly. Two to three-page paper. This paper is short. Be concise and precise. This assignment is about content, but also about written communication (necessary skill for ministry today). **Certificate students may elect not read this book or do this paper**

[fulfills objective 1]

4. For each of the case studies distributed in class you are to write a two to three-page paper laying out your plan for using the Bible in counseling with each of these counsees. In one solid paragraph explain your reason for choosing each passage and in one solid paragraph state your expected outcome.

(fulfills objectives 1-3)

5. For the marriage and family case study complete a paper like the papers in assignment 4, however, this paper may be up to five pages in length.

(fulfills objective 4)

6. In lieu of a mid-term exam, students will complete a. In lieu of a final exam, students will complete b

a. Complete the meditations in the *Psalm 119* book. You should schedule this so that on the last day of class you are able to hand in your book as a completed assignment. PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY ON THE COVER

b. After reading *Life Lessons from Ancient Prophets*, write a chapter to add to this book utilizing a narrative not used by the author. Then in one paragraph describe the type of counseling cases you might assign to read your chapter and what outcome you would hope to achieve in the counselee's thinking and life. Paper structure as follows:

Chapter Title
Bible Passage Referenced

Chapter Content

Explanation paragraph

Type cases you might assign to read this chapter

Outcome you would hope to achieve

NOTE: for weeks 12 and 13 students will be assigned to give an oral presentation of this paper and will be expected to sustain questions from fellow students and professors concerning their choice, their use of this Scripture and their expectations.

7. Create an interview questionnaire, after completing your reading assignments and two-thirds of the semester, which you will use to interview three pastors regarding their use of Scripture in their counseling with congregates. This paper should have a title page followed by your five interview questions followed by a summary of your discussion with each pastor. The paper should be no more than five pages. After each interview discussion answer these two questions with **one sentence each**:
1. What surprised you about this pastor's response?
 2. What encouraged you about each pastor's response?"

Final instruction: PLEASE, DO NOT INCLUDE THE PASTORS' NAMES AND DO NOT EVEN REFER TO ONE OR MORE AS "MY PASTOR". ANONYMITY IS THE NAME OF THE GAME! BE SURE TO TELL THE PASTOR BEFORE THE INTERVIEW THAT YOU WILL REPORT RESPONSES ANNONYMOUSLY.

How to write a book critique and/or professional level review:

1. A critique or professional review is 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 are going 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 five assignments is worth 20% of the grade for this class.

Assignment One and Two Averaged for 20%

Assignment Three 20%

Assignment Four 20%

Assignment Five and Six averaged for 20%

Assignment Seven 20%

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. 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.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Week One: Issues with Using the Bible in Counseling
Using the Bible to Contextualize Life {"in whom we move and live and have our being"
1. Creation
2. Existence
3. Eternity
- Week Two Using the Bible Properly
1. Negatively, not as a hammer, not as a book of magic (prosperity gospel)
2. Positively, accurate hermeneutics
3. Using the Bible in Counseling, why? It is profitable.
- Week Three Using the Bible to Give Hope
1. Using Old Testament stories
2. Using Various Promises
3. Using Prophecy—Second Coming
- Week Four Using the Bible to Instruct
1. Who we are
2. Who we can be
3. How we can change
4. Why we should change
5. How we should live
Assignment #4 Due Tonight
- Week Five Using the Bible to Rebuke/Confront
- Week Six Using the Bible to Reprove or Correct
Using the Bible to Exhort
Assignment # 6a Due Tonight
- Week Seven Using the Bible to Train in Righteousness
Assignment #5 Due Tonight
- Week Eight Using the Bible to Promote Patience and Long Suffering on Behalf of the Counselor
Assignment #3 Due Tonight
- Week Nine Using the Bible to Understand Marriage
- Week Ten Using the Bible to Understand the Protocols for Relationships
Assignment #7 Due Tonight.
- Week Eleven Case Studies
- Week Twelve Student Presentations [Assigned in class)
- Week Thirteen Student Presentations {Assigned in class)
Assignment #2 Due Tonight
Assignment # 6b Due Tonight

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: _____
 Professors Name: _____

Course Number: _____
 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

Bibliography

This is a limited bibliography of books that loosely touch of the subject of this course. All but the MacKinlay book should be considered with a critical eye and are included as a possible means for you to expand your awareness of how people think about the Bible, counseling, and life. This list of books could be further expanded, however, in this case, expanding the list would not either broaden or deepen knowledge of the subject of this course. Hence, the somewhat abbreviated bibliography.

The use of the Bible in counseling has not been addressed as a stand alone subject by the biblical counseling community, however, the concepts are discussed in a fragmented manner throughout the literature of biblical counseling.

Cooper-White, Pamela. *Shared Wisdom*, Fortress Press. January 2004, 260 pages ISBN-10: 0800634543

Jurchenko, Jed. *Coffee Shop Conversations Psychology and the Bible: Live, Lead, and Love Well*, CreateSpace, 2 edition, March 2015 ASIN: B00UDMKE88

MacKinlay, Elizabeth. *Facilitating Spiritual Reminiscence for People with Dementia*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. June 2015, 118 pages ISBN-10: 1849055734

Little has been written on the subject by biblical counselors. The concept of Reminiscence as a counseling methodology originated in gerontological psychology. However, the concept of prompting the memories of seniors to help them

Mucherea, Tapiwa. *Meet Me at the Palaver: Narrative Pastoral Counseling in Postcolonial Contexts*. Cascade Books, January 2020, 152 pages. ISBN-10: 1498211127

Narramore, Clyde. *The Psychology of Counseling*, Zondervan, October 2020, 304 pages. ISBN-10: 031023784X This book provides an historical marker. It was the first book published in in the mid-20th century by an evangelical Christian attempting to establish an integrated Bible and psychology format.

Sanders, Matt. *Interfaith Ministry Handbook: Prayers, Readings and Other Resources for Pastoral Settings*, Apocryphile Press, December 2017, 116 pages ISBN-10: 1940671698

Spaed, Elza, *Freedom Through Christ: A Memoir of Healing in the Aftermath of Sexual Abuse*, Amazon TAN Books May 2020, 210 pages

