Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650

Fall 2020                  Work Phone: 205-5273444
7606 Using the Bible in Counseling    Cell Phone:    205-527-3444
Professor: Howard Eyrich, MTh, DMin, (ABD) PhD
Assisting Professor: Cheryl Blackmon
E-mail address: eyrich@bts.education
Home: howardeyrich76@gmail.com
Class Hours: 2

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)


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


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


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


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”.


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:

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.


*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 counselees. 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”. ANNONYMITY 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/Indention
- 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**

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

Student Name: ____________    Course Number: ________________
Professors Name:                Course Name: ____________________

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>BTS Course Points Grade Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100 (4.0)</td>
<td>A- 90-95 (3.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-95 (3.5)</td>
<td>B- 80-84 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60 (0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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Grading Points Table:

- A: 96-100 (4.0)
- B: 85-89 (3.0)
- C: 75-79 (2.0)
- D: 65-69 (1.0)
- F: Below 60 (0)
Bibliography

This is a limited bibliography of books that loosely touch on 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.


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


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