PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to Pastoral Counseling. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts in Pastoral Counseling and will develop a foundational understanding of the process of the Pastoral Counseling.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Develop an understanding of the biblical basis for pastoral counseling
2. Develop an understanding for the concepts of pastoral care and pastoral counseling.
3. Develop basic skills such as listening and responding.
4. Develop fundamental counseling skills for effective Pastoral Counseling.
5. Learn how to evaluate individuals, couples and families to determine the severity of the problems being faced.
6. Understand how to identify problems and facilitate solutions
7. Be able to apply helping skills to a variety of problems and populations
8. Learn how to network necessary professional and community resources for comprehensive care of counselees.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Written Work –

1. Reading- To develop a solid background in Pastoral Counseling, students are expected to read a variety of materials to compliment areas of understanding which have not yet been developed. Books may be chosen from the bibliography attached to this syllabus or they may be selected by the student as long as they fall into the several categories which are indicated on the bibliography. 2000 pages are required including the required texts.

In addition to books, other resources may also be utilized, e.g. films, audio, and video cassettes. (Twenty-five pages of reading may be calculated per hour of viewing/listening.)
A reading log will be submitted at the end of the term. This log should indicate books read, pages completed and total number of hours or pages read. This reading log is due on the last day of class.

Grades assigned for the reading will be:
- Range from 1700 to 2000 pages = A- to A
- 1400 to 1699 pages = B- to B+
- 1000 to 1399 pages = C- to C+
- Less than 1000 pages = D’s to F.

The reading log is due on the last day of class and is worth 20% of student’s final grade.

2. **Case study:** Each student will submit a problem oriented case that will become the basis for in-class discussion regarding means and manner for intervention from a counseling perspective. Cases should be based upon real personal situations but sufficiently disguised to protect the identity of the individual or individuals.

3. **Term paper:** The student will write a topical paper that concentrates on a particular issue in pastoral counseling: this is a research paper that requires adequate bibliographic support. Please use the APA Style format for presentation. 8-10 pages (double-spaced) plus bibliography. This paper should focus on a particular problem, dysfunction or abnormality dealt with in the practice of pastoral counseling. Topics may include and are limited to the following:
   - Depression
   - Grief and loss
   - Infidelity
   - Divorce
   - Domestic violence
     - (Spousal abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, etc.)
   - Addictions (alcohol, drugs, pornography)
   - Counseling the elderly
   - Counseling adolescents and young adults
   - Issues of ethics in pastoral counseling
   - Premarital counseling

   The paper should have introduction that describes the topic or issue with a statement that addresses the need for pastoral counseling. The student will utilize a theory or theories, empirical data, and theological presuppositions.

**Course Grade:** The course grade is computed as follows: Topical paper 50%; case study 20%; reading log 20%; class participation 10%.

**Class Schedule:**
March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, April 9th, April 16th, April 23rd, and April 30th.


