CO/PC 750: Crisis Counseling  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte  
Summer 2013  
July 22-26

Instructor: Rodney L. Cooper, Ph.D.  
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Class Schedule: The course will meet from Monday, July 22-Friday July 26: 9 am to 4 pm. Attendance and full participation are included in final evaluation.  
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:  
Crisis counseling will be viewed from the perspective of the Christian pastor and the Christian counselor. Biblical and theological perspectives are integrated with social studies having to do with healing processes. Various crises will be studied. Course objectives will be met through a combination of lecture, small and large group discussion, reflective exercises and small group and/or individual class presentations. The overall purpose of this course is to equip the counselor to minister in emergency room situations from an emotional and psychological framework.

Gordon-Conwell Mission  
CO/PC 750 relates to the purpose of Gordon-Conwell by equipping the student to engage people compassionately and redemptively in catastrophic life events and personal crisis. The incarnational aspect of ministry as a Christian Therapist and Pastoral counselor is most evident in crisis situations. It is here where people must encounter the compassion and grace of God and find Christ to be not only their Lord but also their Shepherd.
Course Relation to the Curriculum:

The focus of this course in the counseling curriculum is to help the Christian Counselor and Pastoral Counselor to engage those in the midst of crisis with the needed skills to bring comfort, healing and a redemptive perspective. The student is equipped to deal with issues of grief, loss and recovery.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the nature of crisis, along with psychological, relational and spiritual implications
2. Appreciate the differences between crisis counseling and interpersonal psychotherapy
3. Explore specific commonly occurring crises such as the death of a loved one, financial crisis, addiction, etc.
4. Explore theological responses to the problem of suffering and evil
5. Appreciate the necessity of self-care for those involved in the helping fields

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities describes below. The successful completion of these activities will require each student to spend approximately 130-135 hours devoted to coursework both in class and out of class. The following break-down of assignments indicates how these hours are distributed across various course assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>EXPECTED TIME</th>
<th>STUDENTS ACTUAL TIME</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks/Reading</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written papers 1-3</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation work</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class time</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation for quiz</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>130 hours</strong></td>
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COURSE MATERIAL:

1. TEXTBOOKS: The following books should be read in their entirety.


3. Choose one of the following books regarding a theology of suffering (or another one on this topic)


2. READING:

To develop an adequate foundation in crisis counseling and to raise awareness of current trends in research and practice, students are expected to read from a variety of sources. In addition to the above requirement, other academic texts may be chosen from the recommended bibliography available on Sakai in order to prepare for the presentation or be chosen by the student, as long as they pertain to the course topics. Articles from current professional journals in the field of counseling are excellent sources of current information. Most sources should be written for a professional rather than lay audience.

3. ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Brief Written Exercises:

Each of the following papers should be no more than 4 double-spaced pages. More details will be given in class.

a. Construct a narrative synthesis of the information gained from interviewing someone who has experienced a crisis. Refer to template provided on Sakai.

Due: Monday, Sept. 23, 2013. All papers to the professor are to be put on Sakai.
b. Complete the same template for yourself (see above.) Construct a narrative synthesis of the information as it pertains to you. Due: Monday, Sept. 23, 2013.

c. Read the entire book of Job. Record any insights you glean, such as causes of suffering, people’s response to suffering, attempts at making sense of suffering, God’s response to Job, specific attributes displayed by God, etc. Due: Monday, Sept. 23, 2013.

B. Class presentation:
   a. Each student will present on a particular topic during the week of class. Presentation should include statistics, vulnerabilities to crisis, common results of event (psychological, relational, emotional, spiritual, medical, etc.), best treatment practices (both clinical and pastoral), implications for client system, and relevant scripture and/or theological principles. Please engage the topic creatively and thoughtfully. More details will be discussed in class. Current journal articles will be helpful particularly in understanding empirically validated and effective treatment approaches.

C. Quiz: There will be a 20 question multiple choice, T/F question quiz on the textbook. The quiz will be administered Friday morning.

Evaluation:
Reading: 30
Written exercises I: 10
Written exercise II: 10
Written exercise III: 10
Class presentation: 20
Quiz: 20

LATE WORK: No papers will be accepted after the dates in the syllabus unless a “crisis” has occurred. Crisis does not mean the following: “I didn’t have enough time”, “My printer broke down”, “My computer died” etc. Explanations will be allowed in case of a crisis and then appropriate measures will be given—always with a spirit of grace.
Bibliography

Books


**Specific Crises**


Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

Extension Policy
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work”, as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.
**Grades**
Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades. Those individuals, who need an official grade report issued to a third party, should put their request in writing to the Registration Office. Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade.

**Returned Work**
Submitted course work will be returned to the student provided s/he provides a self addressed and postage paid envelope with his/her final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed once the grade has been assessed and issued.