

Course: RP343-E & EN Ethics in Biblical Counseling
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Spring 2025 (Session 2 – March 17 – May 9)
Time: March 17 – May 9
Room: E. Ed. 116
Instructor: **Dr. Luther Smith.** MRS, MACP, Psy.D
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I. DESCRIPTION

This course will observe the ethics from Biblical counseling from a Biblical worldview. This course will examine Biblical counseling as a person and a professional, Cross-cultural studies, how to serve counselees when counseling Biblically, confidentiality and accountability, boundaries in Biblical Counseling, Group work, and community involvement. (Prerequisite: RP100)

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Develop a proper Biblical worldview concerning ethics and Biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 5).
2. Analyze different ethical dilemmas so one will be able to think critically about situations in Biblical counseling (PLO 1, 4, 5).
3. Develop how to serve counselees with a proper Biblical counseling ethic (PLO 1, 4, 5).
4. Analyze Biblical Counseling Certification Agencies, state licensure, and their similarities and differences (PLO 1, 2, 6).

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Identify areas of possible ethical dilemmas in Biblical counseling and how to address them from a Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5).
2. Articulate a Biblical reason for an ethic in Biblical counseling (PLO 1, 2, 5).
3. Express clearly the importance of confidentiality and informed consent in Biblical counseling (PLO 3, 6).

Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.

4. State clearly the importance of maintaining boundaries and multiple relationships (PLO 3, 6).
5. Identify the benefits of supervision in Biblical counseling (PLO 3, 6).

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1. **Reading Journals:** (3 pages maximum). The student will write a three (3) page **Journal** following **each class** period that demonstrates a mastery of the reading assignment and class material and the student's personal reflection with what they read from the chapters in the book. The student will also need to demonstrate an ability to compare and contrast this information to their current world view. Each Journal will be due according to the course schedule. There will be a **total of six (6) Journals**. Each journal will be worth 30 points (GC 1, 3; SC 2).
2. **Ethical Dilemma Vignettes:** (3 pages maximum) Student will write and comment on ethical dilemmas from the instructor where the student will examine different ethical dilemmas in Biblical Counseling. The student will identify the ethical dilemma, answer the questions pertaining to the vignette, and would give their process in how they would resolve this dilemma. **There will be a total of five (5) vignette reviews**. Each journal will be worth 50 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).
3. **Selected Reading Reflections:** (3 pages maximum) Student will write and comment on selected reflections supplied by the instructor in which the student will examine topics that are related to ethics in counseling, and write a personal reflection on related topic. Topics will include the differences between ethics codes and statues, the pros and cons of internet counseling, payment, and other issues. These reflections are to be 2-3 pages in length. **There will be a total of six (6) reflections**. Each reflection will be worth 10 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).

B. Written Assignments

1. **Ethical Biblical Counseling Video Discussion:** **Note: You must have a webcam in order to complete this assignment.** Each week the instructor will give topics concerning ethics in Biblical counseling, which will be presented on the discussion board in Canvas. Some of the topics will include multiculturalism, group counseling and confidentiality, working with the opposite sex, etc. Student will post a 5-10 minute response video with a discussion that is supplied by the instructor on Canvas. Then each student will post a 3-5 minute reply video to at

least two of their classmates. **There will be a total of six (6) counseling discussions.** Each discussion will be worth 50 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4)

- C. **Quizzes:** There will be **five (5)** quizzes in this course. The quizzes will cover information from the lectures from the previous week. They will consist of true/false Multiple choice, and fill in the blank. Each quiz is worth 10 points each (GC 3; SC 2).
- D. **Ethics of Biblical Counseling Final Exam:** The student will be given a final exam. The final will be timed and will be given approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete. The final will consist a vignette the student will address ethically using the Scriptures, information from the lectures, the reading, and their personal study to give their reasoning as to how they would address the ethical dilemma. *The final will demonstrate the student's ability to apply an ethical counselor's mindset towards a specific Biblical counseling situation.* The final is worth 100 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3).
- E. **Class behavior**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, prompt and excellent attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Students are to refrain from using cell phones and handheld devices during class. Playing games, browsing the internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc. are considered unacceptable when class is in session. In addition, the student will be expected to contribute to class discussions in a positive manner which shows respect for the views of others. Failure to maintain this standard may result in a **full letter grade deduction from their overall grade.**

F. **Class Participation**

Campus Students: Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered. An Intensive lasts for 8 weeks. If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will not receive the points for that class session. No skips will be provided for this course. In addition, students who are late **two (2)** times or more in the course will receive a **full letter grade deduction** from their overall grade in the course.

Online Students: The online student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor. They are to be completed and uploaded on Canvas before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date they will not receive the points for the class session

IV. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. Lectures by the instructor
2. Large group discussion
3. Research and writing

V. GRADING

A. Grading

1. Weight given to course assignments

5 Ethical Dilemma Vignettes <i>50pts each</i>	250pts	25%
5 Selected Reading Reflections <i>20pts each</i>	100pts	10%
5 Quizzes <i>10pts each</i>	50pts	5%
6 Ethical Counseling Video Discussion <i>25pts each</i>	150pts	15%
6 Journals (completed according to schedule) <i>25pts each</i>	150pts	15%
Ethics in Biblical Counseling Final Exam	100pts	10%
Class Participation <i>25pts each</i>	200pts	20%

2. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

Grading Scale
 Grade Value Grade Point Value
 Per Semester Hour

A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.3
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.3
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.3
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	0.7
F	59-0	0.0

VI. MATERIALS

A. Bible

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. Required Textbooks

Sanders, K (2013). *Christian Counseling Ethics: A Handbook for Psychologists, Therapists and Pastors 2nd Edition*. ISBN: 978-0830839940 \$38.13 Kindle version is not available.

Selected readings that would be given by your instructor.

Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks *before* class begins so that you are able to complete all of the readings assigned. Please make sure that you have all of your assigned textbooks prior to the start of class. Failure to have your assigned textbooks at the start of the class will result in receiving a zero for every assignment that must completed.

VII. CLASS POLICIES

Attendance

Campus Students: Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered. An Intensive lasts for 8 weeks. If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will be marked absent for the class. If a student misses two consecutive nights of class, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from the course and receives an AF or AP grade. No skips are provided for this course. In addition, students who are late 2 times or more in the course will receive a **full letter grade deduction** from their overall grade in the course.

Blended Students: The blended student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor. They are to be completed and uploaded on CANVAS before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date they will

receive an absence for the course. If a student misses two consecutive nights of class, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from the course and receives an AF or AP grade.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

Writing Style

All class papers must follow the APA style according to *the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th edition*.

Late Work

Papers, projects, etc. are due at the class period assigned. Unless under extreme circumstances, which will be determined at the discretion of the instructor, **no late work will be accepted.**

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing Thomas Crank the DSS Director (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Academic Center

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

VIII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Class Topics	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Course Going over syllabus for the class Lecture: The Biblical Foundation For ethics in Biblical Counseling.	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 1-2) DUE Reading Journal DUE
Week 2	Quiz #1 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: The importance of Values and Spirituality in Counseling	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 3 & 9) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #1 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #1 DUE Selected Reading journal DUE
Week 3	Quiz #2 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Multicultural considerations In Biblical Counseling.	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 7) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #2 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #2 DUE Selected Reading journal DUE
Week 4	Quiz #3 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Informed Consent And Confidentiality	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 8 & 10) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #3 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #3 DUE Selected Reading journal DUE
Week 5	Quiz #4 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Competency & Self-Care	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 4 & 17) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #4 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #4 DUE Selected Reading Journal DUE
Week 6	Quiz #5 Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Ethics in Marriage In Family Therapy	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 13 & 6) DUE Reading Journal DUE Ethical Dilemma Vignette #5 DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #5 DUE Final Selected Reading Journal DUE
Week 7	Discussion on the reading Discussion on the vignette Lecture: Ethics in Group Therapy and Supervision	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 12 & 14) DUE Ethical Biblical Counseling Discussion #6 DUE FINAL EXAM NEXT WEEK!
Week 8	Postmortem and debrief of class Lecture: Certification And Licensure	Christian Counseling Ethics Reading (Chap. 11, 15, AND 18) DUE FINAL EXAM DUE

****Online students will complete and turn in their assignments via CANVAS.**