Pastoral Counseling is designed specifically for persons in the M. Div. program who want to be prepared for basic care and counseling in the local church or related Christian ministry. The course will consider counseling concepts and counseling situations, which are common to a pastor. There will be a focus on thinking like a pastor and becoming a person who communicates a pastoral presence. Attention will be given to: the role of a pastor-counselor, kinds of personal and collective concerns encountered by pastors, primary modes of care, the care of persons by the pastor and others in the community of faith, the ability of the pastor to care for self, and the ability to provide spiritual support and care for the whole person.

Course Relationship to the Curriculum

The course is now a requirement in the Master of Divinity degree and can be an elective for other degrees as may be determined by the Registrar.

Course Objectives and Ministerial Competencies:

During the course, students will have the opportunity to:

1. Develop an understanding of care and counseling as valid components of pastoral ministry, including biblical, historical, theological, and theoretical foundations of ministry.

2. Develop a comprehensive theoretical knowledge of pastoral counseling.

3. Integrate biblical, theological, and psychological theories that relate to spiritual wholeness.

4. Develop skills in analysis and diagnosis of issues related to pastoral counseling.

5. Learn how to identify professional and community resources that support pastoral counseling.

6. Identify personal issues that may strengthen or harm the ministry of care and counseling.

7. Cultivate the habit of thinking like a pastor.

8. Develop healthy personal boundaries and ethical behavior.
9. Develop skills in listening, attending, empathic responding, and conversing as a pastor.

10. Develop means of assessment and diagnosis consistent with effective counseling techniques.

11. Integrate theoretical, clinical, and practical knowledge in the formulation of cases, recommended treatments, and selection of proper counseling plan and process.

12. Discover models for utilizing lay care givers.

**Class Dates and Times**

The class will meet February 25-26, March 25-26, and April 29-30, Fridays from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary campus at 14542 Choate Circle. Both students and auditors are expected to attend all sessions of the class and participate in all phases of the class.

**Course Requirements:**

**Course Textbooks**

It is expected that students will read the following textbooks for the course.


The textbooks are available in the Gordon-Conwell – Charlotte Bookstore.

**Reading**

It is expected that students will invest a minimum of sixty hours reading for this course, including the textbooks, and will spend a minimum of 120 total hours on the course. An annotated bibliography, including an indication of the time spent reading, will be submitted at the end of the course. All materials must be submitted in email form. Only electronic submissions will be accepted unless special permission has been granted by the professor. Use the email: sbradley@gordonconwell.edu for all electronic submissions of assignments.

**Due Date:** No later than Monday, May 30, 2011

**Graduates Due Date:** Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Letters

1. Students will write a letter to the author of each textbook regarding issues and concepts identified in the book – appreciation/non-appreciation, strengths/weaknesses, questions/concerns, among other communication. These letters will not be sent to the authors, but will be submitted to the professor.
Letter to Kollar: 4-6 pages, single-spaced, typed/printed
Letter to Hands/Fehr: 2/3 pages, single-spaced, typed/printed
Letter to Johnson/Johnson: 3/5 pages, single-spaced, typed/printed

2. Students will write a letter to the professor detailing the student’s learnings throughout the course, including any post-course reflections.

Letters are an opportunity to expand your knowledge by verbalizing (in writing) your thoughts, your ideas, your questions, your confirmations, and your experiences. Use personal pronouns, i.e., make it personal. Include references to your readings, research, class presentations, and personal reflections. This is not a journal or diary or “blowing off steam”. Therefore, avoid words such as “should”, “must”, “ought”, “the truth is”, “in reality”, “all people”, “people say”, “you know” or other moral imperatives that sound demanding, demeaning, or “preachy”. Also, avoid generalizations. Be specific. Write for your own learning.

All letters are due approximately one month following the last day of the course. All materials must be submitted in email form. Only electronic submissions will be accepted unless special permission has been granted by the professor. Use the email: sbradley@gordonconwell.edu

Due Date: Monday, May 30, 2011
Graduates Due Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Exam

A take-home, open-book exam is due approximately one month following the last day of class – All materials must be submitted in email form. Only electronic submissions will be accepted unless special permission has been granted by the professor. Use the email: sbradley@gordonconwell.edu

Due Date: Monday, May 30, 2011
Graduates Due Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Grading:

1. Readings - must read a minimum of sixty (60) hours to receive and “A” or a “B” for the course.

2. Take-home exam - 35%.
3. Letter to Kollar - 20%.

4. Letter to Hands/Fehr - 10%.

5. Letter to Johnson & Johnson - 15%

6. Letter to the Professor - 20%.

Note: All aspects of the course must be completed in full to receive an “A” or “B” for the course. This means that students will complete all assignments at the highest level, including the minimum number of hours of collateral reading. However, the Catalog indicates that an “A” means that a student goes beyond the expectations of the class.

Course Administration:

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all sessions is required. Lack of attendance will be utilized to determine final grades on the borderline between two grades. See the Academic Catalog for Seminary requirements related to attendance.

Due Dates and Late Penalties

All course work is due on or before the date listed in this syllabus and in the Academic Catalog. Normally, students have one month following the final class session to submit all materials for the class unless requested earlier by the professor in the syllabus. Any extensions beyond the time-line determined by the Registrar must be approved by the Registrar who will consult with the professor on any extensions.

Course Assistance

Students may contact the professor by the following means:

1. E-mail - sid.bradley@foresthill.org  This is the most efficient way to get a somewhat timely response and brief feedback. Timely means that the professor will respond to e-mail messages within three days, generally. Note that assignments are sent to the Gordon-Conwell email instead.

2. Postal letters or memoranda should be addressed to:
   Sidney L. Bradley
   11314 Sir Francis Drake Drive
   Charlotte, NC 28277
3. Phone: 704-849-7708 (home; includes an answering machine).

4. Student conferences by appointment at the Gordon-Conwell offices during the weekends of the course.

**Course Topics:**

The following topics will be considered during the course. Readings beyond the textbooks should address these topics.

1. Biblical, theological, and theoretical foundations for pastoral care and counseling as contrasted with psychological theories.


3. Communication processes: non-verbal behavior, listening for themes, assessment of transitions and turning points, identifying and understanding feedback, questions and clarification, pastoral care-counseling in crisis (including grief and loss).


5. Boundaries in care-counseling.

6. Moral and Ethical behavior. (We may possibly view the film, “My Giant”).

7. The pastor as person.

8. Learning to think and act like a pastor.

9. The pastor and healing.

10. The church as a community.

11. The sick and dying.

12. The minister as crisis counselor.


15. Pre-marital counseling and marriage counseling.
16. Mental illness in the church.
17. Solution-focused counseling.
18. The art of asking questions.
19. Making difficult ethical decisions.
20. Weddings and Funerals.
22. The priest and the prophet.
23. Transference and counter-transference.
24. Inventories and testing instruments.
25. The pastor as interventionist.
26. Community resources.
27. Assessment and diagnosis.
28. The care-counseling plan.

A Summary of Course Requirements:

1. Full reading of the three textbooks for the course.

2. Additional reading and the submission of an annotated bibliography, including an indication of time spent reading – a minimum of sixty hours of reading and 120 hours for the course.

3. Submission of four letters - one to the author of each textbook and one to the professor.

4. Take-home exam - essay.

5. Attendance at all classes.

Bibliography

It is expected that students will develop a list of bibliographic resources which support pastoral counseling and which may be utilized in the future as part of a “database” of materials for
referral and for resourcing the counseling process. A list of these resources and a short annotated bibliography should be submitted with the final exam.

Suggestions for reading follow.


Bobgan, M. & Bobgan D. *Competent To Minister: The Biblical Care of Souls*, 1996.


Clinebell, H. *Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, Abingdon, 1984.


Jeeves, M.  *Psychology and Christianity: The View Both Ways*, InterVarsity, 1976.


Peterson, E.  The Contemplative Pastor, Eerdmans, 1989


Seamands, D.  Healing of the Memories, Victor, 1987

Shawchuck, N. & Heuser. R.  Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving the People, Abingdon, 1993.


Switzer, D.  The Minister As Crisis Counselor, Abingdon, 1986.


Wright, H. N.  The Premarital Counseling Handbook, 1992
Course Description: Pastoral Counseling - PC 511 Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Charlotte Sidney L. Bradley, Ph.D., Professor
February 21-22, March 21-22, and April 25-26, 2014 Fridays 6:30pm-9:30pm, Saturdays 8:30am-4:30pm Pastoral Counseling
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Course Objectives and Ministerial Competencies
Get directions, reviews and information for Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC.
As far as seminaries go, this place puts an incredible amount of emphasis on mastery of biblical language and the process of exegesis. It is not for the faint of heart, but it has produced Read more. Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton students can get immediate homework help and access over 50+ documents, study resources, practice tests, essays, n.
Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton * We aren't endorsed by this school.
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton). * * School Info
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton) has 7 departments in Course Hero with 51 documents. South Hamilton, Massachusetts. * We aren't endorsed by this school.