



15800 Calvary Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

Course: CO601M&MN Theological Foundations of Counseling (Modular)  
Credit: 3 credit hours  
Semester: Fall 2020, Cycle 2 (September 17-19)  
Time: Thurs, Fri, and Sat. 1pm-9pm, 8am-4pm, 8:30am-4:30pm  
Instructor: Jeff Cox, D.Min (Jeffrey.cox@calvary.edu)

## I. DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the foundations of biblical counseling, emphasizing the priority of a theological system for theory and practice. Special attention is given to various models of interaction between counseling and Christian theology, historical developments, current directions, and collaborative models of biblical counseling for the local church and the professional counseling community. This course is a prerequisite for all other counseling courses. Other counseling courses may be taken concurrently with approval from the department chair.

*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. Understand biblical and theological foundations of counseling (PLO 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- B. Apply biblical and theological concepts to the practice of counseling (PLO 1, 2, 3, and 4).
- C. Demonstrate biblical and theological research, assessment, and interpretation within the context of counseling ministry (PLO 1 and 2).
- D. Engage in practices related to self-care, personal and spiritual growth necessary to effective biblical counseling ministry (PLO 4).

Our Mission: To Prepare Christians to Live and Serve in the Church and in the World  
According to the Biblical Worldview.

- E. Explain the significance of first developing their philosophy of Christian counseling, followed by their theory and then practice of Christian counseling (PLO 1 and 2).
- F. Evaluate the validity of four foundational models for all forms of counseling as well as the main models of relationship between of psychology and Christianity (PLO 1, and 2). [SEP]
- G. The student will examine four (4) different application models of counseling from a Christian worldview and evaluate their potential for collaborative applications (PLO 1 and 2). [SEP]
- H. The student will develop an increased personal commitment and passion for a defined foundational and application model of biblical counseling (PLO 1, 3, and 4).

### III. REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS

Johnson, Eric L. *Foundations for Soul Care: A Christian Psychology Proposal*. IVP Academic, 2014. 716 pages. ISBN: 0830840540 (\$27.93).

McMinn, Mark, M. *Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2011 (revised and updated edition). 371 pages. ISBN: 084235252X (\$20.83).

Thompson, Curt. *Anatomy of the Soul: Surprising Connections between Neuroscience and Spiritual Practices That Can Transform Your Life and Relationships*. Tyndale Momentum, 2010. 304 pages. ISBN: 141433415X (\$9.40).

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Class Participation (10%)

Students are expected to engage in discussion of presented topics. Personal involvement during class time is an essential element of active learning, and students will be graded accordingly.

#### B. Reading Assignments (30%)

The three required texts are due according to the following deadlines. Students will report completion of reading on CANVAS.

Foundations for Soul Care – **DUE September 6th**

Theology and Spirituality in Christian Counseling – **DUE September 17th**

Anatomy of Soul – **DUE September 27th**

**C. Written Assignments (60%)**

*Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.*

All class papers **must** follow the APA style according to the revised 6<sup>th</sup> edition. For questions please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (6th ed., 2nd printing) or <http://owl.purdue.edu>.

- 1) Write a 15-page response paper on *Foundations for Soul Care*. Students will: 1) explain the relation of Scripture to other texts; 2) explain the importance of the centrality of Scripture in soul care; 3) explain how Calvin would have possibly viewed modern psychology; 4) explain the doctrine of the *Imago Dei* in relation to soul care 5) identify areas of disagreement regarding the role of modern psychology discussed; and 6) explain how the book will impact change in their personal ministry in the future (25%). **DUE October 2nd.**
- 2) Write a 20-page research paper that presents *your* biblical and theological rationale for *your* understanding and practice of counseling. Students will include a discussion on the doctrine of *Sufficiency of Scripture*, the concept of *Biblicism*, the theology of common grace, general revelation, and natural revelation. This student will also define and discuss the concept of a worldview and disciplines such as psychology and psychotherapy interact with worldviews. This paper may be written in 1<sup>st</sup> person. Use a minimum of 20 scholarly references (35%). **DUE October 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**V. METHODS**

- A. Structured class lectures and discussion.
- B. Grading Scale according to catalog
- C. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Class attendance and participation: 10%  
Reading assignments: 30%  
Written assignments: 60%

**D. Late Assignments**

Papers turned in one (1) week late will result in a reduction of one (1) letter grade. No later papers will be accepted.

## VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto: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.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Coordinator ([dss@calvary.edu](mailto:dss@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.