Course Description:
This course builds upon the basic concepts and principles of PT 516 (required), with a continued focus on pastoral counseling in the local church. The first hour of each class will be lecture and discussion on the typical issues pastors and church leaders face, with instruction in individual, marital, and group counseling. The second hour will be dedicated to simulated counseling sessions, including critique, recommendations, and individualized feedback. Readings on various current counseling subjects will be required, as well as significant practice hours of counseling/discipleship outside of class.

Required Reading:
MacDonald, J. (Ed.) (2013). *Christ-Centered Biblical Counseling*

Assignments:
Reading
Students will follow the course schedule (read only selected chapters).

Reflective Paper
Write a paper reflecting on your personal growth as a counselor. Make sure to include:
1. Your history as a counselor/disciple/friend to others.
2. Your strengths and weaknesses as a communicator (talker and listener).
3. Your growth as a “practical theologian”—applying Scriptural principles to life.
4. Any of your own personal counseling needs that need attention.
5. Your future hopes/plans for growth as a counselor.
Requirements: 5-7 pages, double-spaced 12 point typeset with standard margins.
Due: March 21

Counseling Log
Keep a log of all your counseling/discipleship interactions: **A minimum of 20 hours are required.**
These interactions must be with at least four different people.
Your counseling log will include:
1. Date, time, length of interaction.
2. Description of person and problem area(s).
4. Brief reflection on the interaction.
Due: April 25

Simulations/Role Plays
Each student will participate in counseling simulations in class each week.
Final Exam
The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam which will cover content from all of the lectures as well as counseling simulations.

Grading:

10% - Required Reading
15% - Class Attendance/Participation in simulations
20% - Reflective Paper
25% - Required counseling interactions and log
30% - Final Exam

Class Schedule:
Class will meet on Mondays from 1:00-2:55 p.m.

Week 1 (01/25)
Let’s get started
Praxis: The first counseling appointment
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 1-3

Week 2 (02/01)
After the first session, then what?
Praxis: The follow-up and accountability
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 4-6

Week 3 (02/08)
A look at Human Suffering in 3D
Praxis: When is a counselor necessary?
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 7-9

Week 4 (02/15)
Can we blame it on the brain?
Praxis: Interaction of physical and non-physical
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 10-12

Week 5 (02/22)
Dealing with the past: Shame and Guilt
Praxis: Confusion regarding repentance and forgiveness
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 13-14

Week 6 (02/29)
Relationships: Are they really a mess worth making?
Praxis: Boundaries, vulnerability, love, grace, wisdom
Reading: Kellemen Chapters 15-Conclusion

NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK (03/07)
Week 7 (03/14)
Sexuality, gender, sexual orientation
*Praxis:* Biblical standards and cultural pressure
*Reading:* MacDonald Chapters 1,3,8

Week 8 (03/21)
Marriage. Gospel-Driven Style
*Praxis:* Individual vs. joint counseling
*Reading:* MacDonald Chapters 10,11,13
*Reflective Paper Due*

Week 9 (03/28)
Marriage: Difficult crises and long-term trouble
*Praxis:* The Stuck couple
*Reading:* MacDonald Chapters 15-17

Week 10 (04/04)
The Family System and its dynamics
*Praxis:* Keeping up with the Joneses
*Reading:* MacDonald Chapters 18-20

Week 11 (04/11)
Counseling children and youth
*Praxis:* Whom should you counsel?
*Reading:* MacDonald Chapters 23-25

Week 12 (04/18)
Group counseling in the church
*Praxis:* The Support Group
*Reading:* MacDonald Chapters 26-28

Week 13 (04/25)
Handling Church Discipline cases
*Praxis:* Working with your elders
*Counseling Log Due*

FINAL EXAM: TBA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation</strong> (oral &amp; written)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The pastoral counselor must be able to articulate a biblical framework of counseling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Pastoral counseling is rooted in a knowledge of Biblical principles concerning man’s problems and solutions to those problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Reformed theology does impact how a pastor counsels. The WCF addresses some counseling concerns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Pastors must first counsel themselves biblically!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Pastoral counseling is to be done from a consistent Biblical world and life view.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Counseling is firmly connected to evangelism. We need to learn how to counsel Christians and non-Christians alike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Pastoral counseling is the centerpiece of the pastoral ministry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Pastoral counseling has a public side as we address cultural issues.</td>
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