

ST535 Theological Foundations for Counseling Fall 2021 (v. 060721)

J. V. Fesko

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Fall 2020

Class Meeting Day and Time: Tuesdays, 9am-11am

Room: Patterson's Porch

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Course Description

This is the first of five courses exploring the relation of psychology and counseling to biblical and theological studies. This course focuses on the relation of Scripture to psychological studies and counseling, on Scripture as the central text of the Christian counselor, and on scriptural texts of central importance to Christian counselors.

Course Objectives (Knowledge and Skill Outcomes)

After successful completion of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Contrast the major approaches evangelical Christians take to psychology and counseling
2. Identify some of the challenges to a Christian approach to counseling in the contemporary world due to worldview differences
3. Articulate a biblical framework for understanding the Christian life and counseling process
4. Understand key scriptural themes and passages relevant to Christian counseling
5. Develop a holistic framework for counseling in Christian public health settings consistent with the Reformed faith

Methods of Instruction

Reading, lecture, classroom discussions, and essay papers.

Main Texts

Holy Bible (any version)

Westminster Standards (post-1788 American revisions): WCF = Westminster Confession of Faith, WLC = Westminster Larger Catechism, WSC = Westminster Shorter Catechism

Eric Johnson, *Foundations for Soul Care: A Christian Psychology Proposal* (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2007): 978-083840540

Eric Johnson, ed. *Psychology and Christianity: Five Views*. (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2010): 978-0830828487

James Sire, *The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog*, 5th ed. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009). ISBN 978-0830838509

Recommended Reading

Louis Berkhof, *Manual of Christian Doctrine* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1960): 978-0802816474

Course Assignments

Reading (30%): completion of all assigned reading. Please only report your reading if you *do not* complete all 100 percent.

Participation (20%): attend and actively participate in lectures and class discussions. Note the following grading rubric:

A (100)	B (89)	C (79)	D (69)	F (59 – 0)
Provided good ideas for class consideration; inspired others; clearly communicated desires, ideas, questions, and comments. Was respectful of others.	Participated in discussions; shared questions and comments. Was respectful of others.	Listened mainly; occasionally asked a question or offered a comment. Was respectful of others.	Questions or comments were off topic. Was disrespectful of others. Or, dominated class time by not permitting others to ask their questions.	Failed to attend class—missed more than three lecture periods total without an excused absence.

Paper (25%): Comparing evangelical counseling positions. Compare and contrast the three most viable positions evangelicals have taken regarding psychology and counseling (biblical counseling, Christian psychology, and integration) regarding such matters as the role of the Bible and creation grace in the human sciences; the use of the Bible and theology in counseling; the influence of secularism in contemporary psychology and counseling; participation in contemporary psychology, counseling, and public mental health; and the counseling in the church. For sources you should incorporate the following documents and interact with them:

ACBC, Annual Covenant of ACBC (Association of Certified Biblical Counselors)
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/certification/covenant/> Retrieved online 08/08/19

Arms, D., (2008) Book Review: Foundations for Soul Care - Institute for Nouthetic Studies.
<http://www.nouthetic.org/blog/?p=162>. Retrieved online 08/08/18

Johnson, ed., *Psychology & Christianity: Five Views*.

Your paper should be 3-5 pages, single-spaced, and you should answer the following questions in the assignment:

1. What is your understanding of the sufficiency of Scripture and which view(s) rightly account for the doctrine?
2. Briefly explain common grace and general revelation and which view(s) rightly factor them?
3. Which view(s) in your judgment best account for general and special revelation?

Final Exam (25%): The final exam covers theological concepts covered in the course lectures and assigned readings. The final exam date is TBA but will be between December 7-9, 2021.

Lecture Schedule

Date	Rubric	Topic	Reading
Aug 24	Biblical and Theological Foundations for Psychology and Counseling I	General and Special Revelation	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chps. 1, 6; WCF 1; WSC qq. 2-3; qq. WLC 3-5 Recommended: Berkhof, 23-36
Aug 31	Biblical and Theological Foundations for Psychology and Counseling II	The covenants of redemption, works, and grace	WCF 7; WSC qq. 12, 20; WLC qq. 20, 30-35 Recommended: Berkhof, 151-74
Sep 07	The Secular Revolution and Modern Psychology I	Archetypal and Ectypal Theology Faith and Reason	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chps. 2, 4, 7
Sep 14	The Secular Revolution and Modern Psychology II	The Impact of the Enlightenment on Theology and the Church	Sire, <i>The Universe Next Door</i> , all
Sep 21	The Meaningfulness of Human Beings I	The Sufficiency of Scripture Common Grace	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chps. 8-11 Recommended: Berkhof, 223-29
Sept 29	The Meaningfulness of Human Beings II	The Light of Nature and Common Notions	
Oct 05	READING WEEK		
Oct 12	The Divine Call to Inwardness I	The Twofold Knowledge of God A Theology of the Body	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chp. 13; WCF 2, 8, 25, 26; WSC 4-6; 21-28, 36-38; WLC qq. 6-11, 36-57, 61-64, 65-66, 82-83, 86, 90

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Oct 19	The Divine Call to Inwardness II	The Word of God	Recommended: Berkhof, 37-52
Oct 26	Inwardness: Self-examination and Barriers I	Union with Christ	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chps. 14-15; WLC q. 69
Nov 02	Inwardness: Self-examination and Barriers II	Sanctification	WCF 13; WSC 35-36; WLC qq. 75, 77-78. Recommended: Berkhof, 265-73
Nov 09	Inwardness: Internalization and Outwardness	Suffering	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chps. 16-17; WCF 27; WSC qq. 91-93; WLC qq. 161-64
Nov 16	NO CLASS		
Nov 23	Approaches to Psychology and Counseling I	Christ and Culture Integration View	Johnson, <i>Soul Care</i> , chps. 3, 5; Johnson, <i>Five Views</i> , all
Nov 30	Approaches to Psychology and Counseling II	A Biblical Counseling View	Papers Due

Policies and Important Information

All written work must conform to American Psychological Association (APA) style. If a student does not have a copy of the APA manual, one should be purchased, or students may use one of the many APA style websites available online (e.g. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>). Materials should be in 12 pt Georgia font and double spaced (Georgia font has been selected because research indicates it gets the best grades). Assessment will include how well students represent their thoughts on paper, craftsmanship in writing, and organization of all written work.

Disability Policy

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor prior to the start of this course. The instructor and student will discuss the available accommodations for the course. If the student with a disability does not disclose that s/he has a disability, then the student is agreeing to take full responsibility for any related consequences that may occur.

Access to Research Database.

RTS provides Jackson MAC students access to the Ebscohost Psychology & Behavioral Science Collection of full text journal articles. You can access this collection from computers in the library, or from your home computer by following the link below and logging in with a username and password to be provided in class.

<http://search.ebscohost.com/>

Submission of work

Written assignments are to be emailed to the instructor for this course by 11:59 PM on the date due. Keep a digital copy of your work. Hard copy assignments must be turned in to the MFT office by 4:00 PM on the date due.

Late work

All assignments are due as scheduled regardless of attendance, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Assignments turned in late will be deducted 1/3 letter grade for each late day.

Anonymity

All written assignments and exams should be identified by the last six digits of your Self-Service id number and NOT by your name. Anonymity permits more objectivity in grading.

Return of work

All work returned to students will be available in the MFT Office. Any work not collected by the first full week of the next semester or term will be shredded.

Grading Scale

A (97-100)
A- (94-96)
B+ (91-93)
B (88-90)
B- (86-87)
C+ (83-85)
C (80-82)
C- (78-79)
D+ (75-77)
D (72-74)
D- (70-71)
F (Below 7)

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is expected and required. Excessive absences (more than 3 class meetings) will result in the loss of points equal to one letter grade per absence. If serious illness or an emergency prevents a student from attending any class, please notify the instructor before the class begins. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain any materials handed out or presented during the missed class from a classmate.

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in all components of the class. Each student is expected to read all of the assigned materials in advance for each class. Contributions should reflect knowledge of the reading assignments.

Course Objectives Related to MAC* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST535 Theological Foundations for Counseling
 Professor: J. V. Fesko
 Campus: Jackson
 Date: Fall 2021

MAC* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<i>In order to measure the success of the MAC curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MAC outcomes.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
Professional Counseling Orientation & Ethical Practice	Understands and applies the basic knowledge needed to be an effective counselor including: the history and philosophy of counseling, ethical standards of practice, personal career development, advocacy for clients, consultation & collaboration, and a Reformed, biblical and theological framework for counseling.	Strong	Students master the fundamental doctrines of Reformed theology to equip them to counsel.
Social & Cultural Diversity	Understands and demonstrates how living in a cultural/global society affects clients who are seeking counseling and clinical mental health services, as well as the effects of sin such as racism, discrimination, sexism, and oppression on one's own life and career and those of the client.	Strong	Students learn the philosophical context and the influence of modernity upon theology and our culture.
Human Growth & Development	Understands and applies knowledge of various theories of individual and family development, and factors affecting human development. To include biological, neurological, physiological, systemic, and environmental factors, addiction, and effects of crisis, disasters, and traumas.	Moderate	The course addresses these issues from a biblical perspective.
Career Development	Understands and applies theories and models of career development, counseling, and decision making.	None	Topics not covered in this course.
Counseling & Helping Relationships	Understands and applies theories and models of counseling, strategies for understanding and practicing consultation, and developing relevant counseling treatment and intervention plans.	None	Topics not covered in this course.
Group Counseling & Group Work	Understands and applies theories and models of group counseling and group work, dynamics of the group process and development, and therapeutic factors that contribute to group effectiveness.	Minimal	Covers theological doctrines that relate to relating to others.
Assessment & Testing	Understands and applies clinical knowledge effectively, including various models and approaches to clinical evaluation and their appropriate uses. To include diagnostic interviews, mental status examinations, symptom inventories, and psychoeducational and personality assessments, and is sensitive to the complications of diagnosis and interpretation of formal and informal evaluation.	None	Topics not covered in this course.
Research & Program Evaluation	Demonstrates the ability to critically evaluate research through a biblical worldview and integrate it into counseling practice. Understands the process of program evaluation and its integration into the	Strong	Course covers topics that help students identify elements of

	practice of counseling and clinical mental health counseling.		worldviews so as not to compromise biblical teaching.
Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to address a wide variety of circumstances within the context of clinical mental health counseling.	Moderate	Course teaches biblical principles that address a wide range of counseling issues.
Integration (Biblical/Theological)	Knowledge of and integration of Reformed, biblical and theological concepts with counseling practices.	Strong	Covers key doctrines essential to sound biblical counseling
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the triune God.	Strong	Fosters the idea that when we love God, we love and serve others.