

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

Sam R. Williams, Ph.D
Office phone: 761-2140
Secretary: Peggy Loafman

email: swilliams@sebts.edu
grader: John Sullivan, jsullivan@sebts.edu
email: ploafman@sebts.edu

BCO 7120A-FALL 2020
Ethical and Professional Issues in Family and Individual Counseling

Location: Adams 112
Thursdays 7:30 am – 10:20 am

Core Competencies

To equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission, the Southeastern Faculty build curricula and courses, drawing upon the great tradition of Christian orthodoxy and our Baptist heritage, to develop the following core competencies so that Southeastern graduates:

Spiritual Formation

- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue an authentically Christian way of life, manifested by trust in God, obedience to Christ's commands, and love of God and neighbor.

Biblical Exposition

- Demonstrate the ability to properly and effectively interpret, apply, and communicate the Scriptures.

Theological Integration

- Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to life and ministry.

Ministry Preparation

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and Christian disposition necessary for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.

Critical Thinking and Communication

- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, argue persuasively, and communicate clearly. We strive to do all of this while cultivating in students a delight in God, His Word, and His Church.

Course Description

A study of the ethical and legal guidelines and issues in family and individual counseling in a professional context. Topics to be addressed are: current issues in the practice of counseling, ethical standards and practices, credentialing, potential roles, professional organizations, and counseling diverse populations. The AAMFT and AACC codes of ethics are studied. 3 semester hours.

This course has been designed so that students might be able to achieve the following:

- a. To understand family and individual counseling in a professional context from the perspective of a Christian worldview.
- b. To develop a basic understanding of professional counseling ethical standards and practices.
- c. To understand the AAMFT and AACC ethical codes.
- d. To understand the various roles within the mental health professions and potential roles for family and individual professional counselors.
- e. To develop an understanding of how to counsel persons and families from diverse populations; to develop cross-cultural competency in counseling.
- f. To develop a missiological rationale and motives for counseling in a mental health context, with special attention to faithful and relevant contextualization of biblical perspectives on people, problems and change.

Course Requirements

Since this is a 3-hour course, the professor expects the student to complete 2250 minutes in class and 4500 minutes of work outside of class. Reading and writing assignments for this course have been calculated with these requirements in mind. The outside work includes reading of required textbooks, researching and writing of papers, taking quizzes and exams, and reviewing lecture materials.

Course Textbooks, articles, and documents

Gentry, J. Eric (2002) Compassion Fatigue: A Crucible for Transformation. *Journal of Trauma Practice*. 1(3/4), 37-61. You can find this on internet.

McMinn, M.R. (2008) *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling*. InterVarsity. **Read this book before class (before they are discussed in class-see schedule). For each chapter, write a brief, one paragraph summary, your critique(s) and commendation(s), one conceptual (theological or counseling theory) insight or one practical counseling skill you gained from the chapter. Bring the book and your notes (typed or handwritten-hard copy) to class, which must be turned in on day that chapter is discussed.**

Murphy, M. & Hecker, L. (2016) *Ethics & Professional Issues in Couple & Family Therapy 2nd Ed.* Routledge. **Bring this book to class, as we will review several sections of it.**

Powlison, D. (2005) *Speaking Truth in Love*. Punch or New Growth Press.

Williams, Sam. Counselors as Missionaries, *Journal of Biblical Counseling* 26, no. 3: 28-40. **Read before class discussion, and write/type on one page, two critical points (that you learned or never apprehended before) and one important question for Dr. Williams or a question worthy for class discussion. These will be discussed and submitted in class.**

Read these three documents thoroughly, as they are central to the purpose of the class and to your integrity as a counselor. Submit in class an honor statement that you have read these. This statement must also note the dates and places of your reading of these docs.

AACC Code of Ethics (2014) www.aacc.net

AAMFT Code of Ethics (2015)

www.aamft.org/iMIS15/AAMFT/Content/Legal_Ethics/Code_of_Ethics.aspx

AMCD Multicultural Counseling Competencies

https://www.counseling.org/Resources/Competencies/Multicultural_Competencies.pdf

Additional Resources

Southwick, S.M. & Charney, D.S. (2018) *Resilience: The Science of Mastering Life's Greatest Challenges*. Cambridge.

Course Requirements

- a. Consistent, reliable, and punctual class attendance. Classroom demeanor and participation will be noted and can affect your grade. If you are going to miss class, or a significant part of class, you must let me know via email. **If you do not miss any classes, I will add 2% to your overall course grade. If you miss more than 3.5 classes, you cannot pass and must retake this course.**
- b. Assignments for reading are cited in the course schedule. (20%)
- c. Two 1,000-1,500-word **research papers**. (See grading rubric below.)

Paper 1: Critical thinking paper on distinctly Christian counseling: challenges or issues or opportunities you can foresee in the contextualization of your counseling **as a Christian** in mental health settings. The student must read and explicitly interact with Williams' article *Counselors as Missionaries* and at least 3 chapters in Powlison's *Speaking Truth in Love* in this paper. Required minimum of 3 other references, which may include anything else we read for this class. Topic options could be: Confidentiality complexities working with churches and pastors, evangelism/prayer/bible in counseling, working with homosexuality or same sex marriages, working with agnostic or atheist or Muslim or Mormon (or?) clients or mental health professionals, or other important issues you would anticipate. **Due Week 5, Feb.23 (15%)**

Paper 2:

A summary of your interview of a licensed mental health professional or biblical counselor **in a formal practice setting**. Include how that interview improved your understanding of the challenges in formal practice. *Try to find a counselor out of the RDU area, as many around here will be inundated.* **Due Week 10, April 5. (15%)**

Grading Rubric: key categories and scoring for writing assignments

1. **Grammar:** spelling, punctuation, syntax/sentence structure; vocabulary fits type of paper.
2. **Organization:** well-planned and thoughtful direction, flow, and structure; good introductions and summaries; thesis and main ideas are clearly explicated; focused paragraphs with helpful transitions.
3. **Content:** properly focused and congruent with type of paper and chosen topic; clear, insightful, coherent, logical, and unified expression of ideas and arguments; possesses proper level of analytical reasoning and critical thinking.
4. **Research** (when applicable): fitting and sufficient number of resources and references that provide support for key ideas.

Each category will be scored on a **0 – 10-point** scale, and then averaged for an overall score that is translated into a percentage grade for the whole paper.

- d. After reading the Gentry article on Compassion Fatigue, students will develop a 2-page detailed and specific self-care plan for identifying and overcoming Compassion Fatigue. This assignment includes factoring in your PROQOL-5 (2009) test profile (all students will take this in class), that measures Burnout, Secondary Traumatic Stress, and Compassion Satisfaction. **Due Week 12, April 19. (15%)**
- e. There will be a **final exam**: case studies/clinical vignettes with ethical dilemmas, which you must resolve based on the course content. This exam must be thought about and taken completely on your own. **No discussion with any other persons or students.** You may consult the Holy Spirit. (35%) **Due end of semester, open May 7 – 13.**
- f. Lateness on assignments will be penalized 1%/day late.

- g. The most critical, bottom-line requirement is that you attend, participate, read, write, think, and learn in accord with 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:17.

This course will adhere to the standard Seminary grading system.

Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an immediate failing grade on the assignment with no chance for resubmission. The professor does have the option either to allow the student to remain in and complete the course or to dismiss the student from the course completely. Regardless of the professor's ruling, all cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and the appropriate Academic Dean(s) where further disciplinary action will be considered. At the very least, a permanent record of the infraction will be kept in the student's file. For further information regarding this policy, please refer to the 'Plagiarism & Cheating' section of the Student Handbook.

***NOTE:** Southeastern Seminary policy states, "In no case may a student merely copy and paste any material from one paper to another without the prior written permission of the instructor. In the rare case when a student is given permission to use his/her own scholarly work in subsequent research, the student must still cite his/her previous coursework as an unpublished paper. Failure to follow these guidelines constitutes plagiarism, and all appropriate penalties will apply."*

INTERNET USE DURING CLASS: Southeastern's policy is that students are **NOT** permitted to log in to the internet or other local networks during class unless specifically authorized by the professor.

Disability Statement: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and The College at Southeastern comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests and submit documentation to the Dean of Students Office.

Disclaimer and copyright

This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, learning activities, evaluation criteria, policies on late assignments and absences, grading scale, course schedule, reference list, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, during the course of the term the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the term.

No part of this course, including the syllabus, handouts, web pages, and presentation software files may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the professor, except when used for instructional purposes during which the author is acknowledged as the source of the material.

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Course Schedule (an approximation)

Week 1. Introduction to professional ethics, syllabus review
Ethics and. Laws – not the same thing

Week 2. History of mental health profession; the range of mental health vocations
Overview of Various Ethical Guidelines and Professional Organizations
Christian counseling? History and future
Discuss: McMinn Intro and 1

Week 3. Read and discuss: AACC Ethical Code
Discuss: McMinn 2

Week 4. Read and discuss: Introduction and Aspirational goals for AAMFT Ethical Code
Discuss: McMinn 3

Week 5. Confidentiality/privileged communication
Informed consent
Dual (multiple) relationships
Discuss: McMinn 4

Paper 1 Critical Thinking paper due, Feb 23

Week 6. Mandated reporting-Child and Elderly abuse and neglect
Issues in counseling minors
MHP interview: class discussion of interview questions
Discuss: McMinn 5-6

Week 7. Domestic violence and criminal behavior
Duty to warn and protect; Tarasoff
Discuss: McMinn 7-8

SPRING BREAK

Week 8. Cultural diversity and counseling
Review: AMCD Multicultural Counseling Competencies
Dr. W in Brasil.

Week 9. Suicidality

Week 10. Financial and business practices
Documentation

Paper 2 Counselor Interview due April 5

EASTER BREAK

Week 11. Sexual misconduct
Contemporary sexuality (LGBT+; infidelity in marital counseling) issues and ethics

Week 12. Self-care, burnout, compassion fatigue. Take PROQOL.

Self-Care Plan due April 19

Week 13. Counseling as mission; contextualization and ethical decision making
Discuss: Counseling as Mission by Sam Williams

Week 14. ???

Final Exam Due last week of class. Open May 7 - 13

