



02ST5350 Theological Foundations for Counseling
Fall 2023
2 Credit Hours

Details

1. Class Times: Tuesday (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
2. Instructor: Dr. Michael Allen
3. Contact: mallen@rts.edu
4. Office Hours: Feel free to contact me regarding anything in class and beyond. If you would like to make an appointment, please email me

Course Description (2 Credits)

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 & Course Outcomes

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

1. Contrast the major approaches evangelical Christians take to psychology and counseling.
2. Identify some of the challenges of 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 and public health settings consistent with the Reformed faith.

Course Requirements & Assignments

1. **Reading and Response Questions (50%):** Students are expected to complete all assigned reading. Students are expected to complete weekly reading questions found at the end of chapters. A schedule for reading will be provided on Canvas.
2. **Paper (50%):** Final papers should be 2000-2500 words and written in APA style. Further details pertaining to the expectations and due date will be provided on Canvas.

Required Texts:

1. Watkin, Christopher (2022). *Biblical Critical Theory*. Zondervan Academic.
2. Johnson, E. L., Myers, D. G., & Jones, S. L. (2010). *Psychology and Christianity: Five Views*. IVP Academic.

Policies and Important Information

APA-Style: All written work must conform to American Psychological Association (APA) style, 6th edition. 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/>). Assessment will include how well students represent their thoughts on paper, craftsmanship in writing, and organization of all written work.

Disability Accommodation Policy: If you require a special adaptation or accommodation to participate fully in this course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your request. You must provide a letter from the Dean that verifies your disabled status. Last minute special requests will be subject to the same late assignment policy as other students.

Access to Research Database: RTS provides MAC students with access to the PsycARTICLES Collection of full text journal articles. You can access this collection from computers in the library, or from your home computer by following instructions emailed to you (including a username and password).

Submission of work: All assignments should be submitted via Canvas. Late work will be accepted up to two weeks late, but will be docked one letter grade per day. Any request for special accommodation of late submission without penalty must be made prior to the due date.

Attendance/Participation Grade: Regular attendance and participation is expected and required. Excessive and unexcused absences (more than 3 lectures) or failure to participate actively will result in a reduced grade.

Plagiarism or cheating (adapted from Dr. Timothy Phillips of Wheaton College): 1. The assignments are designed to extend and deepen your comprehension and appreciation of Christian theology and to increase your facility with theological method. The processes of defining a topic, researching the results of others' studies, critiquing those studies, and organizing your conclusions in a clear and cogent presentation provides valuable skills for your various leadership ministries. The use of sources is an essential step in appropriating the learning of the Church's tradition in its relationship to cultures to help us understand and faithfully practice Scripture. 2. Using information obtained from a source without indicating it (whether by footnote, parentheses, or bibliography or some other appropriate reference, depending on the type of assignment) is plagiarism (intellectual thievery and lying). This applies to any information that you gain from

someone that is not “common knowledge.” It does not apply only to exact quotations or precise verbal allusions. Altering the wording does not remove the obligation to acknowledge the source. 3. Cheating is the presentation of someone else’s work, which the student ought to have done personally. This includes submitting answers to test questions derived by some means other than that intended by the instructor. It also includes turning in written assignments composed in whole or in part by someone else. 4. Cheating or plagiarism results, at minimum, in the disqualification of that unit of the course affected. A student caught plagiarizing or cheating will forfeit that project, at the very least. A second offense will result in the forfeiture of the course, at the very least. Punishments may be more severe than the minimum depending upon the specific situation.

RTS 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 70)

Grading

Reading Responses:	50%
Paper:	50%

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Objectives

Course: 02ST5350 Theological Foundations for Counseling

Professor: Michael Allen

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2023

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i>		Rubric: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong • moderate • minimal • none 	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral and written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	The papers challenge students to articulate the biblical theological framework developed in class in conversation with counseling approaches.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	The class lectures and discussions will focus on key biblical texts and their importance for counseling.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Lectures and readings will facilitate reflection on their theological framework and method from a Reformed perspective.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	The sanctification lecture, discussion, and in-class reflection essay will direct students to God's saving mercy and grace.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Final paper analyzes a secular theory via biblical categories.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel	Strong	All the assignments strengthen the student's ability to engage with other viewpoints from a

	in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)		Reformed perspective with an assumption of common grace.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Moderate	Reading and written assignments clarify the theological frameworks behind counseling. Class discussion will apply these to practical case studies.

**As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*