

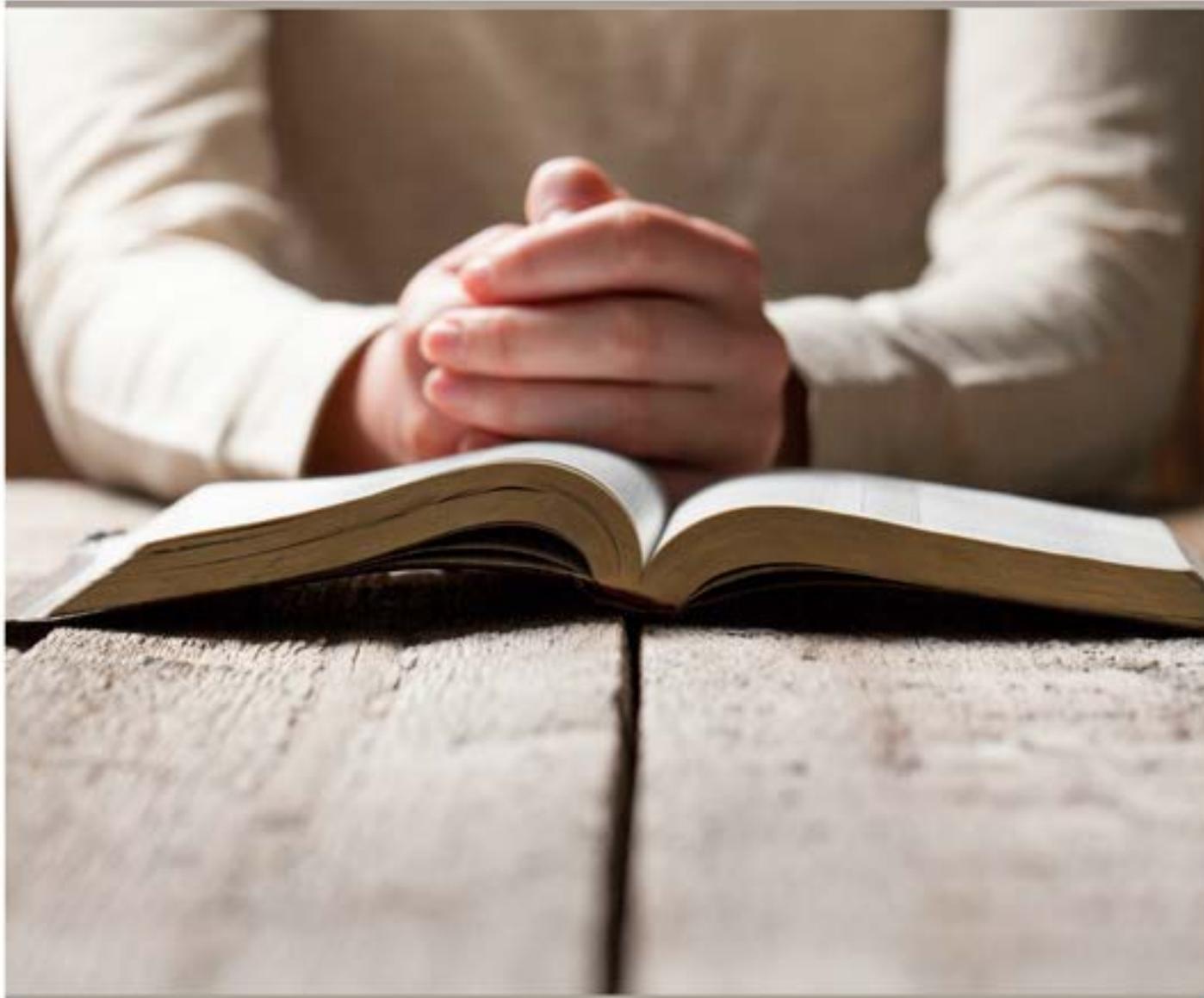
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REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
GLOBAL

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PASTORAL COUNSELING  
DR. KEITH A. EVANS

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# Course Overview

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## Course Description:

PT5250 Pastoral Ministry, 3 hours  
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:  
Dr. Keith A. Evans

This course introduces students to biblical pastoral counseling from a distinctly Reformed theological framework. It establishes the biblical foundations that shape a faithful counseling methodology, contrasts biblical counseling with competing approaches, and demonstrates how theology informs pastoral practice. The course introduces core counseling skills and applies them to common counseling concerns, including conflict, anger, fear, anxiety, depression, and suffering, with emphasis on the wise and faithful application of Scripture in church and parachurch settings.

## Course Objectives:

- Articulate the biblical and theological foundations of a Reformed approach to counseling
- Evaluate and distinguish biblical counseling from other approaches to soul care
- Apply Scripture to personal growth and self-counsel in Christ
- Demonstrate a basic methodology for biblical pastoral counseling
- Employ Scripture wisely in addressing common pastoral counseling concerns

## Required Textbooks:

Adams, Jay E. *A Theology of Christian Counseling: More Than Redemption*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986

Lane, Timothy S. and Tripp, Paul D. *How People Change*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2007

Powlison, David A. *Seeing with New Eyes: Counseling and the Human Condition Through the Lens of Scripture*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2003

Tripp, Paul D. *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2002

\*Additional readings will be provided in the LMS

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

*Online Student Handbook:*

The Online Student Handbook (can be [downloaded here](#)) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

*Summary of Requirements:*

1. Listen to all recorded Lectures
2. Complete all Readings
3. Participate in Forum Discussions (with other students and the professor)
4. Take Final Exam
5. Submit Two Case Studies
6. Submit Reading Report
7. Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper
8. Submit Course Complete Form

# Meet the Professor

*Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:*



[Keith Evans](#) is Associate Professor of Christian Counseling at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. Previously, he was professor of biblical counseling, director of the Biblical Counseling Institute, and academic dean at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to beginning at RPTS in 2018, Keith pastored in Lafayette, Indiana, for seven years. He is married to Melissa, and they have four daughters. He earned his Ph.D. in biblical counseling at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

## *Education:*

Grove City College, B.A.

Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, MDiv

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, ThM, Ph.D.

# Grades

## *Forum Discussion (15%):*

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
  - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
  - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts). The professor and/or TA reserves the right not to award points in the case where the intended structure of substantive back and forth interaction has not been followed.
  - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)

A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

## *Examinations (Final 35%):*

There will be one exam at the end of this course. The content of the exam will cover questions from the course's lecture content from week 1-11. To prepare well for the exam, study the lecture review questions.

The exam for this course is to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). After clicking on the exam link you, will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam. Please note that you are required to have a proctor for all exams. Please see the proctor policy in the Global Student Handbook

## *Case Studies (25%):*

On the LMS you will find a document of case studies. Choose two of the cases to interact with. Type up a one page summary of each case study selected, detailing the following:

1. What significant data do you currently know? (Do not simply repeat the details of the case study, instead explain why the data you cite is significant.)
2. What questions would you ask in order to gather further data? (In other words: ask yourself what significant data you are lacking (but need) in order to counsel this case accurately. Then, write out questions you would ask the counselee in order to uncover this data.)

3. How would you begin to give hope from the Scriptures, pertinent to the circumstances in the case?
4. What preparation(s) would you assign the counselee after your first counseling session?
5. Under Lesson 5 you will find a lecture that covers this assignment in greater detail. Do not complete the above elements as though you are telling your professor what you would do. Instead, write out your assessment as though they are your notes in preparation for your first session with the counselee.

\*PLEASE NOTE: You must complete two of these case study interaction papers, one per case study.

### *Reading Report (20%):*

Reading assignments are broken down week by week within the LMS. The Reading Report will indicate the amount of required reading that has been completed during the semester and must be filled out and submitted at the end of the course with your final exam.

### *Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):*

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree or certificate program submit a mentor report. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom. See specific instructions for this assignment in Canvas.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.), or special student (e.g. from another seminary), submit a 250-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 250 words will receive a grade deduction. See specific instructions for this assignment in Canvas.

### *Assignments:*

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

### *Contact Information:*

Reformed Theological Seminary, Global Education

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Charlotte, NC 28226

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Toll Free: (800) 227-2013

E-mail: [dess@rts.edu](mailto:dess@rts.edu)

Web site: [rts.edu/campuses/online/](http://rts.edu/campuses/online/)



# Lessons

## Lesson One

Introduction to Counseling

## Lesson Two

Understanding Anthropology for  
Counseling

## Lesson Three

A Theology of Change

## Lesson Four

Methodology

## Lesson Five

Investigation

## Lesson Six

Preparation & Performance Part I

## Lesson Seven

Preparation & Performance Part II

## Lesson Eight

Premarital Counseling

## Lesson Nine

Marriage Counseling & Conflict Resolution

## Lesson Ten

Various Counseling Issues Part I

## Lesson Eleven

Various Counseling Issues Part II

**Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: PT5350 Pastoral Counseling

Professor: Dr. Keith A. Evans

<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b> <i>In order to measure the success of the 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 outcomes.</i>		<b>Rubric</b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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.	Moderate	- This course requires students to articulate biblical and theological understanding both orally and in writing through reading interaction papers, case studies, and class discussion. Students are trained to communicate Scriptural truth clearly and pastorally, particularly in pastoral shepherding contexts.
<b>Scripture</b>	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.)	Moderate	- Students engage Scripture as the authoritative and sufficient source for counseling and pastoral care, learning to apply biblical truth wisely to contemporary situations. While original-language exegesis is not a central emphasis, students are trained to interpret Scripture responsibly and to employ it wisely in addressing pastoral and shepherding concerns.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	- The course is grounded in a Reformed theological framework, with counseling methodology flowing from confessional commitments reflected in the Westminster Standards. Students are introduced to how Reformed theology directly shapes pastoral shepherding.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	- This course emphasizes personal spiritual growth, self-application of Scripture, and dependence upon Christ in the shepherding task. Students are called to examine their own hearts, fostering growth in sanctification as a necessary foundation for faithful pastoral ministry.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	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	Moderate	- Students are trained to bring Scripture to bear on real-life problems within church and cultural contexts, discerning competing approaches to soul care and evaluating them
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	- This course cultivates a gracious, humble, and pastorally sensitive expression of Reformed pastoral shepherding. Students are trained to counsel with clarity and conviction, demonstrating a winsome posture toward counselees/congregants.
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Strong	- Pastoral shepherding is counseling. Counseling is pastoral shepherding. This course teaches an essential aspect of pastoral ministry that Christ calls his under-shepherds to faithfully engage in. Through case studies, observation of counseling practice, and applied assignments, students develop the ability to minister Scripture to the hearts and lives of both believers and unbelievers.