



CM503 Christian Counseling

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Ted Johnston

Course description

This course examines a multi-disciplinary approach to counseling drawing on insights from Scripture, incarnational Trinitarian theology, and psychology regarding God, humanity (including sin, human change and well-being) and Christian ministry. Application of these insights is then made to the practice of short-term, church-based counseling ministries that participate effectively, through the Holy Spirit, in the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ, the “wonderful counselor.”

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 138 hours, or about 12-13 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Collins, Gary R. *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*, third edition. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007. ISBN 13 9-781-4185-0329-1. 442 pages. Approximate price \$22; Kindle edition available.

Collins, Gary R. *Christian Counseling Casebook*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007. ISBN 978-1-4185-1660-4. Approximate price: \$30.

McMinn, Mark R. *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling (an integrative paradigm)*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8308-2851-7. 163 pages. Approximate price: \$18; Kindle edition available.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the lessons.** Lessons will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. See the *Student Handbook* for study suggestions. You should look up any scripture references in the lessons.
1. **Participate.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 40 percent of the final grade.
2. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 600 pages, or about 60 pages each week.
3. **Midterm Summary Paper and Final Research Paper.** This counts for 60 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 55 hours to work on these papers – an average of 5 hours per week – some weeks more, some less. For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <https://learn.gcs.edu/mod/book/view.php?id=5854>.