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*Please direct any questions to the teaching assistant first—not the professor—who will either respond quickly or forward your message on to Dr. Scott. In order to best serve you through email correspondence, please identify yourself using your full name, your class name, number, and section along with your question or note. You are responsible for keeping up to date with any emails from Dr. Scott or the teaching assistant that come to your student email account. This is our primary means of communication for changes and updates. There will be no exceptions made for students who miss important emails.

Course Description
This class will cover major theological and methodological issues pertinent to contemporary biblical counseling. Special consideration will be given to difficult and controversial topics concerning counseling theory and practice. 35077 may substitute for the following core requirements: 34300, 34305, 34310, 34325, 34330.

Getting Started
• Read your course syllabus thoroughly, send any questions about the course to the teaching assistant, and take the syllabus quiz on the course page.
• Obtain all required textbooks.
• Review the guidelines for assignment style and formatting. If you have never read the style guide, please read it immediately before continuing your studies.
• Register for the conference through the following website: www.faithlafayette.org/conferences (You are responsible for the cost of the conference in addition to your tuition.)

Course Objectives
1. To honor God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—by examining his revealed will for how we should care for his people.
2. To attend the annual conference of the National Association of the Nouthetic Counselors.
3. To hear from leaders in the biblical counseling movement concerning the major contemporary issues in the field of counseling.
4. To grow in the ability to use the different genres of Scripture in counseling.
**Required Textbooks**

**For 34300 Introduction to Biblical Counseling**
- Russell Moore, *Counseling and the Authority of Christ*, ebook

**OR**
- Non-BC Majors: Stuart Scott, and Heath Lambert, eds., *Counseling the Hard Cases*, 978-1433672224, $32.99

**For 34305 Biblical and Theological Foundations for Counseling**
- Daniel Akin, ed. *A Theology for the Church*, 978-0805426403, $49.99

**For 34310 Essential Qualities of the Biblical Counselor**
- Thomas Watson, *The Godly Man’s Picture*, 978-0851515953, $8.00
- Milton Vincent, *Gospel Primer*, 978-1885904676, $10.95 (FULL VERSION)

**For 34325 Care of Souls in the Congregation**

**For 34330 Typical Problems in Biblical Counseling**
- Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*, 978-1600063053, $14.99
- Wayne Mack, *Out of the Blues*, 978-1885904591, $10.95
- *When People are Big and God is Small*, Ed Welch, $15.99
- Stuart Scott, and Heath Lambert, eds., *Counseling the Hard Cases*, 978-1433672224, $32.99

**For 35077 Studies in Biblical Counseling (Elective)**
• The Journal of Biblical Counseling 26, no. 1, 2, and 3 (i.e., the 3 most recent issues of the Journal)

For All:
• Students pursuing a program concentration in Biblical Counseling must also obtain the Journal of Biblical Counseling library, a publication of the Christian Counselor’s Education Foundation (CCEF), www.ccef.org/jbc. It will be expected that articles from this resource will be consulted often throughout your program.

• The Southern Seminary Manual of Style, version 4.0, http://sbts.libguides.com/style. Students writing research papers, book reviews, theses, dissertations, or D.Min. projects will find The Southern Seminary Manual of Style helpful in addressing many of their formatting questions. The manual is a supplement to A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition, also known as “Turabian.” The Southern Seminary Manual of Style does not reproduce Turabian style guidelines; rather, it clarifies, specifies, or emends those guidelines to cater to the specific needs of the Seminary and its students. Students are encouraged to acquire a copy of Turabian to use during the course of their degree program(s) at Southern. Students may also find it necessary to consult The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition, and The SBL Handbook of Style on occasion. The library has all of these resources available for students to consult at the library circulation desk.
**Course Requirements**

1. **Reading.** Students will be required to read several books/articles for this course throughout the semester and will be required to demonstrate their comprehension of those readings through an annotated bibliography addressing each chapter or article. Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary for each chapter/article. Assemble all into a single document to submit toward the end of the semester.

2. **Conference Report.** Students are required to write a 5-6 page (double-spaced, not counting the title page) reflection paper summarizing their time at the conference. They should describe the highlights of the conference and humbly and lovingly share any criticisms for the conference. This paper should avoid merely describing the conference, but should thoughtfully interact with their descriptions.

3. **Semester Project.** Related to the course track, the student will pursue one of the following semester projects:

   **For 34300 Introduction to Biblical Counseling:**
   
   **Sanctification Project.** During this course, select a problem in your own life to pursue change biblically. *Each week* of the class (*N.B., Do not wait until the night before!*) personally apply the Scriptures and the biblical principles for change to the problem. Put into practice what you are learning. More details and the forms used are on the separate handout and will be posted on Moodle. The project involves multiple steps: 1) Answer the X-Ray Questions from Chapter 7 of *Seeing with New Eyes*, 2) Submit a Contract for your sanctification project, 3) work you're your contract plan weekly throughout the semester, and 4) complete a final report discussing your faithfulness to your plan and the results you've observed. During the project, you will be expected to journal 3 times weekly, and to pursue your homework assignments assigned on your contract. This is the heart of the class and will hopefully help you grow personally and begin to understand the process as it relates to counselees. Please dig deeply and address this issue with a lot of care and prayer.

   Your contract should supply your responses to the following questions:
   
   1. What is the main personal problem you wish to work on for this project? (Be specific)
   2. Why have you chosen this particular area of your life to work on?
   3. What do you believe are the “heart issues” behind this problem?
   4. Make a short list of your goals for this project.
   5. Outline a brief 4 to 6 step plan you intend to put into action to correct the problem this semester. (Lay out specific plans about what you will do to make changes in this area. Be specific and detailed in your planning. How will you actually promote the change(s) that you want to make? Don't allow yourself to generalize, be vague or abstract. Go beyond this to the nitty-gritty of the steps, activities or methods you will implement to make change a reality.)
   6. List three or more biblical passages that relate either directly or indirectly to your problem and make a one sentence explanation of why you chose those passages. These are the texts you should begin to study immediately. Pray and ask our Lord to help you to change.
   7. Record who you intend to ask to help you with accountability (encouragers to pray with and for you). Have them sign next to their name and state their relationship to you (i.e. spouse, friend, family member, roommate, pastor, mentor, etc.).
Toward the end of the semester, you will also complete a case study related to your Sanctification Project. This assignment will require you to take your biblical methodology and all that you have learned in completing your sanctification project to develop an approach to counseling someone who is struggling with the same issue that you were. There will be a couple of examples posted on Moodle for you to view.

For 34305 Biblical and Theological Foundations for Counseling:
A research paper in which you (very briefly) summarize any three positions in the *Christian Spirituality* book and subject them to critical analysis. You must select two positions with which you disagree, and a third position should be the one you think is most faithful to Scriptures. As you address each position, you should be careful to include the following:

1) A summary of what the advocates of this view teach (i.e., an explanation of the position, Please keep this very short. I have already read the book and do not need a recap. Papers that include too much summary will not be passable),
2) A summary of the strengths of each position,
3) A summary of the reasons why the position is ultimately unacceptable on biblical and practical grounds,
4) An explanation of how this view overcomes the arguments against it, in the case of the one view that you believe is the biblical one,
5.) The practical implications of each position for “Ernie” (You will find out who he is in the book).

This is an important paper. It will test your ability to understand and engage with important theological themes and demonstrate the practical implications of those themes. This is one of the most important elements of a practical theology of counseling. If you cannot do it, you will be a poor theologian, and—therefore—a poor counselor. The paper should be 15-20 pages long page (double-spaced, not counting the title page) and include research from sources other than *Christian Spirituality*. Cite from *Christian Spirituality* using parenthetical citation (page numbers only), and from outside sources using footnotes. The paper should also be free of spelling, grammatical, and technical errors, as determined by the *Seminary Manual of Style*. Your work will be evaluated chiefly by your understanding of the sanctification themes and the degree to which your evaluation is biblical.

For 34310 Essential Qualities of the Biblical Counselor:
The *Sanctification Research Paper* is a 19-20 page research paper. You will select one problem or issue in your own life in which you want to become more Christlike—perhaps it will be an issue in your life with which you have the greatest trouble, one in which you sense a real deficiency, or represents an issue that has challenged you the most in walking faithfully with God. Pertaining to that selection, you will write a research paper that biblically addresses the issue in focus. This paper requires solid research; however, unlike many research papers you have written, this also is a paper about you! The paper will address two areas which should be pursued simultaneously as one affects the other: 1) a thoroughly researched biblical analysis of instruction concerning the issue in focus, and 2) a detailed study of that understanding and instruction applied to your own
life over a period of time toward growth in likeness to Jesus. You will never understand biblical counseling until you understand the importance of personal change and growth in the Christian life. This paper seeks to implant that understanding over the course of a few months. This is an excellent opportunity for you to work on an area in your life that you have known needs to change in order to be more like Jesus Christ. This paper then should comply with the following broad outline:

I. Introduction (1 page)

II. A Biblical Understanding of Your Chosen Topic/Problem (6-7 pages)
   1. Brief Systematic Theology of Chosen Topic
   2. Exegesis of Key Related Passages
   3. Implications of Biblical Teaching

III. Biblical Understanding and Instruction Applied to My Life (6-7 pages)
   1. Theoretical Presentation of Method of Biblical Change in Chosen Area (My plan for pursuing biblical change)
      a. Interview Data (what was revealed through asking others)
      b. Detailed description of put off/renew the mind/put on plan
      c. Analysis of root issue as it appears in your life
   2. Practical Presentation of Method of Biblical Change in Chosen Area
      a. Overview of actual adherence to proposed plan of change
      b. Selected journal entries and analysis of entries
      c. Analysis of key points in the wake of repentance

IV. Results (½ page): What you were, what you have become, and where you will go from here

V. Plan and resources for counseling another with like problem/issue (5-6 pages)
   a. An agenda (week-by-week plan) for a 3 month counseling case, including homework for each meeting
   b. Teaching Outline for the instruction aspect of the counseling case.

VI. Additional Notes and Journals (excess pages)
   a. Weekly journal (at least 3 times each week)
   b. Interview notes

Section III of the paper should gather key data from trusted godly individuals in your life (preferably in your church) and concretely work through the biblical method of change—involving a putting off of sinful behavior and its root in wrong worship, a renewing of the mind with the content of outline element II, and a putting on of righteous behavior rooted in pure worship—on two levels: theoretically (i.e. broadly what this change will look like) and practically faced (i.e. how change actually occurred over a period of time, including discovery of temptations of wrong thinking and motivations encountered in the process, and additional accounting of how repentance worked itself out along the way).

For your 2 interviews, prepare sufficient questions for a one-hour interview. Your questions should help you understand yourself by getting the feedback of a godly mentor in your life, what he/she has seen in your life, what he/she knows from God’s Word about pursuing change in the area selected.

For 34325 Care of Souls in the Congregation:
A research project in 2 parts on a topic relating to the Care of Souls in the Congregation. You may want to check with the professor or the Garrett Fellow about your topic before proceeding ahead. Part 1 of the paper should be 12–15 pages in length (double-spaced, not counting the title page and bibliography), conform to the seminary manual of style, a deliver a solid research paper on your topic. Part 2 of the project should be 5-7 pages and will supply the resources needed for you to guide the congregation in understanding the topic (e.g., an outline, worksheets, homework assignments, etc.). Assemble both parts into a single document.

For 34330 Typical Problems in Biblical Counseling:

Part 1: Research Paper: A 12–15 page research paper (double space, not counting the title page, and bibliography) will be required on the topic of Sorrow and Penance (false repentance) vs. Sorrow and Repentance (genuine). You must have a minimum of 10 resources.

The paper should include the following:
   I. Definition of Penance vs. Repentance
   II. Biblical Examples of repentance and penance
   III. Biblical teaching on repentance
   IV. Personal application to your life and future ministry

Part 2: Bible Study: In addition to the research paper, the student must also design a 5–7 page Bible Study/ Homework assignment on the issue of Repentance, applied to a typical problem encountered in Biblical Counseling. (You will be required to research this typical problem in order to design a Bible Study/ homework assignment that communicates insight and is truly useful in counseling ministry.) The goal is to design a homework assignment that could be used in counseling someone in this particular area (guiding from a response of penance toward repentance). A key to this Bible study is to write it in such a way as to have the counselee look up passages and interact with them in both an informative manner as well as with personal application to their given situation.

This topic is crucial in the student’s own life, as well as, in the counseling of others regarding the issues of Salvation and Sanctification. Do not focus on Penance as in the Catholic Faith, but more as a making up for sins. The majority of the paper should emphasize the biblical teaching on repentance. There is not a plethora of material, outside of the Scriptures, written on this subject in the recent years. It will be necessary to look largely at what was written around the time of the Puritans. Included here is a list of possible resources. These items will be on reserve in the library.

4. Course Evaluation. Students will be required to offer a response to the course, concerning their perspective of its strengths and weaknesses. Please be constructive if sharing weaknesses (suggest possible solutions).
**Course Schedule**
The dates reflected below signify when content will be discussed and assignments are due. All written assignments should conform to the Southern Seminary Manual of Style and include a title page. (Do not submit your title page as a separate document.) Submit assignments according to the method listed below. Electronic files should be named according to the following format: **LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, ASSIGNMENT TITLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Topic Discussed / Assignment Description &amp; Code</th>
<th>Submit via</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz:</strong> Syllabus</td>
<td>Moodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10-15</td>
<td><strong>Conference Attendance</strong></td>
<td>Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td><strong>Conference Report</strong></td>
<td>Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td><strong>Semester Project</strong></td>
<td>Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td><strong>Reading Requirement</strong></td>
<td>Moodle</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Course Evaluation</strong></td>
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**Basis of Evaluation**
- Reading 25%
- Conference Attendance and Report 25%
- Semester Project 45%
- Course Evaluation 5%

The course teaching assistant may grade some assignments. The professor has full confidence in this individual's ability to evaluate the student's work. If a student has a significant concern about a grade, he is expected first to request clarification from the teaching assistant. If the matter is not resolved, the student may contact the professor via email. If the professor decides a second review is appropriate, he may assign a new grade at his discretion, even if the new grade is lower than the initial evaluation. Please note that only in the most unusual circumstances would the professor ever change any grade assigned by the teaching assistant.

If the student knows that he struggles with research and writing, it is expected that he pursue development through school resources (e.g., the writing center, library seminars). Please also enlist someone to help with proofreading your papers. Everyone will be graded on the same fair standard.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100 (4.0)</td>
<td>B+ 87-89 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-95 (3.7)</td>
<td>B- 80-82 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86 (3.0)</td>
<td>C 73-76 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82 (2.7)</td>
<td>C- 70-72 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76 (2.0)</td>
<td>B- 80-82 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Late Work & Extensions**

Students are expected to submit all assignments according to their due dates given in their course syllabi and to plan accordingly to meet those deadlines. Late work, however, will be accepted within the semester (until the final day of class—not finals week), but will incur a 30% deduction from the grade it would have received had it been submitted on time—no exceptions. Only in cases of extreme unforeseen circumstances—occurring before the original due date—such as a medical emergency, a family tragedy, or another circumstance which debilitating the student from attending to his studies—will an extended due date (extension), without penalty, be considered at the discretion of the professor. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the teaching assistant and professor as soon as these debilitating circumstances arise and to ensure that his assignment has been received by the extended due date.

**Course Etiquette, Disclaimers, and Other Matters**

**Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is required for all students. Attendance will be checked at each class session. Each student will be allowed to miss one hour of class for each hour of course credit without penalty. Every absence after that will result in a percentage point reduction from the student’s participation grade. A student who misses more than 25% of class meetings will forfeit credit for the class and receive a failing grade. Students are also expected to be in class on time. If a student is late to class three times it will count the same as an absence.

**Classroom Policies**

1. Male students may not wear hats in class.
2. No conversations (talking between students) while class is in progress.
3. No food or drink in the classroom except water.
4. Please raise your hand if you have a question and ensure it is appropriate to the current topic (e.g., of inappropriate during a lecture, “Professor, do you know where the role sheet is? It didn’t come by this row.”)
5. For instructional purposes the professor may employ the use of film, readings, and outside guests, however this use does not constitute an endorsement by Southern Seminary of these sources.
6. Guidelines for papers submitted in this course are found in the Southern Seminary Manual of Style available in the Lifeway Store or online on Moodle.
7. Laptops are welcomed in the classroom strictly for note taking purposes. If at any time a student is observed abusing the laptop privilege (e.g., checking e-mail, playing games, instant messaging, doing other homework) he will be marked absent for that day. The professor reserves the right to restrict the use of laptop computers.
8. As Cell phones should be set to silent notification during class. If it is absolutely necessary to accept an incoming call, students should excuse themselves from class before doing so.

**Honor Code**

All students are required to affirm their academic integrity when submitting all course work with the following statement, signed by the student: *On my honor I have neither taken nor given improper assistance in completing this assignment.* Plagiarism is the act of stealing the idea of someone else by attempting to pass it off as your own. Cheating is the effort to accomplish the requirements for the course in a dishonest, deceptive, or otherwise fraudulent
manner. A student caught doing either may receive disciplinary action up to and including failing the course, being reported to the dean of students, and dismissal from this institution.

**Special Needs** In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

**Disclaimer** During the course of the semester the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may appear necessary to the professor because of events and circumstances that occur during the term.