



**COUN6331 Professional Issues in
Clinical Mental Health Counseling**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Counseling
Fall 2023

Hybrid, Mondays, 8:00-11:50, In-class and NOLA2U Live
8/21, 9/18, 10/23, 11/13

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Mission Statement of the Counseling Program

The mission of the NOBTS Counseling Program is to provide training and supervised experience in evidence-based counseling methods to help people deal with life issues in a biblically sound way and prepare students for licensure in counseling and counseling-related professions. We seek to produce graduates who have the values, knowledge, skills, and personal disposition to promote the mental health and holistic wellness of clients across diverse populations.

Course Description

This course is the capstone course for the counseling program and is designed to address practical issues relevant to the practice of professional clinical mental health counseling. The course will be presented as a hybrid, with a portion of the course being taught through Canvas and the other portion in class. The following topics will be addressed: preparing for the National Counselor Exam (NCE) & Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Exam (CPCE), applying for licensure and certification (LPC, NBCC, AAMFT), advocacy, resumes and interviews, and practice management. December graduates must take this course in spring semester prior to graduation and May graduates must take this course in the fall semester prior to graduation.

Program Objectives:

- #1. Equip students to synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge in the field of counseling.
- #2. Train students to have the necessary academic and clinical skills to obtain professional licensure.
- #3. Equip students to develop a deeper understanding of cultural diversity to enhance counseling skills.
- #4. Train students to integrate historical Christian beliefs, faith, and spirituality with the best practices of mental health science, in an ethical manner.

Signature Assignments

Key Performance Indicator	Learning Experiences	Assessments
CACREP 2.F.2.c KPI 2.1 – Multicultural Awareness	MAKSS	As a Capstone Course, this assessment is included. The assessment will be given in session 3
KPI 9.1.3 – Professional Organization requirements & benefits	Post-test	Included in Canvas

Course Objectives

Course Objectives	Learning Experiences	Assessments
1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of each of the eight common core areas of professional counseling (professional counseling orientation and ethical practice, social and cultural diversity, human growth and development, career development, counseling and helping relationships, group counseling and group work, assessment and testing, research and program evaluation). [1]	<i>Instruction</i> Canvas Discussion Boards Lecture Guest Speakers <i>Readings:</i> EOC: Chapters 1-13 <i>Audio CDs:</i> Disks 1-10	Weekly Quizzes Final Exam - CPCE
2. Develop strategies for preparing for the CPCE, NCE, and applying for professional licensure. (2.F.1.g)	<i>Instruction</i> Canvas Discussion Boards Lecture Guest Speakers <i>Reading:</i> ENC: Chapters 1, 2	Final Exam – CPCE Practice Licensure Application
3. Develop professional competencies related to applying and interviewing for counseling positions. (2.F.1.h)	<i>Instruction:</i> Lecture Canvas Discussion boards Guest Speakers <i>Reading:</i> ENC: Chapters 9, 10 Audio CD: Part 1 (Disk 10)	Resume & Cover Letter Essay Assignment
4. Explore issues related to the multiple professional roles and responsibilities counselors have as members of an interdisciplinary community specifically with regard to advocacy for the profession and	<i>Instruction:</i> Lecture Class Discussion Canvas Discussion board Group Work	Participation in class group work and discussion. Portfolio – Reflection Paper

for clients, emergency response, and community outreach. (2.F.1.b) (2.F.1.c) (2.F.1.d) (2.F.1.e)		
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Textbooks

Required Textbooks

The following texts are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Rosenthal, H. (2017). *Encyclopedia of counseling package* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN 9780367673420

Optional Texts

Gregoire, J. and Jungers, C. (2007). *The counselor's companion: What every beginning counselor needs to know* New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN 9781138942653

Helwig, A. (2015). *Study guide for the National Counselor Examination & CPCE* (7th ed.). Andrew Helwig Publisher. ISBN 9780964837775

Rosenthal, H. (2009). *Vital information and review questions for the NCE, CPCE and state counseling exams* (3rd ed.) (Audio CD). New York, NY: Routledge, ISBN 9780415801416

Mometrix Test Preparation (2016). *NCE flashcard study system: NCE test practice questions & exam review for the National Counselor Exam*. Beaumont, TX: Mometrix Media. ISBN 9781610722322

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, online quizzes, discussion boards, guest speakers / panel discussions, lecture, and portfolio development.

Course Requirements / Assignments

Assignment / Requirements & Description	Percentage	Due Date
<p>Capstone Portfolio – Each student will be expected to submit a portfolio Canvas that contains the following documents:</p> <p>A. Integration of Spirituality Clinical Mental Health Counseling Each student will compose an explanation of his or her personal rational and process for integrating biblical truth with evidence based counseling practices. Include a section on your anticipated response to a pastor who asks if the counseling you do is truly biblical, and a section on your anticipated response to a secular employer who asks if the counseling you do is really professional counseling. This document should be approximately 2 pages in length (single spaced).</p>	30%	See Course Schedule for Due Dates

<p>B. Syllabi from every graduate level counseling course the student has taken. This is submitted in Tevera. A typed list of course syllabi submitted needs to be included in the portfolio.</p> <p>C. Advocacy / Leadership In Marriage and Family Counseling Project Report Summary Students will be responsible increasing personal involvement in leadership or advocacy for the Marriage & Family counseling profession. Students will need to get approval for the project prior to implementation. A brief, one page summary of the project will be included in the portfolio. Projects may include, but not be limited to the following: attending a state licensing board meeting, volunteering with a professional organization, taking a leadership role in a professional organization. The Project Summary should include a description of the project, the amount of time invested, personal reflection of the experience, and plans for future advocacy and leadership.</p> <p>D. Current Resume</p> <p>E. Reflection Paper exploring</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. how you have grown and changed throughout the counseling program 2. plans following graduation 3. identification of personal strengths and growing edges as an individual and a professional marriage and family counselor 4. your role and responsibility as an advocate for the marriage & family counseling profession, clients, couples, and individuals who have been marginalized. <p>F. Book & Journal Article List – Provide a list of at least 15 books and five journal articles (peer reviewed) you consider to be the most essential or helpful in the field of Clinical Mental Health Counseling. A minimum of five of these resources must be written by a minority author. Place an asterisk beside the books and articles you read.</p> <p>(All papers are to utilize APA form and style)</p>		
<p>Discussion & Participation – Participation is an essential element in all courses, but is particularly important in a hybrid course. Each week students will be required to participate in a meaningful way in a discussion board in Canvas. In addition, students are expected to contribute to class discussions when the class meets in person. Discussion board posts must be completed by Sunday at midnight (central standard time).</p>	10%	Weekly
<p>Weekly Online Quizzes – Each week students will take a quiz in Canvas over the reading and audio CDs. You are allowed to retake the quiz as many times as you would like. Each attempt will erase the previous score. Your grade will be recorded from your last attempt. The questions are randomized and drawn from a larger pool of related questions, so the questions will vary in order and content on each attempt. Quizzes must be completed by Sunday evening at midnight central standard time.</p>	29%	Weekly

Final Exam – The final exam will be the CPCE which will be pass/fail. Failure to pass the final exam will require the student to retake the course.	31%	Computer Lab
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Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used at NOBTS (see the Graduate Catalog, available online at <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/GraduateCatalog.pdf>).

A: 93-100

B: 85-92

C: 77-84

D: 70-76

F: Below 70

Evaluation of Grade

Capstone Portfolio	30%
Discussion & Participation	10%
Weekly Online Quizzes	29%
Final Exam (CPCE)	31%

Additional Items and Policies

Attendance Policy

Hybrid Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the hybrid, students who miss more than four hours may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. These courses will require weekly attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.

Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Academic Policies

Academic policies relating to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.

Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
Respect the professor and other members of the class.
Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.
Participate in class and group discussions.

Classroom Participation/Active Dialogue

Student participation is expected. Class interaction is an important and valuable aspect of the learning environment where we can experience the truth of the Great Commandment by truly knowing one another.

Disabilities and Accommodations

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary does not discriminate against applicants/ students on the basis of personal disabilities. The Seminary, in voluntary compliance with the American Disabilities Act, will provide reasonable institutional accommodations, modifications, and adjustments to enable and empower students with disabilities to participate in Seminary programs and activities to the fullest extent possible. However, NOBTS cannot support accommodations that place undue hardship on the Seminary or its resources or which alter the essential requirements of curriculum and academic progress. While the seminary does not provide direct assistance to students in the form of equipment or personnel, accommodations may be made by individual professors at their discretion. These accommodations usually take the form of early access to lecture materials in electronic format and additional time to complete tests and assignments. The most efficient way to pursue such accommodations is to provide the Director of Testing and Counseling (Dr. Jeff Nave, jnave@nobts.edu, 504-282-4455 ext. 8004) with documentation of the condition for which you seek accommodation, an explanation of helpful accommodations received in the past, and a description of the specific accommodations you desire. The Director of Testing and Counseling will document your request and communicate on your behalf with the professors who teach the course(s) for which you are registered. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for “special” accommodations on a case by case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

Diversity

The Counseling Program at NOBTS affirms the Christian doctrinal position that God created man in His own image, and that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. We believe the counseling profession affords our students and graduates the opportunity to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16) whatever their places of service, and that a robust appreciation for and sensitivity to human diversity is key to that end. Further, a learning environment diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. Students and faculty benefit from diversity. The quality of learning, research, scholarship, and creative activities are enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding, and appreciation of the full range of human experience. We are committed to nurturing and training a diverse student body in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of differences. As a result, the counseling program is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society, reflected in our local community, and aligned with the core values of the NOBTS community.

Emergencies:

In cases of emergency, such as hurricanes, disease outbreaks, or other disasters, go to the seminary website (www.nobts.edu) for information. The seminary administration will post information, such as the nature of the emergency, instructions for response, and evacuation and return dates. Please check Canvas for information specific to this course. Because Canvas is available, the course will continue even if the main campus is closed. Please consider registering for the seminary’s priority text messaging service

through [SelfServe](#). This service is used only in emergencies, and will allow the seminary to deliver urgent information to you as needed.

Extra Credit:

No extra credit will be given in this course.

Writing Style

All papers in counseling courses are to be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. Please see the latest edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Canvas or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Late Assignments Policy for Counseling Division Courses

All work is due by 11:59 PM (Central Time Zone) on the due date listed in the syllabus. For this policy, “days” are calendar days from 12:00 AM to 11:59 PM. Work turned in one to seven days late will receive a 10% deduction; work turned in eight to fourteen days late will receive a 20% deduction; work will not be accepted after 14 days. No coursework will be accepted after the last final exam day of the semester as listed in the graduate catalog. In cases of extreme extenuating circumstances, students may appeal to the counseling department faculty for an exception to this policy by completing a form available from the Counseling Division Administrative Assistant.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Center

NOBTS has adopted a Quality Enhancement Plan to improve English writing at the graduate level. As part of this effort, NOBTS has established a writing center located in the Hardin Student Center (290B). Visit the official [NOBTS Writing Center](#) online help site for writing academic papers and essays. You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew. More information about how to set up an appointment for writing assistance is available on the writing center page.

Writing Style

All papers are to be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. Please see the APA Manual 7th edition. Be thorough, and answer completely all the questions in the assignment.

Course Schedule

***The Professor reserves the right to change topics/dates as necessary (see course policies).**

Enc= Encyclopedia of counseling; ACD = Audio CD's

Week #	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	Mon, Aug 14	Study Guides How to End Exam Worries	Thoroughly review the syllabus Enc. = Ch. 1, 2 Discussion Board
2	Mon, Aug 21	In Class Meeting #1 - Advocacy & Practice Management Human Growth & Development	Enc. = Ch.3 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 2, 3) Discussion Board Quiz #1
3	Mon, Aug 28	Social & Cultural Diversity	Enc. = Ch. 4 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 3) Discussion Board Quiz #2
4	Mon, Sep 4	Counseling & Helping Relationships	Enc. = Ch. 5 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 4, 5, 6, 7) Discussion Board Quiz #3
5	Mon, Sep 11	Group Counseling & Group Work	.Enc. = Ch. 6 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 7, 8) Discussion Board Quiz #4
6	Mon, Sep 18	In Class Meeting #2 – Resume Writing & Interviewing Skills CPCE Registration	Assignment: Prepare a current resume and suitable for applying for a counseling position

7	Mon, Sep 25	Career Development	Enc. = Ch. 7 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 8, 9) Discussion Board Quiz #5
8	Mon, Oct 2	Fall Break	
9	Mon, Oct 9	Assessment & Testing	Enc.= Ch. 8 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 9, 10) Discussion Board Quiz #6
10	Mon, Oct 16	Research & Program Evaluation	Enc. = Ch. 9, 10 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 10) Discussion Board Quiz #7
11	Mon, Oct 23	In Class Meeting #3 – Applying for Professional Licensure	Assignment: - Bring organized records of your clinical training – including courses & counseling hours (general, direct, group, individual, couple, and family). - Bring a list of syllabi you have loaded into Tevera for the graduate level counseling courses you have taken. - Review the PLPC requirements prior to attending class.
12	Mon, Oct 30	Professional Development & Ethical Practice Counseling Families, Diagnosis, Neuro-counseling and Advanced Concepts	Enc. = Ch. 10, 11 ACD = Part 1 (Disk 10) Quiz #8 & #9
13	Mon, Nov 6	Overview & Graphical Representations	Enc. Ch. 12 & 13 Discussion Board Quiz #10
14	Mon, Nov 13	In Class Meeting #4 – Integration of Spirituality & Counseling	Assignment: Integration of Spirituality & Counseling Essay: - Write a verbatim of what you would say to explain Christian counseling and the concept of integration in a Christian setting.

			-Write a verbatim of what you would say to explain Christian counseling and the concept of integration in a secular setting. Advocacy Project Due
15	Mon, Nov 20	Thanksgiving Break	
16	Mon, Nov 27	Study for CPCE	Portfolios Materials All Due
	Fri, Dec 1	CPCE – Final Exam	

Selected Bibliography

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Kanel, K. (3rd ed.). (2007). *A guide to crisis intervention*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Lefley, H. P. (2002). Ethical issues in mental health services for culturally diverse communities. In P. Backlar & D. L. Cutler, *Ethics in community mental health care: Commonplace concerns* (pp. 3-22). New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

McMinn, M. & Meek, K. (2013). "Training Programs." In R. Saunders, *Ethics and the Christian mental health professional*. Downers Grove, IL.: InterVarsity Press.

MacCluskie, K.C., & Ingersoll, R.E. (2001). *Becoming a 21st century agency counselor*. Belmont: Wadsworth.

Seligman, L. (3rd ed.). (2004). *Diagnosis and treatment planning in counseling*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Press.

Palmo, A. J., Weikel, W. J., & Borsos, D.P. (4thed.). (2011). *Foundations of mental health counseling*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Pub.

Rosenberg, J. & Rosenberg, S. (2nd ed). (2012). *Community mental health: Challenges for the 21st century*. New York: Routledge.

Yalom, I.D. (2002). *The gift of therapy: an open letter to a new generation of therapists and their patients*. New York: HarperCollins.