

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CRIS 605

CRISIS AND FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING: SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide a foundation of the theoretical concepts and practical applications of crisis response and critical incidents, taking into account topics such as: intervention models and their efficacy and the consequential effects of critical incident stress and trauma on the life of an individual, group and organization.

RATIONALE

Over 80% of Americans will be exposed to a traumatic event and experience significant distress due to a critical incident. Crises can create significant impairment in nearly half of those exposed and the potential to develop posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which increases in certain groups (disaster workers, military, law enforcement, rape and violent crime victims, etc.). In addition to that are personal crises that impact a person's ability to function in everyday life and affect their relationships with their spouse, family, co-workers, friends and church members. Crisis response and crisis counseling are designed to mitigate the effects of post-traumatic stress, critical incident stress and personal crises on individuals, groups, and organizations. This class provides the information needed to develop a foundational understanding of those techniques and interventions.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio and video equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Articulate a theoretical understanding of what constitutes a crisis and the critical incident stress that ensues;
- B. Explain the various types of crises and the unique effects on an individual's body, mind, emotions, and spiritual state;
- C. Explain and differentiate between critical incident stress management and long-term crisis counseling;
- D. Compare and contrast various types of crisis counseling and psychological first aid intervention models and techniques;
- E. Explain and discuss specific issues related to crises including: suicide, grief, death notification, children and adolescents, posttraumatic stress and posttraumatic stress disorder;
- F. Analyze and apply the social components of crisis, considering the importance of family and social support following a crisis;
- G. Examine, discuss, and integrate all issues, theories, assumptions, materials, etc., presented in the course in accord with current scholarly standards and practices;
- H. Examine, discuss, and integrate all issues, theories, assumptions, materials, etc., presented in the course through the lens of Scripture.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings
Reading the assigned textbooks will also serve as resources for your paper.
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)
The student will post a Discussion Board thread to the 4 questions posed by the instructor and will write 2+ replies to his/her classmates' threads. These threads and replies will be worth a total of 200 points.
- D. Essay Responses (2)
The student will respond to the assigned questions, citing 3–5 scholarly sources. Their paper must be in APA format and 3–5 pages in length (excluding references). The Essay Responses will be worth 150 points each (300 points total).

E. 4-MAT Book Review

The student will write a 4-MAT book review of Norm Wright’s book, *The Complete Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling: What to Do and Say When It Matters Most!*. The 4-MAT Book Review instructions are provided in the course. The paper must follow proper APA format. This will be worth 200 points.

F. Research Paper

Utilizing information presented in this course, as well as theoretical and practical elements from academic and Christian sources, the student will compile an original paper of at least 12–15 pages of body text, in APA style, which summarizes their understanding of the nature and causes of trauma in general, as well as one specific type of trauma. address factors necessary for successfully coping with the effects of trauma, and spiritual and professional approaches to treatment. A minimum of 15 scholarly sources is required in addition to the course textbooks if the student chooses to cite these. The student’s grade will be assigned based on quality of content, how well APA guidelines are adhered to, the richness of citations utilized, quality of expression, and biblical integration presented. This will be worth 300 points.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Threads and Replies	200
Essay Responses	300
4-MAT Book Review	200
Research Paper	300
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 679 and below

C. Tests/Exams

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit a penalty of 1 point may be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module/week. Late submissions will be penalized at 5% per day, cumulative, with no test/exam being accepted seven (7) days after the original due date without written approval from the professor. Whenever possible, this approval must be sought prior to the test/exam due date.

D. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory

capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

E. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CRIS 605

Textbooks: Hoff et al., *People in Crisis* (2009).
Wright, *The Complete Guide to Crisis & Trauma Counseling* (2012).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Hoff et al.: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
2	Hoff et al.: chs. 3–4 2 presentations	Topic for Research Paper Essay Response 1	0 150
3	Wright: chs. 1–3 2 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
4	Hoff et al.: ch. 5 Wright: chs. 7–9 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	50
5	Wright: ch. 12 Hoff et al.: chs. 9–10 2 presentations	Essay Response 2	150
6	Wright: chs. 16–20 1 presentation	4-MAT Book Review	200
7	Hoff et al.: ch. 13; pp.469–485 Wright: ch. 11 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	50
8	Wright: Conclusion 2 presentations	Research Paper	300
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.