

**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***

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### **PACO 507**

#### **THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY IN COUNSELING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of the content, comprehensiveness, and validity of several counseling theories that have been developed by prominent Christian counselors.

#### **RATIONALE**

Counselors may find assistance with the development of higher levels of competency when they understand the content of and identify the strengths and weaknesses of several well-known approaches to counseling proposed by Christian authors and practitioners.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

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

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

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/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Estimate the content and strengths/weaknesses of some of the more prominent Christian counseling theories and approaches, including, but not limited to, those in the required texts.
- B. Demonstrate ability to synthesize a personal theory of counseling that rests on a solid theological/psychological/spiritual foundation.
- C. Articulate the contributions of psychology, theology, and spirituality to the development of a comprehensive model of Christian counseling.
- D. Describe the value of multitasking for developing counselor competence.

- E. Explain the formula for change in the counseling methodology of each author of each text.
- F. Articulate the value of good theology for the development of mental health in Christians.
- G. Explain the role of biblical integration in the development of a Christian model of counseling.
- H. Explain the concept and value of responsible eclecticism.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- 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 (2)

The student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200 words.

D. Comparison Papers (4)

The student will write 4 comparison papers throughout the progression of this course. Each paper must be 5–7 pages and be in current APA format. The paper must include at least 3–5 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

E. Personal Theory Paper

The student will write a 10–12-page Personal Theory Paper in current APA format that will focus on the theories of the required authors, as well as the creation of the student’s own personal theory. In preparation to this final submission, the student will submit a reference page and a working outline of his/her personal theory paper in earlier modules/weeks. The paper must include at least 8–10 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Comparison Papers (4 at 150 pts ea)	600
Personal Theory Paper	
Reference Page	20
Outline	30
Final	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1011010</b>

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

4. 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.
5. 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](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**PACO 507**

Textbooks: Benner, *Surrender to Love* (2015).  
 Crabb, *Effective Biblical Counseling* (1977).  
 Powlison, *The Biblical Counseling Movement* (2010).  
 Wilson, *Hurt People Hurt People* (2015).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Crabb: chs. 1–5 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions	10 0
<b>2</b>	Crabb: chs. 6–10 2 presentation	Comparison Paper 1	150
<b>3</b>	Powlison: chs. 5–7 2 presentations	Comparison Paper 2	150
<b>4</b>	Powlison: Appendix 2 and 4 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Personal Theory Paper: Reference Page	100 20
<b>5</b>	Wilson: entire work 1 presentation	Comparison Paper 3	150
<b>6</b>	1 presentation 2 websites	DB Forum 2 Personal Theory Paper: Outline	100 30
<b>7</b>	Benner: entire work 1 presentation	Comparison Paper 4	150
<b>8</b>	Review Course Material 1 presentation	Personal Theory Paper: Final	150
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1011010</b>

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.