

Houston Graduate School of Theology
COU/PC 640 Grief Counseling
Fall 2019
Wednesday 6:00-8:30pm
Rev. Jerry L. Terrill, DSM, LPC-S, LMFT–S
Director of Masters Counseling Program
Professor of Counseling
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Houston Graduate School of Theology equips women and men to be ministers and messengers of God's mission of reconciliation through academic excellence, personal transformation, and leadership development.

I. Course Description

The class will provide an introduction to the history and study of death and dying, grief, and bereavement. It will include the development of major clinical, theoretical, and spiritual positions with attention to the individual, family, community, institutions, and church. Special attention will be given to the process of living, dying, death, grief, and bereavement. This will include individual, group, family, institutional, community, pastoral, and spiritual aspects of the counseling process.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

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

- A. Develop a personal theory and approach to the subject of Thanatology. (MAC-1, 2, 3, 4, 5); (MDiv-2, 3). Final semester paper.
- B. Create coping skills in grief work. (MAC-2, 4, 5); (MDiv-2, 3). “Good Grief” text.
- C. Discuss the techniques to use the task-based approach to death and dying. (MAC-1, 2, 3, 4, 5); (MDiv-2, 3, 4, 8). Worden – Ch.’s 8, 9, 10.
- D. Understand, with sensitivity, the individual’s experiences at the different points in the bereavement process. (MAC-1, 3, 4, 5); (MDiv-2, 3, 4). James - Ch.’s 9, 10, 11.
- E. Recall counseling techniques with special emphasis on cultural differences to death and dying. (MAC-5); (MDiv-2, 3, 4, 8). Worden Ch.’s 8, 9; Kelley- entire book.
- F. Utilize a theoretical orientation to helping with death-related experiences, including self, others, families, groups, institutions, and communities. (MAC – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); (MDiv – 2, 3, 4, 8). Worden Ch.’s 1, 3, 4, 8, 10.
- G. Experience an appreciation of moral, ethical, religious, and spiritual values about living, dying, death, grief, and bereavement. (MAC-3); (MDiv-4, 5, 8). Kellemen, Kelly, Worden.
- H. Select a biblical/spiritual/theological approach to the subject of grief counseling. (MAC-3, 4, 5); (MDiv-6). Kellemen – Entire book.
- I. Organize the important lessons about life and living, the search for meaning, and living a life of authentic existence from a Christian perspective. (MAC-2, 3, 5, 6); (MDiv-2, 3, 8). Lecture: Frankl “Man’s Search for Meaning”. James. Lecture notes.
- J. Point out the ability of the minister/counselor to communicate effectively about death related matters. (MAC-3); (MDiv-8). Kelly Ch.’s 5, 6.

- K. Relate a theory of human development across the human life span and how this affects different age groups spiritually, physically, and psychologically. (MAC-1, 2); (MDiv-8). Kelly Ch. 3; Worden Ch.'s. 2, 3, 8.

III. Required Texts

Kellemen, Robert W. (2010) *God's Healing for Life's Losses: How to find Hope when You're Hurting*. Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books. ISBN: 978-0-88469-270-6

Kelly, Melissa M. (2010) *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. (Paperback and Kindle) ISBN 978-0-8006-9661-0

Westberg, Granger E. (2010) *Good Grief, 50th Anniversary Gift Edition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. ISBN: 9780800697815

Worden, J. William. (2009) *Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy: A Handbook*, 4th edition. New York: Springer Publishing Co. (Paperback and Kindle). ISBN-10: 0826101208; ISBN-13: 978-0826101204

Recommended Resource:

Corless, Inger, Barbara B. Germino, and Mary A. Pittman, eds. (2006) *Dying, Death, and Bereavement*, 2nd edition. New York: Springer Publishing Co. (Paperback) ISBN-10: 0826126561; ISBN-13: 978-0826126566

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Take one's turn in leading a short meditation relevant to the spirituality of pastoral care giving and client needs at the beginning of class.
- B. Prepare weekly assignments, including critical thinking reflection exercises from each chapter, and case studies.
- C. Periodic quizzes and related items to give practice in dealing with the State Licensing Exam.
- D. Students will participate in numerous role-plays and class discussions.
- E. Students will be required to present assigned chapters in class and provide a handout.
- F. Final Assignment: Two copies, double-spaced, 5-7 pages, 12-point font.
- G. Students may develop a theory-based paper based on the textbooks and primary research.

H. Student Workload Expectations – Total 135Hours

- Class time –45 hours
- Reading – (Kelleman 130 @ 20/hr = 7; Kelly 160 @ 20/hr = 8; Granger 64 @ 20/hr – 3; Worden 314 @ 20/hr = 17. Total reading = 35 hours.
- 4 Critical Book Reviews Essays: 5 pages each in the Body = 20 Pages at 1.5 pages per hour = 30 hours.
- Quizzes – Eight at 30 minutes each preparation time. = 4 Hours
- Presentation preparation – 2 Hours and Weekly assignments; 4 Hours (Role-plays/Counseling demonstrations) for a total of 6 Hours.
- Final Paper 8 – 10 Pages at 1.5 hr. = 15 hours.

V. Grading Scale

Final grades are determined by the following:

- 20% Weekly Assignments; Attendance/Participation; Role Play Assignments.
- 20% Final Paper/Research Project - 5 pages (body)
- 20% Quizzes
- 40% Critical Book Review: Kelleman, Kelly, Granger, Worden

VI. Policies

- A. Regular attendance and regular submission of assignments on due dates in the syllabus is expected. The following guidelines have been approved for inclusion in all HGST syllabi and reflect standards for all courses:

- Fall/Spring semester 15-session course – 3-absence maximum
- Summer term 8-session course – 1-absence maximum (equals 4 hours).
- 6-session hybrid – 1-absence maximum
- 4-session hybrid – 0-absence maximum

If a student reaches the designated number of absences, the student will no longer be allowed to stay in the class. The student does have the opportunity to appeal to the Academic Dean and should assume responsibility for scheduling that meeting as soon as possible.

- B. Work is expected on the due date. Students should expect a grade reduction of up to one letter grade on late papers. (Each faculty member should decide the consequences to apply to late work.)

- C. **Turnitin.com: Class: Grief**

Password: Terrill640

ID: 21377437

Assignments turned in without using Turnitin are subject to a full letter grade reduction. Hard copy required.

- D. Writing assignments, for MAC students, should conform to APA standards, especially for guidelines on submission of academic papers. (See Purdue OWL: APA Formatting and Style Guide @owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/).
- E. The student should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student **not** use presentation or report binders or folders. He prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.
- F. Regular attendance and regular submission of assignments on due dates in the syllabus is expected. The following guidelines have been approved for inclusion in all HGST syllabi and reflect standards for all courses:

- Fall/Spring semester 15-session course – 3-absence maximum
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If a student reaches the designated number of absences, the student will no longer be allowed to stay in the class. The student does have the opportunity to appeal to the Academic Dean and should assume responsibility for scheduling that meeting as soon as possible.

1. All written assignments are subject to required submission to www.turnitin.com to check for originality and style. The assignments that are required for submission will be described in the syllabus.
 2. Students will create an account at www.turnitin.com. After doing so, the student will join the course page with the code and password supplied by the instructor. A list of assignments and due dates will be available on the course page.
 3. Students will submit assignments by the due date and time, but they will still submit the assignments in a hard copy format. (If the faculty prefers not to have a hard copy submitted, he or she may choose to alter this section of the syllabus.)
- G. Electronic Equipment Usage in Classrooms
It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.
- H. *Please review the Academic Catalog for policies regarding Incompletes and Plagiarism. For more information on HGST and area Library Services, please download the Library Handbook from the HGST website.*

VII. Notes for Writing Assignments

- A. Writing assignments, for MAC students, should conform to APA standards, especially for guidelines on submission of academic papers. (See Purdue OWL: APA Formatting and Style Guide @ owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/). MDiv students may use Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th Edition. This includes matters of style and format.
- B. The instructor requires the use of footnotes for documentation. Margins should be one inch on all four sides.
- C. The student should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student **not** use presentation or report binders or folders. He prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.
- D. Critical or formal writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly. Failure to do so will be penalized.
 1. Avoid 1st or 2nd person references (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.
 2. Never use contractions.
 3. Avoid passive voice construction (i.e., The student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.
 4. Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.

5. Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Dr. Terrill does not tolerate misspelled words. Failure to spellcheck will result in a substantive reduction on the grade for written assignments.
6. Grammar check works as well!
7. All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.
8. Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.

VIII. Class Reading and Study schedule

Selected readings should be completed prior to class discussion on the topic

DATE	READING	TOPIC	COMMENTS
Wednesday 8/28	Introduction Chapter 1 - Worden	Learning about Death, Dying, and Bereavement Introduction to Grief Worden	
Wednesday 9/04	Discussion: Good Grief Chapters 1 - Worden	Grief: Contemporary Theory – Ministry Critical Review “ Good Grief” - Granger	
Monday 9/11	Kelly Chapters 2 - Worden	Dying	
Wednesday 9/18	Kelly Ch. 3 - Worden	Bereavement Grief – Ministry	
Monday 9/25	Chapter 4 – Worden Kelly	Grief - Ministry	
Wednesday 10/02	Chapter 5 – Worden Kelleman	Grief Counseling Critical Book Review – 5 pages – Kelly	
Monday 10/09	Chapter 6– Worden Kelleman	Developmental Perspectives Grief and Family Systems	
Wednesday 10/16	Chapter 7 (Worden & Kelleman)	Grieving Special Types	
Wednesday 10/ 23	Chapter 7 - Worden	A Recent, personal Death, Dying, or Bereavement, Experience Critical book Review - Kelleman	
Wednesday 10/30	Chapter 8 – Worden	Midterm	
Wednesday 11/06	Chapter 9 - Worden		
Wednesday 11/13	Chapter 10 Training - Worden	Critical Book Review Worden	
Wednesday 11/27		Thanksgiving Break	
Wednesday 12/04	Presentation of Papers	Papers Due Final Thoughts	
Wednesday 12/11		Final Exam	

The professor of record reserves the right to adjust classroom topics as the course develops.

We will have numerous guest speakers and a tour of a funeral home.

Suggested topics for oral presentations with written paper:

- ◇ You have been asked to speak on the topic: “Death in America: The Past 150 Years.” Your task in this essay is to discuss the salient aspects of this topic. Identify and describe the major points that should be covered.

- ◇ Explore any cemetery, preferably one with old as well as new sections. Take pictures and select 10-12 slides to make a “photo essay” of your experience.
- ◇ Attend a religious service or funeral. In a two-page essay, describe the experience, reflect on what you observed analyze what you learned and relate it to class readings.
- ◇ Describe the symptoms of grief and how you might show your support to a grieving friend or client.
- ◇ You are concerned a friend may be suicidal. Describe your friend’s symptoms and the steps that you could take to try to help.

IX. Participation and Evaluation

This course is conducted as a professional seminar. Full attendance and informed participation, as well as leadership in areas of your own professional interest, are expected and required.

If, in the rare circumstance, you must be absent for a session, please inform the professor.

Criterion - Individual Paper(s) or Case Study	Points Possible	Points Earned
Content - 60%		
Academic Introduction	5	
Connection to Counseling and/or Pastoral Care Ministry	15	
Connection to Biblical, Theological, Spiritual, and Historical Foundations	15	
Intergration of the Above Subjects	20	
Conclusion	5	
Grammar and Formatting - 25%		
Grammar and evidence of editing	10	
Turabian/APA formatting	5	
Citations used appropriately	5	
Organization of paper	5	
Fulfillment of Assignment - 15%		
Length of paper as assigned	5	
Submitted to Turnitin.com	5	
Submitted by deadline	5	
	100	0
Total	Grade	
	Due Date	
	Points Earned	Grade Points
Comments	98 - 100	A
	97 - 94	A-
	93 - 91	B+
	90 - 88	B
	87 - 86	B-
	85 - 83	C+
	82 - 79	C
	78 - 76	C-
	75 - 70	D
	0-69	F