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The mission of Genesis is to prepare humble hearts to begin again. Our vision is to empower our graduates to fulfill God-sized dreams according to his purpose.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an examination of biblical counseling, including comparison to secular counseling and so-called Christian counseling and makes the case that biblical counseling is the only valid approach to counseling. Special attention is placed on the biblical theologies that must guide every biblical counselor in delivering God's words of instruction without the corruption of godless, deficient philosophies and methods.

### I. Prerequisites

None

### II. Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Recite from memory: 2 Peter 1:3
- Define biblical counseling
- Contrast biblical counseling with Christian and secular counseling
- Explain each of the theologies presented by Lambert
- Articulate the power of salvation for healing and recovery
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the relationships between biblical counseling and the core theologies of the Bible
- Critically assess the book, *Making Sense of God* by Timothy Keller
- Analyze a real-world case and use biblical theologies to determine God's perspective
- Create a thesis statement from a passage of Scripture and assemble support for it from the text and your knowledge of biblical counseling
- Derive from multiple theological perspectives a clear understanding of a real-world case and analyze its likely cause and solutions
- Break down suffering by category and salvation by component

- Synthesize a comprehensive view of God using a keyword/key phrase search of Scripture and with this view in mind, critically assess the potential impact God has on our life
- Compose a psalm that comprehensively expresses heart transformation (with Scriptural support)

### III. Required Resources

Keller, Timothy. *Making Sense of God*. New York: Penguin, 2016. Print.

Lambert, Heath. *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016. Print.

A reader consisting of Dr. John Kwasny's "Biblical Counseling Today" podcasts will be provided for season 1 episodes.

Audio podcasts are available at [BCTministries.com](http://BCTministries.com) or (for inmates) through Securus.

### IV. Recommended Resources

### V. Course Requirements and Assignments

#### A. Scripture Memorization

You will be memorizing 2 Peter 1:3 in this course. God's Word is central to the life of every Christian, guiding and directing decisions, behaviors, values, and vision. Therefore, Genesis requires learners to memorize Scripture throughout their programs. Invest time every day to hide God's Word in your heart.

#### B. Learning Activities

You are required to respond to the questions in each learning module – foundational knowledge and practical integration/application. Answer the questions thoroughly using the material from the module's reading assignments. Your answer will be graded using the "Scoring Rubric for Seminary Writing Responses" in the *Genesis Writer's Manual*.

#### C. Book Critique

You will submit a critical evaluation of Keller's *Making Sense of God*. The Book Critique, which is due at the end of Module 3, must be a minimum of 1000 words and must conform to MLA standards. See "How to Write Book Critiques" in the *Genesis Writer's Manual* for additional help.

**Instructions:**

Include three elements in your critique.

*Part 1:* A short synopsis that summarizes the content of the book including a relevant description of the author's perspective or purpose.

*Part 2:* A critical assessment of the content, including 1) what strikes you as noteworthy, 2) whether or not the book is effective or persuasive, and 3) how it enhanced your understanding of the issues at hand.

*Part 3:* An action plan that outlines how you will put into practice what you've just learned.

**Submission Requirements and Due Date**

The Book Critique is due at the conclusion of Module 3. Grading will be based upon the "Book Critique Scoring Rubric" (see *Genesis Writer's Manual*). The Book Critique is worth 200 points.

**D. Portfolio Project****Introduction**

Each master's course at GCS requires students to create a project that contributes to his or her Ministry Portfolio. A Ministry Portfolio is a usable, functioning body of work which demonstrates student leadership skill knowledge and abilities. The Portfolio Project is worth 250 points.

For this project you will create a guide for applying counseling doctrine. Your guide will assist counselors in developing a counseling plan by evaluating six common counseling *scenarios* and applying the *theologies* (from Lambert) below to them.

**1. Summarize the theologies** (in 150 words maximum for each)

- Common grace
- God
- Christ
- Holy Spirit
- Humanity
- Sin
- Suffering

- Salvation

## **2. Explain how the theologies apply**

Below are six example counseling scenarios. For each scenario, choose at least three theologies and explain how they apply. Support your applications of theology with Scripture references.

### *Example Scenarios*

1. A young child has been diagnosed with cancer. Her parents who are believers are distraught and cannot understand why God would allow their child to be stricken.
2. A woman has recently been saved, but her live-in partner who is also the father of their two young children has not. He is okay with the status quo, but she feels the Holy Spirit's conviction and wants to marry him.
3. A single mother from your church is struggling financially. She has some dependencies – cigarettes and unhealthy reliance on fast food during the work week when she's too tired to cook. She resents her unbelieving coworkers who seem to be financially prosperous despite their godlessness.
4. An elderly couple has marital problems. They harbor a lifetime of unresolved hurts as grudges. They blame each other and seem ready to divorce.
5. A man in his twenties and recently discharged from the Navy loves Jesus, but is uncertain that he knows God's will for his life. He seeks counsel on how to hear from God. He rarely reads his Bible and seems a bit defensive when challenged to do so.
6. A man in the church is asking for help. He says he is addicted to adult pictures on the internet. His wife caught him. He said his wife's nagging makes him so mad he has lost his desire for her, claiming that feeding his picture addiction is the only thing keeping him from being verbally abusive of her.

Note – your goal is not to resolve the problems in the scenarios, but rather to lead counselors to choose the most appropriate theologies, supporting your selection of theologies with an explanation. Your explanations should be 120 words (max) per scenario. You must use

each theology at least once. Some theologies will be used more than once.

**Suggestions:**

The theologies you will need to know for this project are presented in Modules 1-5. To make progress on the project, start with an outline, applying the theologies to the scenarios as appropriate and as you learn them. Do your actual writing in week 6. Module 6 is a lighter module and does not contain material necessary for your project.

Alternatively, you can read the Lambert book early in the course and begin writing your project text sooner.

**E. Final Exam**

The Final Exam consists of material from the module presentations and assigned reading. The purpose of the exam is to measure your knowledge of course material.

A Final Exam Review is presented in Module 6 to help prepare you for the test. The exam will be administered after all 6 modules have been completed.

Remember: You will be required to write out your Scripture Memory verse on the Final Exam. The Final Exam is worth 100 points.