

**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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### **COUN 604**

#### **CRISIS COUNSELING AND BRIEF THERAPY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of the theory and practice of crisis intervention and approaches to brief therapy.

#### **RATIONALE**

The course of life seldom proceeds smoothly, with trauma and crises affecting nearly everyone. Without addressing the effects of these issues, quality of life suffers greatly and may deteriorate to a point where normal developmental and emotional progress is impeded or negatively altered. It is incumbent upon the counseling practitioner to develop a theoretical rationale and a course of action that will aid the client in regaining control of these aspects of their life.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

None

#### **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
- 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. Define and trace the history of the discipline of counseling known as crisis intervention.
- B. Review the recognized theoretical approaches to crisis intervention in light of a biblical perspective.
- C. Be exposed to the more common crises that counselors face today.
- D. Illustrate the process of crisis intervention by means of case studies.
- E. Be able to locate the primary crisis referral sources in their community.
- F. Become conversant with Brief therapy and its application.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*Note: Requirements marked with \*\* should be kept in the student’s portfolio if the student is in the School Counseling program of the School of Education.*

- A. Textbook readings  
(The assigned textbooks will also serve as resources for the student’s paper.)
- B. Discussion Board forums (4)  
  
The student will submit four new Discussion Board threads (35 points each) and four replies (15 points each) to his/her classmates’ original threads for a total of 200 points toward the student’s final grade. One thread will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Wednesday of each assigned module/week, and one reply will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the same module/week.
- C. \*\*Crises in Movies (3)  
  
Each student will view three movies and complete a 3–4-page critique of each movie exploring the nature of the crisis presented. The student will then suggest steps for alleviating the crisis, teaching coping skills, and developing resiliency. These assignments will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned modules/weeks.
- D. \*\*Community Referral Notebook  
  
Each student will develop a notebook of referral sources for their community. The notebook should deal with the various types of crises that may be experienced by that community. Please see the Community Referral Notebook Guidelines and Grading Rubric for additional information on this assignment. This assignment will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 7.
- E. Research Paper  
  
Each student will write a paper summarizing his or her approach to crisis intervention from a biblical perspective. The paper must be balanced with both biblical bases and theoretical perspectives. This paper should be 12–15 pages of body text with at least 15 current references (within the last five years) and follow APA style guidelines. Please see the Research Paper Guidelines for additional information on this assignment. This assignment will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 7.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points	
DB Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Crises in Movies (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Community Referral Notebook	200
Research Paper	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1000 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. Late Policy

Papers/projects:

1. 5% deduction per day.
2. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
3. Discussion Boards:  
 No Discussion Board posts accepted after DB has closed without prior permission of professor. Late posts will not be factored into DB grade.

If the professor grants students permission to submit posts after the DB has closed the following requirements apply:

- a. 5% deduction per day.
- b. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
- c. Professor may require alternate assignment if Discussion Board has closed. These assignments must be completed within terms of late policy. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date.

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 5 points will be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module. A 5% deduction from the tests final grade will be assigned for each day the test is late.
3. No test will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to tests 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. Assignment Submission Guidelines

1. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a fair and level playing field for all students, so that they may receive the maximum grade for work submitted. Please remember that graduate level classes have higher standards and requirements than undergrad, and require greater attention to detail and more careful adherence to requirements.
2. Students should be sure they submit in Microsoft Word format. It is their responsibility to be sure that the submitted file is able to be opened and read by the instructor. Failure to follow this and the following guidelines may result in penalties.
3. Students should be sure that no reserved characters are used in the title of the submitted file (#, \$, @, etc.). This will result in the file being unable to be opened and graded.
4. Any deliberate attempt to submit an assignment that cannot be opened and graded in order to buy time will result in penalties up to and including a zero on the assignment.
5. Students should be sure that all submissions have been proofread carefully as graduate level work requires good grammar and APA skills. Points are deducted for errors in either.
6. Students should be sure that the assignment guidelines are consulted and followed. It is their responsibility to submit what has been required. Points are deducted for not following instructions.

7. Students should be sure all assignments are submitted on time. Late submissions will result in penalties.
8. Students must always treat their classmates and instructor with respect.
9. This class is not a forum for opinions that are not relevant to the course content. Students should adhere to the purpose required for each assignment. Going off on a tangent will result in losing points.
10. Students should be sure that all sources are cited correctly. Plagiarism, even due to ignorance, is unacceptable in graduate education. The rule of thumb is to provide the source of everything that did not originate with the student.

G. 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.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **COUN 604**

Textbooks: Jackson-Cherry & Erford, *Crisis Intervention and Prevention* (2010).  
Wright, *The Complete Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling* (2011).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: chs. 1–2 Wright: ch. 1–3	Course Requirements Checklist DB Forum 1	0 50
<b>2</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: ch. 3 Wright: chs. 7–9	Crises in Movies 1	100
<b>3</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: ch. 4 Wright: chs. 4–6	DB Forum 2	50
<b>4</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: ch. 5 Wright: chs. 14–15	Crises in Movies 2	100
<b>5</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: ch. 6 Wright: chs. 10–11	DB Forum 3	50
<b>6</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: ch. 7 Wright: chs. 12–13	Crises in Movies 3	100
<b>7</b>	Jackson-Cherry & Erford: chs. 8–9	Community Referral Notebook Research Paper	200 300
<b>8</b>	Wright: chs. 16–20	DB Forum 4	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</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.