

**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 611**

#### **COUNSELING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The developmental and psychological needs and problems of children are examined through the analysis of personality types and family structure. Counseling techniques (e.g. play therapy) for children are also examined.

#### **RATIONALE**

COUN 611 is a graduate course in the development and counseling of children. America's children are the focus of growing concern because of increasing rates of divorce, separation, and the fragmentation of cohabitative relationships. In addition, they are the victims of physical, sexual, emotional, and verbal abuse. This specific course is offered in an eight-week format. It includes extensive readings, interactions with children/parents, a research paper, and interactions with other students via a discussion board.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

COUN 501, 502

#### **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/video output 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. Describe the different dynamics that interfere in a child's normal physical and emotional development.
- B. Assess the impact of environmental, cultural, religious influences to the healthy development of children.
- C. Develop a framework, including Biblical truths, of the counseling process for children.
- D. Evaluate the different theoretical approaches to child therapy.

- E. Explain the ethical and legal issues associated with counseling the child and family.
- F. Assess the attributes of all major therapeutic approaches.
- G. Discuss the special topics associated with counseling the child.
- H. Integrate theoretical approaches with therapeutic approaches.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Discussion Board forums (6)

There are six graded Discussion Board forums throughout the course. The purpose of these Discussion Board forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics. Students are required to submit one thread of 400–450 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday of the assigned module/week. Students will then submit two substantive replies of 200–250 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the same module/week. Students must support each thread assertion with at least two citations in APA format. Students must support each reply with at least one source. Acceptable sources include the textbook or scholarly journals.

- C. Interview Checkpoints (2)

Students must submit brief sentences as checkpoints before beginning the interview assignments for this course.

Students must submit the name of the teacher with whom they have scheduled to meet, along with the time and place, by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 1.

Students must submit the name of the counselor with whom they have scheduled to meet, along with the time and place, by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 4.

- D. School Bullying Interview Questions

Students are to seek out an elementary school teacher to interview. They are to research school bullying to help formulate 15 interview questions. The purpose is for students to gain an understanding of what is occurring in schools today and how aware teachers are of bullying, in both the school and in the cyber world. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 2.

- E. School Bullying Paper

Students will summarize their interview findings and compare and contrast the answers with a minimum of five empirical research studies. Students' findings must be combined into a 3-5 page paper. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 3.

F. Therapist Interview Questions

Students are to seek out a child therapist to interview. They are to use their reading of Golden's case studies to formulate 15 interview questions. The purpose is for students to gain a greater and more applicable understanding of counseling children. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 5.

G. Therapist Paper

Students will expound upon their interview questions and findings in a 3-5 page paper. They are to describe ethical dilemmas and biblical integration that the counselor has experienced and/or used in his/her practice. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 7.

H. Research Paper

Students are to choose a counseling topic related to Counseling Children with Special Concerns or Disabilities and research empirically-based approaches to counseling children with that specific need. Students must include at least 10 relevant journal articles in the paper. The paper must be 10-12 pages in length and include a title page, abstract, and reference page. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

I. Quizzes (8)

All quizzes will be open-book (from the Henderson & Thompson textbook) and open-notes. Quizzes 1–7 will include a total of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions and have a time limit of 90 minutes. Quiz 8 consists of 25 multiple-choice and true/false questions and has a 45-minute time limit. Quizzes will cover the information studied throughout the specified module/week and are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned module/week, except for Quiz 8, which is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

|                                          |             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Discussion Board forums (6 at 50 pts ea) | 300         |
| Interview Checkpoints (2 at 10 pts ea)   | 20          |
| School Bullying Interview Questions      | 10          |
| School Bullying Paper                    | 40          |
| Therapist Interview Questions            | 10          |
| Therapist Paper                          | 70          |
| Research Paper                           | 150         |
| Quizzes (8 at 50 pts ea)                 | 400         |
| <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. Policies

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 instructor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
3. Discussion Boards:  
No Discussion Board posts will be accepted after the Discussion Board has closed without prior permission of instructor. Late posts will not be factored into Discussion Board grades.

If the instructor grants students permission to submit posts after the Discussion Board 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 instructor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
- c. The Instructor 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/week. 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 instructor. This approval must be sought prior to tests due date.

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 his/her community.

#### 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.

#### D. 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 611**

Textbooks: Henderson & Thompson, *Counseling Children* (2007).  
Golden, *Case Studies in Child and Adolescent Counseling* (2002).

| <b>WEEK/<br/>MODULE</b> | <b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>                                                         | <b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>                                                                             | <b>POINTS</b>       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 1–2<br>1 presentation                                   | Course Requirements Checklist<br>DB Forum 1<br>Interview Checkpoint: School Bullying<br>Quiz 1 | 0<br>50<br>10<br>50 |
| <b>2</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 3–4<br>1 presentation                                   | DB Forum 2<br>School Bullying Interview Questions<br>Quiz 2                                    | 50<br>10<br>50      |
| <b>3</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 5–7<br>Golden: chs. 2–4, 6, 8, 11, 16<br>1 presentation | DB Forum 3<br>School Bullying Paper<br>Quiz 3                                                  | 50<br>40<br>50      |
| <b>4</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 8–10<br>Golden: chs. 6, 9, 11<br>1 presentation         | DB Forum 4<br>Interview Checkpoint: Therapist<br>Quiz 4                                        | 50<br>10<br>50      |
| <b>5</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 11–13<br>Golden: ch. 6<br>1 presentation                | DB Forum 5<br>Therapist Interview Questions<br>Quiz 5                                          | 50<br>10<br>50      |
| <b>6</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 14–16<br>1 presentation                                 | DB Forum 6<br>Quiz 6                                                                           | 50<br>50            |
| <b>7</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 17–18<br>1 presentation                                 | Therapist Paper<br>Quiz 7                                                                      | 70<br>50            |
| <b>8</b>                | Henderson & Thompson: chs. 19–20<br>1 presentation                                 | Research Paper<br>Quiz 8                                                                       | 150<br>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.