

COURSE SYLLABUS

Care and Counseling in Correctional Ministry

Course Lecturers: Multiple Lecturers, Coordinated by Karen Swanson, EdD

Course Description

Welcome to *Care and Counseling in Correctional Ministry*, an online undergraduate-level course which will provide an introduction to the unique challenges and strategies involved in care and counseling within a correctional setting as presented by correctional staff, the incarcerated and the families of offenders. Focus will be given to an introductory knowledge of the problems of human suffering, biblical foundations for care in ministry, rudimentary person-to-person helping skills, as well as general counseling theories and techniques applicable to the correctional setting. Consideration will be given to ethical issues, knowing one's limits of competence and knowledge, and of when and to whom one should refer.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Balance compassion and care within a corrections environment.
- Access personal giftedness and preparedness for addressing counseling challenges within a correctional setting.
- Describe an integrative approach to counseling which combines psychology, theology and spirituality.
- Explain how to apply various spiritual formation practices in counseling sessions.
- Develop and practice core helping skills essential for effective pastoral care and counsel.
- Demonstrate motivational interviewing skills.
- Explore ethical issues and professional limits of pastoral care and counsel and identify available resources for partnering.
- Identify strategies for common counseling areas with inmates and staff.
- Research a counseling topic of inmates or staff and provide strategies for healing.

Course Lecturers

Multiple lecturers, each an expert in the topic covered, contributed to this course. The course was edited by Dr. Karen Swanson.



Karen Swanson, EdD

Education:

- Northern Illinois University, EdD
- Western Michigan University, MA
- Calvin College, BS
- Cornerstone University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Correctional Ministries, Christian University GlobalNet
- Faculty member, Christian Formation and Ministry Department, Wheaton College

Other Career Highlights:

- Director of the Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM), Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College
- Overseer of Charles W. Colson scholarship program at IPM
- Christian Association for Prisoner Aftercare Advisory Board
- Developer, Correctional Ministries courses at Wheaton College and Christian University GlobalNet
- Executive director, LifeHouse Ministries reentry program
- Certified in Justice Ministries, Motivational Interviewing, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Bridges Out of Poverty, Truthought, and Anger Management
- Volunteer teacher in Life Learning Program, Cook County Jail (Chicago, IL)

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

McMinn, Mark R. *Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling*, 2nd ed.

Tracy, Steven R. *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse*.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript..
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures
2. Taking each lesson Quiz, a Midterm Exam (after completing Lesson 12), and a Final Exam— Quizzes and Exams will cover the material presented in the Class Time lectures.

Note: Quizzes and Exams are automatically graded and your course grade is weighted as follows:

Quizzes	40% of Course Grade
Exams	60% of Course Grade

In order to obtain a Certificate of Completion your overall score in the course must be 70% or higher.