CO 680 Career Counseling

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This is intended to be a foundational course in career counseling that will equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills for performing such services in varied settings. The course incorporates both theoretical and applied dimensions of career counseling. Though primarily designed for students in the MA Counseling program, the course would be valuable for students in other programs who work with adolescent and other populations.

**OBJECTIVES**

As a result of completing this course, students shall:

1. Develop a biblical and theological understanding of career and work as a foundational basis for career counseling.

2. Be aware of the major theoretical approaches to career counseling.

3. Become familiar with career development theories and their relationship to career decision-making.

4. Acquire skills and techniques related to career counseling.

5. Be familiar with a variety of tools used in career counseling including assessment inventories, computer programs, DOT manuals and similar materials.

**REQUIRED READINGS**


REQUIREMENTS

1. **Active participation in class sessions.**

   This means that regular class attendance is an expectation in this course. I understand that emergency situations may sometimes arise and lead to your absence. Absences should be restricted to these kinds of circumstances.

2. **Career Counseling Project**

   1. Each student will be required to complete a career counseling project involving at least 5 one-hour sessions. For this project, you will be paired with a class member.

   The focus of the sessions should be career issues. The process may involve assisting the person with some career decision or reviewing a recent career decision. On completion of the 5 counseling sessions, each class member will write a minimum 5 page paper on the process. The paper should conform to the following outline:

   **A. Conceptualization of Issue/ Diagnosis**

   1. The identified issues and or problems focused on in the counseling
   2. The identified counseling goals
   3. The relationship of Christian issues to the career problem and as a means of illuminating it.
   4. The relationship of career issues to other issues in the counselee’s life.

   **B. Process**

   1. The counselor-counselee relationship.
   2. The counselee’s career decision-making process. What style or strategy does the individual use?
   3. Any assessment procedures used and how they were used.
   4. Counseling interventions used. Be sure to include some guided exposure to a career information system or a similar resources intervention

   **C. Outcomes**

   1. Discuss outcomes including goals achieved.
   2. Discuss how the outcomes were related to the interventions.

   3. Highlight strengths and weaknesses of the sessions including anything that you might do differently in the future.
D. Theoretical Orientation

1. Discuss the career counseling theory you used and your reasons for choosing this approach.

Papers will be strictly graded along these criteria. Students should demonstrate complete coverage of all these areas in a well-written style.

3. Career Center Visit

Students will be placed in small groups to visit a career center to become familiar with resources used in career counseling. As evidence of this visit, each group will prepare an extensive list of resources with a brief description of how these materials are used. The resources should be presented in a three-ring binder. Each individual member of the group must contribute to this project. There is a Career Center at Asbury College and at UK located on Rose Street. At UK’s center only current UK students and alumni can request a career counselor. However, the location is free for you to browse and use. Be sensitive so as not to put undue demands on the Centers’ personnel. The career center at Asbury College is located in rather small quarters. It would be best if no more than 2 seminary students were there simultaneously.

4. Exams

There will be a mid-term and final exam. The final exam will largely cover material from the mid-term onward. However, one section of the exam will require knowledge of the Hardy material and career counseling theories.

5. Career Assessment

You will complete the Strong Interest Inventory (SII). Those who have recently completed this instrument may use those results. Otherwise the test is available for a cost. The actual price will be given at the first class session. This money should be paid to the office secretary. Students in the MA Counseling program may also choose to use the results of their 16PF testing completed as part of the admission process as an augment to the SII. You will then use these results to write a minimum of a 2-page paper focusing on self-understanding gleaned from the instruments. You should address the following questions in your paper:

What vocational information did you glean from the test?

How do the results of the testing fit with your understanding of yourself?
What are some areas of agreement and disagreement? How do you explain
any results that do not fit with your previous self-understanding?

What new insights have you gained from the assessment?

What are the implications of the assessment results for your career choice? How do the results support or not support your current career path? In light of these results, what might you wish to do differently? How do you integrate your career choice with your calling as a Christian?

In place of the above assignment, you may choose to complete the following: Using your present career formation and decision, apply one of the career theories (e.g. Roe, Ginsbergs, Holland, Super etc.) to that journey. How does the theory illuminate your present career goal, what are some points of departure, what are some significant areas that the theory does not address and how do you explain these areas?

6. Class Presentation on Career Needs for a Given Population

You will be assigned to different groups to lead a 40 minutes class presentation. Presentations will focus on career counseling with five of the following populations:

- Career Counseling of Women
- Career Counseling of Men
- Career Development with School-aged populations: choose 1
  - Elementary
  - Middle School Students
  - High School Students
- Career development of college-aged students
- Career Development with the Physically Challenged
- Career Development of the Culturally Different
- Mid life career development or adults in Career Transition
- Career counseling with persons who have left the ministry

Groups should prepare a detailed handout for distribution to class members or make the material available in the class folder. Presentations will be graded on the basis of the quality of information, presentation style, quality of handouts etc.

EVALUATION

Course grade will be determined in the following manner:

1. Individual career counseling project and report - 15%
   Due May 11

2. Career center visit with detailed resource list with descriptions - 10%
   Due March 16
3. Mid-term exam - 20%
   March 30

4. Final exam - 30%
   Thursday May 19, 1-3PM

5. Career assessment write-up - 15%
   Due April 13

6. Special populations presentation 10%

Incomplete Policy

Incomplete will only be granted for emergency situations beyond your control. Work commitments are not considered emergency situations.

GRADE RANGES

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PROPOSED COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Orientation
Christian Perspectives on vocation, career and work
Read Hardy Text. “The Fabric of This World”

Week 2

Christian Perspective
History of Career Counseling

Week 3

History of Career Counseling

Week 4
Definitional Issues in Career Counseling  
**Brown, chapter(s) 1, 3, 4, 14, 17; Hardy, chapter 3**  
*Special Focus on Relationship of Career and Personal Counseling*

Theories of Career Development  
**Brown, chapter 2**  
*Trait and Factor*

**Week 5**

Theories of Career Development  
*Ginzberg*  
*Super*  
**Video – Lifestyle and Career Development (older persons)** 30 mins.

**Brown, chapter(s) 2**

**Week 6**

Theories of Career Development  
**Video – Career Directions – First Part of Film**  
*Roe*  
**Video – Career Self-assessment – 27 min.**  
*Holland*  
**Brown, chapter(s) 2**  
*Social Learning Theory*

**Week 7 Spring Reading Week**

**Week 8**

*Mid-term Exam*  
Career Assessment: Qualitative Measures  
**Brown, chapter(s) 5, 8**  
**Video – Career Directions – Second Part of Film**

**Week 9**

Career Assessment: Quantitative Measures  
**Brown, chapter(s) 5, 8**

**Week 10**
Career Decision Making

Week 11

Resources for Gathering Career Information
**Brown, chapter(s) 7, 8, 15**

**Video – Career Exploration 25 mins**
Internet Career Resources

Week 12

Resume writing
**Brown, chapter(s) 10, 18**

**Video – Effective Resumes and Application – 32 mins**
Job Search
**Brown, chapter(s) 10, 18**
**Video - Job Search Strategies 23 mins**

Week 13

Interviewing Skills
**Brown, chapter(s) 10, 18**

**Video – Sell Yourself – 22 mins**
Career Counseling of Varied Populations: Class presentations
**Brown, chapter(s) 9, 11-13, 16**

Five presentations chosen from the following topics and presented in the listed order.
Career Counseling of Women
Career Counseling of Men
Career Development with School-aged populations:
  *Elementary*
  *Middle School Students*
  *High School Students*
Career development of college-aged students
Career Development with the Physically Challenged
Career Development of the Culturally Different
Mid-life and Career Development or Adults in Career Transition
Career counseling with persons who have left the ministry
Week 14

Career Counseling of Varied Populations: Class presentations
Video – Reinventing Themselves: Adapting to Career Change – 24 mins

Week 15

Final Exam – May 19, 1-3 PM

The professor reserves the right to make modifications in the class schedule.

SOME BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES: Historic and Christian Emphases


New York: Columbia University Press


Karasek, Robert (1990). Healthy Work: stress, productivity, and the reconstruction of
working life. New York: Basic Books


