

HSC127.8 Introduction to Pastoral Counselling

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)

Introduction to Pastoral Counselling (HSC127.8)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Graduate Certificate	One semester	Introductory	Brian Gabriels

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
 elective unit
 other (please specify below):

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	24 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week*	No. personal study hours per week**	Total workload hours per week***
3	6	9

For those students requiring additional English language support, how many additional hours per week is it expected that they will undertake?

Additional English language support: 0 hours per week

Pre-requisites and co-requisites

Are students required have undertaken a prerequisite or co-requisite unit for this unit?

- Yes No

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit (key topics):

This unit introduces students to pastoral counselling, its biblical and theological basis, the theoretical frameworks in which it is practiced, and recent scholarship in the field. *Introduction to Pastoral Counselling* is designed to equip students with the knowledge and dispositions that will be foundational for their practice as pastoral counsellors, enabling them to engage in this practice in diverse ministry settings in a spiritually formed, theoretically grounded, and ethically sensitive manner. Key topics covered include: contemporary pastoral counselling theories, ethical considerations, biblical and theological themes that undergird pastoral counselling, the distinction between “counselling” and “pastoral counselling”, and the spiritual dynamics of pastoral counselling.

Learning outcomes for unit:

- 1) Explain the nature and scope, biblical/theological basis, and spiritual dynamics of pastoral counseling with reference to the biblical text, the Christian tradition, and contemporary scholarship
- 2) Investigate the differences between the field of pastoral counselling and counselling
- 3) Evaluate key features, strengths, and weaknesses of contemporary theoretical approaches to pastoral counselling
- 4) Respond to complex client issues and challenges that occur in pastoral contexts by responsibly employing sound pastoral counselling theories and assessing when and where to make client referrals

Assessment tasks

Type	Learning Outcome/s assessed	When assessed	Weighting
1) Oral Presentation Students present a theological reflection upon the biblical/theological basis of pastoral counselling and use this to illuminate a significant experience of giving and/or receiving pastoral counselling. (1,000 words equivalent)	1	Week 4	20%
2) Short Essay Students are to write an essay explaining the difference between counselling and pastoral counselling and the significance this has for their role as pastoral counsellors. (1,000 words equivalent)	2	Week 7	20%
3) Case Studies Students are to write a response to a case study that presents a particular pastoral counselling situation. Their response should be grounded in sound pastoral counselling scholarship and adhere to the relevant ethical guidelines. (1,500 words – 500 words each)	1, 4	Week 10	25%
4) Major Essay Students are to write a major essay that assesses a pastoral counselling theory, critiquing its theological implications and personal application. (2,000 words)	1, 3	Week 13	35%

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Prescribed Reading:

Pembroke, Neil. *Foundations in Pastoral Counselling: Integrating Philosophy, Theology, and Psychotherapy*. London: SCM, 2017.

Recommended Reading:

Clinebell, Howard. *Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counselling: Resources for the Ministry of Healing and Growth*. 3rd ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 2011.

Farris, James R. (ed.). *International Perspectives on Pastoral Counselling*. New York: Routledge, 2013.

Helsel, Philip B. *Pastoral Care and Counselling: Care for Stories, Systems, and Selves*. New York: Paulist Press, 2019.

Lambert, Heath. *A Theology of Biblical Counselling: The Doctrinal Foundations of Counselling Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

Liégois, Auguste, Chris R. Burggraave, Jozef Corveleyn, and M. Riemsdagh. *After You! Dialogical Ethics and the Pastoral Counselling Process*. Leuven: Peeters, 2013.

Maynard, Elizabeth A., and Jill L. Snodgrass (eds.). *Understanding Pastoral Counselling*. New York: Springer, 2015.

Mwenisongole, Tuntufye A., and Elia S. Mlilo. *Pastoral Counselling for Orphans and Vulnerable Children: A Narrative Approach*. Eugene: Resource, 2018.

O'Connor, Thomas. "Pastoral Counseling and Pastoral Care: Is There a Difference?" *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling* 57.1 (2003): 3-14.

Pierre, Jeremy, and Deepak Reju. *The Pastor and Counselling: The Basics of Shepherding Members in Need*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2015.

Townsend, Loren. *Introduction to Pastoral Counselling*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2009.

Wise, Carroll A. *Pastoral Counselling: Its Theory and Practice*. Redditch: Read Books, 2013.

Woldemichael, Meaza T., Marcel Broesterhuizen, and Axel Liegeois. "Christian Pastoral Care and Psychotherapy: A Need for Theoretical Clarity." *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling* 67.4 (2013): 1-13.