



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

**CO610**

## **TOWARDS A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW FOR COUNSELLING**

This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.

<b>Unit code</b>	CO610
<b>Unit name</b>	Towards a Christian Worldview for Counselling
<b>Associated higher education awards</b>	Master of Counselling
<b>Duration</b>	One semester
<b>Level</b>	Postgraduate
<b>Core/elective</b>	Core
<b>Weighting</b>	Unit credit points: 10 Course credit points: 160
<b>Delivery mode</b>	Face-to-face on site External
<b>Student workload</b>	<p><i>Face-to-face on site</i></p> <p>Contact hours 35 hours Reading, study, and preparation 55 hours Assignment preparation 60 hours <b>TOTAL 150 hours</b></p> <p><i>External</i></p> <p>Engagement with study materials 90 hours Assignment preparation 60 hours <b>TOTAL 150 hours</b></p> <p>Students requiring additional English language support are expected to undertake an additional one hour per week.</p>
<b>Prerequisites/ co-requisites/ restrictions</b>	Nil
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Counsellors, whether working in a Christian or secular environment, are often faced with big questions such as, "If God is a loving God, why does he allow bad things to happen to innocent people?" and, "What is the purpose of my life?" Although these are fundamentally theological questions, counsellors need to be able to journey with their clients through these questions using their counselling knowledge and skills in the context of the therapeutic relationship. While clients come to counselling with these questions, counsellors are often working through these big questions themselves.</p> <p>The desired outcome of counselling is for the client to find his or own answer, an answer that represents continuing transformational change. Transformation, in the context of counselling, can be defined as not merely referring to change in a positive direction but as being "a fundamental reconfiguration or resignification of the component parts of a given situation."<sup>1</sup></p>

<sup>1</sup> Barker, P. (1995). The relevance of James Loder's grammar of transformation for pastoral care and counseling. *The Journal of Pastoral Care*, 49, 2, 160.

	<p>The previous units in this course have laid the foundations of theory and skills necessary for professional counselling. This unit critically examines this knowledge and understanding in the context of a transformative Christian worldview by inviting students to engage with the big questions that they will face as practitioners and through their clients. To make the learning authentic and relevant to the counselling practitioner, the topics of this unit have been expressed as the questions that clients, both Christian and non-Christian, may ask.</p> <p>The unit will assist students to explore the big questions from the foundation of a Christian worldview. Through this process of personal investigation, using theological models, common assumptions, and comparisons of different worldviews, students will be able to give clients the permission to investigate the big questions and the tools to support them through their search.</p>
<b>Prescribed text(s)</b>	Book of Readings (Available on Moodle™).
<b>Recommended readings</b>	<p><b>Books</b></p> <p>Anderson, R. (2003). <i>Spiritual caregiving as a secular sacrament: A practical theology for professional caregivers</i>. Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Grenz, S. (2014). <i>Created for community: Connecting Christian belief with Christian living</i> (3rd ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.</p> <p>McGrath, A. (2012). <i>Theology: The basics</i>. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.</p> <p>Morgan, C., &amp; Peterson, R. (2012). <i>The Kingdom of God: Theology in community</i>. Wheaton IL: Crossway.</p> <p>Moreland, J. P., &amp; Ciochi, D. M. (Eds.). (2015). <i>Christian perspectives on being human: A multidisciplinary approach to integration</i>. Eugene, OR: Wipf &amp; Stock.</p> <p>Swinton, J. (2000). <i>From bedlam to shalom: Towards a practical theology of human nature, interpersonal relationships, and mental health care</i>. New York, NY: Peter Lang.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Weaver, N. K. (2013). <i>The theology of suffering and death: An introduction for caregivers</i>. New York, NY: Routledge.</p> <p>Yong, A. (2012). <i>Spirit of love: A Trinitarian theology of grace</i>. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press.</p> <p><b>Journal Articles</b></p> <p>Spezio, M. (2013). Social neuroscience and theistic evolution: Intersubjectivity, love, and the social sphere. <i>Zygon</i>, 48(2), 428-438.</p> <p><b>Journals</b></p> <p><i>Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling</i></p> <p><i>Journal of Psychology and Theology</i></p> <p>In addition to the resources above, students should have access to a Bible, preferably a modern translation such as The Holy Bible: The New International Version 2011 (NIV 2011) or The Holy Bible: New King James Version (NKJV).</p> <p>These and other translations may be accessed free on-line at <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com">http://www.biblegateway.com</a>. The Bible app from LifeChurch.tv is also available free for smart phones and tablet devices.</p>
<b>Specialist resource requirements</b>	Nil

<b>Content</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the nature and character of God?</li> <li>2. What/Who is God from non-Christian worldview perspectives?</li> <li>3. What is the nature of human beings?</li> <li>4. What does it mean to be made in the image of God?</li> <li>5. What is the difference between a legalistic framework and grace, love and forgiveness?</li> <li>6. Why is there suffering in the world?</li> <li>7. What is sin?</li> <li>8. What does it mean to be reconciled and receive restoration?</li> <li>9. What is the difference between power and the Kingdom of God?</li> <li>10. What is humankind's ultimate purpose?</li> <li>11. How does counselling facilitate transformation? How is transformation ongoing?</li> </ol>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>On completion of this unit, students will have demonstrated that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. identified and examined big questions that are often encountered in the practice of counselling through assumptions, theological models and a Christian worldview;</li> <li>2. analysed essential elements of a Christian worldview and their relevance in a counselling context;</li> <li>3. examined the concept of transformational change in the context of counselling;</li> <li>4. critiqued basic tenets of various counselling theories from a Christian worldview perspective and integrated these aspects to inform practice in a counselling setting;</li> <li>5. compared and contrasted the responses of a Christian worldview with those of other worldviews to the big questions that are often encountered counselling;</li> <li>6. analysed and reflected upon the student's own Christian worldview and transformational experiences as these influence their counselling practice;</li> <li>7. communicated at an appropriate tertiary standard with special attention to correct grammars, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing, and presentation.</li> </ol>
<b>Assessment tasks</b>	<p><b>Task 1: Reflective Journal</b></p> <p>Contribute journal posts to Moodle™ discussions that reflect on transformational experiences.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: 2,000 words plus Appendix</p> <p>Weighting: 40%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-7</p> <p>Assessed: Week 9</p> <p><b>Task 2: Case Study</b></p> <p>You will be provided with a case study.</p> <p><b>Part 1</b></p> <p>Provide a response to the case study that utilises appropriate counselling theory and practice and is informed by the Christian worldview tenets examined in this unit.</p> <p><b>Part 2</b></p> <p>Provide a response to the case study that utilises appropriate counselling theory and practice and is informed by a non-Christian worldview of the student's own choosing.</p> <p>Word Length/Duration: Part 1 - 1,500 words; Part 2 - 1,500 words</p> <p>Weighting: 60%</p> <p>Learning Outcomes: 1-7</p> <p>Assessed: Week 13</p>
<b>Unit summary</b>	<p>This unit provides students with an opportunity for an in-depth exploration of the big questions faced in counselling practice in light of key Christian and non-Christian worldview concepts in order to help them work with their clients as they process these big questions.</p>