

Care and Counseling in Correctional Ministry
CE 408/CFM 508 (June, one-week intensive, starting 2010)

Course Description:

This course provides 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. Attention will be given to issues of diversity and their implications for the utility of the concepts of this course where possible.

Course Objectives:

- Appreciate the diversity of cultures, ethnicities and ages of offenders/ex-offenders
- Identify and discuss on an introductory level aspects of human suffering which are commonly seen within a correctional setting.
- Review major theories of counseling through the lens of Scripture and assess their applicability to pastoral care within a correctional setting.
- Develop and practice core helping skills essential for effective pastoral care and counsel.
- Access personal giftedness and preparedness for addressing counseling challenges within a correctional setting.
- Explore ethical issues and professional limits of pastoral care and counsel and identify available community resources for partnering.
- Research problems of sin and human suffering encountered by people ministering within a correctional setting, utilizing the literature of psychology, pastoral care, and theology.