BMATS - RE 531 – Biblical Interpersonal Communication and Conflict Management
Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary -- Spring 2015

Instructor:
Ronnie Johnson, Ph.D.
Ronnie.Johnson@bmats.edu
Office hours: will be posted on my door.

Textbooks:


Internet Book: Chapter 17 of:

http://www.internetevangelismday.com/engel-scale.php

Books on Reserve in Library:


Course Description:
Communication is a powerful tool of construction or destruction. In this course learners discover Biblical principles of interpersonal communication and conflict management in human relationships. The course gives attention to communication models, self-concept, non-verbal messages, stress, and other strategies that assist Christian leaders in developing interpersonal communication skills. In addition, the course focuses on the nature of conflict, how to identify common styles of conflict management, and how to manage conflict acceptably and productively.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course:
1. You should understand the nature of communication and how it works in both interpersonal and organizational context.
2. You should improve your listening skills.
3. You should have a clearer understanding of the nature of conflict.
4. You should synthesize the biblical teaching on conflict and assimilate your own conflict management style.
5. You should be able apply biblical church discipline.
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Course Assignments: percentage of final grade

Attendance and participation is class activities. 10%

Verbatim reports, video exercises, guest speakers, etc. 10%

Collateral Reading 10%

Two additional books, one dealing with communication and one with conflict management, should be read.

Submit a critical book review for each of the books you choose to read. See attached grading rubric.

Book Review & Presentation 20%

Read Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict and prepare a report. Summarize each chapter and give your personal reaction (pro or con) to the information. Be prepared to present your summary and reaction to any chapter.

A Diagnostic Case Study 10%

Report an analysis of an interpersonal encounter in which the principles taught in this course can be used as tools to probe what was and what was not effective communication in this situation. This will be an opportunity to re-live what you might have done differently.

Research Paper and Presentation. 20%

This study should focus on one of the topics presented in the course. This assignment should be designed so that 12 to 15 pages could adequately reflect your work. Present your findings to class. (20-30 minutes)

Final Exam. 20%

All assignments will be discussed in detail. A schedule of activities will be distributed with due date indicated. The content of this syllabus is subject to revision as announced in regular class periods. Every person is expected to be pro-active in meeting all class responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.
Bibliography


Grading Rubric for a Critical Book Review
Based on a 100 point scale

Rating Scale:
- Excellent (5) – 20 pts.
- Good (4) – 18 pts.
- Average (3) – 15 pts.
- Needs Improvement (2) – 10 pts.
- Unsatisfactory (1) – 5 pts.

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation of Author’s Thesis or Purpose (20 pts.):</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
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<td>- Did the author state a clear thesis or purpose?</td>
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<td>- Did the author stay true to his/her thesis or purpose?</td>
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<td>- Did the author accomplish stated goals associated with the thesis or purpose?</td>
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<th>Evaluation of Strengths and Weaknesses (20 pts.):</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
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<td>- What are some of the major strengths/weaknesses?</td>
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<td>- What is the greatest strength/weakness?</td>
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<th>Evaluation of the Book’s Overall Content and Format (20 pts.):</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
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<td>- Is the book written in a readable format?</td>
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<td>- Is the book laid out in a helpful manner?</td>
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<td>- Are there helpful charts, indexes, appendices, bibliographies, etc.?</td>
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Evaluation of the Book’s Overall Usefulness (20 pts.):
- What did you find most helpful about the book?
- What did you find least helpful about the book?
- Would you recommend this book?

Evaluation of the Student’s Writing (20 pts.):
- Spelling
- Grammar
- Clarity of thought
- Structure (flow of thought)