

Chaplaincy Internship Program

Course: Counseling

Fall 2026 Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Phyllis Richards

Office Hours: Monday 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Friday 2:00 – 5:00pm

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Course Description

The authors discuss the difference between intellectually understanding a loss and dealing with its emotional consequences. Their approach asks readers to identify what remains **unsaid, unresolved, regretted, wished-for, or emotionally incomplete** in an important relationship and then take specific actions toward completion.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

The 20th Anniversary Expanded Edition of The Grief Recovery Handbook, John W. James and Russell Friedman, a previous version may also be used.

Course Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Zoom capability

Course Structure

The course will be delivered in lecture form via ZOOM. Each 1-hour session will consist of a lecture (40-45 minutes) interspersed with discussion followed by motivational support.

Student Learning Outcomes

By working through the book rather than simply reading it, students will be able to:

- recognize losses that may never have been identified as grief;
- examine messages learned about expressing sadness and pain;
- identify coping behaviors that may have helped students survive but haven't helped them heal;
- recognize relationships containing unresolved hurt, regret, resentment, guilt, or things left unsaid;
- distinguish intellectual explanations from emotional healing;
- take specific actions toward emotional completion;

Students will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attending class regularly.
- Completing reading assignments weekly and participating in class discussions, and homework.
- Allowing self to be open to the information remaining present throughout the session, and not assuming the material is for someone else.

Topic Outline/Schedule

- **September 3, 2026**
 - Intro, Chapter 1-2,
- **September 17, 2026**
 - Chapter 3-5
- **October 1, 2026**
 - Chapters 6-8
- **October 15, 2026**
 - Chapters 9-11
- **October 29, 2026**
 - Chapter 12-13
- **November 12, 2026**
 - Chapter 14&15