

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
In conjunction with AGTS West @ Sacramento Branch
PTHB 553: The Person of the Leader
February 7, 14, 21, March 6, 13
(3 credits)

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Spring 2008

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course looks at the biblical, psychological and social factors that contribute to a sense of self and the impact of personal character development on ministry effectiveness. Attention will be given to the cultural, familial, psychological and spiritual dynamics that forge one's sense of self and views toward others.

OBJECTIVES

The following objective reflect both cognitive and behavioral outcomes, with focus on the ability of the diligent student to:

1. Define and express what is meant by key terms such as self, self-concept, identity, personhood, self-understanding, personality, temperament, strengths, identity and authenticity. The aim is a healthy inner life.
2. Connect a healthy sense of self to a biblical relationship with the Triune God.
3. Comprehend and communicate how healthy self-knowledge is essential for effective ministry.
4. Identify what real "maturity" is and contrast it with the lingering traits of immaturity that plague so many well-meaning people.
5. Describe the issues of nature (biology and personality) and nurture (character, education, experiences) that will impact a sense of self.
6. Grow in personal understanding of how personality, strengths, spiritual gifts and relationships all contribute to ministry impact.
7. Evaluate the critical impact of formative negative and positive events in one's personal history and how they impact past and current ministry
8. Demonstrate awareness of unhealthy patterns that try to subvert maturity and success: adrenaline addition, chemical additions, codependency, greed, infidelity, abuse of power and workaholism and others.
9. Identify personal obstacles to wholeness and create a working plan to overcome them.
10. Understand and explain the relationship of holiness to wholeness.
11. Formulate mentoring moments and ministry experiences that facilitate personal progress.
12. Compose a personal growth plan to move toward being a person worthy of being emulated by others and followed by those in your community.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Buckingham and Clifton, *Now, Discover Your Strengths*. Free Press. 2001. ISBN 10: 0743201140

Hewitt and Self, *The Power of Faithful Focus*. Faith Communications. 2004 ISBN 10: 0757301185

McIntosh, G.L. and Rima, S.D., *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership*. Baker Books. 2007 (revised edition). ISBN 10: 0801068355

Sisk, R.D. *The Competent Pastor: Skills and Self-Knowledge for Serving Well*. (Important for all leaders, not just pastors!). The Alban Institute. 2005. ISBN 10: 1566993040

METHODOLOGY

This course will feature special guest presenters, lectures, and small group discussion and student presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **All Assigned Reading** is required in preparation for the class on the topic scheduled (see below)
2. **Weekly Book Reflection Papers** will be turned in each week in class or by email. These will be 4-5 page interactions with the reading and will directly answer the following questions: 1) What were the key, life-affecting insights in the reading? 2) What personal challenges were you confronted with and how will you begin to address them? 3) How will this material help you in leading others?
3. **Personal Story Essay/Map**: in 3-4 pages, using pictures, words and any other illustrative material, compose a picture of the formative experiences that make you the person you are today.
4. **Personal Growth Plan**: Using the Objectives for the Course, design a plan for 1) overcoming specific barriers that keep you from effectiveness; 2) growing into greater maturity and wholeness and 3) developing your professional skills to help you lead more effectively. This work should be 10-12 pages, use at least five (5) sources in addition to the assigned textbooks and reflect solid interaction with the course material and other experiences that have shaped you.

Expectations:

1. Consistent attendance is essential in this concentrated format.
2. In order to receive all the insights and earn the units of credit offered, there is much reflection, study and writing outside of the classroom experience.
3. The nature of this course requires a certain amount of disclosure and vulnerability. Both the classroom and the personal interaction with the instructor will be safe places of confidential communication.

4. This material is more than intellectually stimulating – it is personally compelling and potentially life-changing.
5. Academic integrity is assumed. No hints of plagiarism will be tolerated.
6. Written work should be graduate level and free from major grammatical and spelling mistakes. Proofread well and take proper pride in work that can be immediately useful in your service to God! APA or Turban formats are fine.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grading is done on a percentage scale, with the following value for each assignment:

- Book reflection papers: 50 points each = 200 total
- Personal Story Essay/Map: 100 points
- Personal Growth Plan: 150 points
- Attendance and Participation: 50 points
- Total = 500

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

February 7th: Biblical Foundations for Personal Wholeness and the Impact of Character on the Community

February 14: Focused Living and Fulfilling Our Purpose (Book Reflection due: *The Power of Faithful Focus*)

February 21: Overcoming the Obstacles to Growth and Impact (Book Reflection due: *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership*) Personal Essay /Map Due

March 6: Understanding and Developing our Calling, Gifts, and Strengths (Book Reflection due: *Now, Discover Your Strengths*)

March 13: Character, Competence and Simply Getting Better: Charting a Positive Future (Book Reflection due: *The Competent Pastor*)

The Personal Growth Plan is due on March 20, one week after the end of class.

CLASS DETAILS

Contact the professor any time: drcharlieself@yahoo.com or 408-307-1339 – I am ready to help.

Please keep cell phones off in class!

All assignments (except the personal Growth Plan, see above) must be submitted by March 13. Every week thereafter, there will be a one-grade penalty. Please contact the professor for extenuating circumstances.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If your learning situation requires accommodation, please notify the professor and the Student Life Office in Springfield (417-268-1000 or www.agts.edu) for the requisite forms

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bonhoeffer, Life Together. Harper San Francisco. 1954.

Dodd, Empowered Church Leadership. InterVarsity Press. 2003.

Nouwen, The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry. Seabury. 1981.

Shults and Sandage, transforming Spirituality: Integrating Theology and Psychology. Baker Academic. 2006.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Dr. Charles Self, January 7, 2008.