

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PCP 541 Psychology and the Christian Faith

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychological investigations of theological themes and phenomena engaged in by counselors. Consideration will be given to intra and interpersonal problems of human behavior with emphasis upon biblical strategies for cultivating an integrated Christian personality.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should have demonstrated in class discussions, papers, and examinations the following competencies:

Knowledge

1. An understanding of the presuppositions and beliefs of Christian theology and the major contemporary psychologies.
2. An understanding of the Christian worldview.
3. An understanding of the varied approaches to the integration of Christian faith and modern psychology as well as barriers to and problems of such integration.
4. An understanding of salient biblical and psychological teachings that offer promise for integration of the two fields.
5. An understanding of the psychological study of religious phenomena.

Attitude

1. A deepening capacity for objective discussion of issues where Christian faith and modern psychologies appear to conflict.
2. A deepening conviction that a viable integration of the two fields is possible.
3. A deepening sense of mission to bring the combined insights of Christian faith and modern psychology to personal growth and healing.
4. A deepening personal identity as both Christian believer and competent practitioner.

Skill

1. The ability to cite for discussion and examinations key ideas from both Christian faith and psychology that will assist future clients and parishioners in reconciling barriers to effective integration.
2. The ability to bring together in written and vocal presentations the insights of Christian faith and modern psychology that lead to productive counseling strategies.
3. The ability to elaborate a theoretical framework for the inclusion of Scripture, prayer, and spiritual insight, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in responsible professional

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Anderson, Neil T., Terry E. Zuehlke, and Julianne S. Zuehlke. *Christ Centered Therapy: The Practical Integration of Theology and Psychology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Johnson, Eric L. and Stanton L. Jones. *Psychology & Christianity*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000.

McMinn, Mark R. *Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1996.

Recommended:

Benner, D. G. and Hill, P.C. eds. *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology and Counseling*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.

METHODOLOGY

The course methodology entails class lectures and discussions led by the professor, student oral presentations, student research projects, and occasional expert guests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading. Students will be expected to complete the assigned readings before class. A reading report must be submitted **Friday, April 16**. "A" grades will not be given for less than 1,200 pages of reading.
2. Research. Students will be expected to submit a 2,000 word research project or paper in proper Turabian or APA form, topic to be approved by the professor. **Due date: Friday, April 2**.
3. Examinations There will be two exams, a mid-term (**Friday, Feb. 27**) and final (**as scheduled**). They will attempt to assess mastery level with regard to understanding and application of course content. Anything in the required texts or what is shared in class discussions is potential test material.
4. Participation. Each student is expected to prepare for the class by attending regularly, arriving promptly, treating colleagues considerately, completing reading assignments, and entering into discussions and other in-class participation assignments. The professor reserves the right to allocate 10 percent of the total grade on the basis of class participation.

BASIC OUTLINE

The course outline and calendar will be distributed in class.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Research Project	30%
Mid-Term Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Participation	10%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Allen, Charles L. *God's Psychiatry*. Westwood, NJ: Revell, 1953.
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- Benner, David G. *Psychotherapy and the Spiritual Quest*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
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- _____. *Can You Trust Psychology? Exposing the Facts and the Fictions*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1988.
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- Crabb, Lawrence J. *Effective Biblical Counseling: A Model for Helping Caring Christians Become Capable Counselors*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1977.
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- Ellison, Craig W. *Your Better Self: Christianity, Psychology and Self-Esteem*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1983.
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- Farnsworth, Kirk E. *Integrating Psychology and Theology: Elbows Together But Hearts Apart*. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1981.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Edgar Lee, November 2003