

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**PCP 551 Addictive Behaviors in Family Systems**

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268-1085

Summer I, 2004

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the assessment and treatment of varied forms of addiction including alcohol and drug abuse, gambling, sports, work, food, sexual addiction, internet addiction and fantasy. This course will have special emphasis on understanding, assessing, and treating addictions within the family systems and community context. Class participants will be involved in learning intervention strategies and techniques and developing church and community educational programs.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the major concepts and theories of Addictive Behaviors.
2. Identify the major theorists (both secular and Christian) who have influenced the development of these theories.
3. Compare and evaluate the therapeutic principles of major contributors to the practice of addiction counseling or treatment.
4. Evaluate the primary models used in evangelical churches, including their assumptions regarding human nature, the therapeutic relationship, aims in counseling, and intervention methodologies.
5. Develop an individualized methodology that will be compatible with and enhanced by one's own faith and commitment to personal health and spiritual well being.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Thombs, Dennis L. (1999). Introduction to Addictive Behaviors. New York: Guilford Press.

**RECOMMENDED BOOK:**

Peele, Stanton. (1991). The Truth About Addiction and Recovery. New York: Simon and Shuster.

**BASIC OUTLINE** (Read assigned chapters from both textbooks)

- I. The Multiple Conceptions of Addictive Behavior
- II. The Disease Models
- III. Psychoanalytic Formulations
- IV. Conditioning Models and Approaches
- V. Cognitive Models
- VI. The Family System
- VII. Social and Cultural Foundations
- VIII. Conditions that Facilitate and Inhibit Change in Addictive Behavior
- IX. Other Approaches to Understanding Addictions
- X. Christian Responses to Addiction

**METHODOLOGY**

The course will involve formal and informal class lectures and discussion on assigned readings, assigned textbook questions, video presentations, and student presentations of research topics.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Read all assigned materials.
2. Class attendance, punctuality, volunteerism, professionalism, and meaningful class participation are required. More than two unexcused class absences may reduce one's grade. Three tardies count as one absence.
3. Complete the following:
  - A. Conduct library research on one of the addictions or theories given in class and/or approved by the professor. Summarize the research in a 15 page or less paper.
  - B. Complete a formal presentation for the class on some aspect of addictions. This presentation should include handouts for other students. Time allotted will depend on total number of students in the class and specific topics.
  - C. Complete all questions assigned for the textbook and videos. Come to class prepared to discuss questions on the assigned readings.
4. Final Exam

**ABOUT THE RESEARCH PAPER:** The Research Paper should concentrate primarily on professional press/scholarly resources. Topics should concentrate on theorists or issues important in the study of addictions. Research topics may also be selected with a discussion with the professor or during class discussions of possible topics. All papers should be typed, double-spaced and carefully referenced, including citing all references used. Follow the latest APA style manual for referencing using parenthetical references. Include a Contents outline, Introduction, subject headings, conclusion, and Reference List or Bibliography.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

It is expected that all work will be completed as scheduled. Late work may be downgraded up to one letter grade per day late. Final grades will be assigned according to the student's demonstrated achievement of the learning objectives, comprehension of literature on class topics and performance of class requirements as follows:

Class participation, completing reading in texts and questions, attendance	20%
Research papers/Class Oral Reports	40%
Final Exam	40%

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Mark Bradford, Psy.D. February 2004