

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**PCP 665 Advanced Pastoral Counseling**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended to be an Advanced Pastoral Counseling and Care course. It will build on previously learned pastoral counseling skills, and include personality theory and conflict management techniques for pastors and chaplains.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course the student should be able to

1. Evaluate some of the major counseling theories from a Biblical perspective
2. Interpret and summarize published psychological research
3. Develop an integrated conceptual framework that accommodates psychological and theological perspectives on mental illness and psychological health
4. Apply the insights they gained from published literature about the pastoral ministry (both as a unique occupation and as one of a group of helping professions)
5. Identify the most common mental illnesses of the DSM-IV that are seen in pastoral ministry and know when, and how, to refer such a person to appropriate helping professionals
6. Evaluate the leading classical and modern psychotherapies from a Biblical perspective
7. Develop an individualized and integrated counseling model for use in pastoral counseling practice

**TEXTBOOKS**

Benner, David G. (2001). *Care of Souls*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Benner, David G. (1992). *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-term structured model*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Johnson, W.B. & Johnson, W.L. (2002). *The pastor's guide to psychological disorders and treatments*. New York: Haworth Pastoral Press.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

The recommended textbooks explore in greater detail some of the issues that are introduced in this course. These books would add great value to any pastor's library who needs to increase his knowledge in the field of pastoral counseling.

For "integration" of psychology and theology:

Collins, G.R. (2001). *The Biblical basis of Christian counseling for people helpers*. Colorado Springs: Navpress.

Carter, J.D. & Narramore, B. (1979). *The integration of psychology and theology: An introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Academic Books.

For counseling from a Biblical perspective:

Jones, S. L. & Butman, R. E. (1991). *Modern Psychotherapies*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Kruise, John G. (2001). *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Grand Rapids: InterVarsity Press.

For diagnosis of mental illness:

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, text revision* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

or

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Desk reference to the diagnostic criteria from DSM-IV-TR*. Washington, DC: Author.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will consist of class lectures, instructional video's, discussions led by the professor, student class presentations, and an internet-based "dialogue".

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Active classroom participation in discussions and spontaneous questions about presentations will be a requirement for each student.
2. Occasional class tests will test a student's understanding of the material that was presented during the preceding few classes.
3. Students will be required to prepare and present a 20 minute lecture on a subject, approved by

the professor that would illustrate specific aspects of the subject matter for the class.

4. Before the final exam the class will hold an internet-based “dialogue” over a period of two weeks to integrate theory, personal research and pastoral practice.
5. A mid-term examination will cover the first half of the course work.
6. A final examination will cover the whole semester’s course work.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The course grade will be calculated in the following manner:

1. Active classroom participation: 10%
2. Class tests: 20%
3. Class lecture/presentation: 15%
4. Internet “dialogue”: 15%
5. Mid-term exam: 20%
6. Final exam: 20%