

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MATS Degree Completion Program
Springfield, Missouri

PCPD 541 PSYCHOLOGY AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

October 5, 12, 19; November 2, 9, 2006

Thursday evenings 6:00 – 10:00 pm

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Fall 2006

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 the following competencies in class discussions, presentations, papers and examinations:

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. An expanding 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 heightened sense of mission to bring the combined insights of Christian faith and modern psychology to personal growth and healing.
4. A sharpened 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/or 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 counseling settings.

TEXTBOOKS

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

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

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

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 read **not less than 1,000 pages** from *BEPC* (count each full *BPEC* page as four) and the other assigned texts and the general bibliography in their preparation for class and completion of research projects. A reading report in the format supplied by the professor must be submitted **Thursday, November 9**.
2. **Response Papers.** Students will submit at the beginning of each session (sessions two through five) one four-page paper setting out a summation, critical evaluation, or refutation of a particular aspect of the topic/s under consideration for that session. The papers will not require full formal documentation (use an abbreviated parenthetical form) but most reflect careful and critical readings of the assignments and other relevant research.
3. **Final Paper.** Students will expand one of the four-page papers that deals with an issue of particular interest into a term paper of 10 pages. The paper shall be in good form as determined by Turabian (6th ed.) and referencing not less than 10 substantial books, journals, and/or Internet resources. **Due date: beginning of the last class. Exceptions: may be extended to Noon, Friday, November 9 for degree completion students, if needed, and until Friday, December 8 for resident students, if needed.**

4. **Quizzes.** The professor reserves the right to administer a brief quiz at the end of the discussion on each ethical issue. Quizzes will focus on salient concepts and biblical backgrounds having to do with each issue that will be covered in the readings and classroom presentations.
5. **Participation.** Students are expected to maintain a high degree of participation by attending regularly, arriving promptly, treating colleagues considerately, completing reading assignments, and entering into discussions, class presentations, 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

Unit 0—Introduction

Unit 1—Integration of Psychology and Theology
Alternate Views on Integration

Unit 2—Worldviews

Unit 3—Theological Foundations for Counselors

Unit 4—Psycho-Spiritual Health
The Holy Spirit and Counseling

Unit 5—Demonization and DIDS

EXPANDED OUTLINE

Unit	Reading Assignments	Objectives
Unit 1 Oct. 5, 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of Psychology and Theology • Alternate Views of Integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>P&C</i> in entirety • <i>BEPC</i>: 3,5,6,14,25,28-32,45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize differing presuppositions and methodologies of Psychology and Theology • Consider potential of integration of the two • Consider alternate Christian approaches to integration
Unit 2 Oct. 12, 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldviews 	<i>BEPC</i> : 1-2 Lee, Role of Bible in...Chtn Worldview, 79-105, in Palmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the ubiquity and importance of a worldview • Examine the role of Scripture and theology in worldview formation • Test one's personal worldview against the beliefs and practices of counseling
Unit 3 Oct. 19, 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological Foundations for Counselors 	<i>BEPC</i> : 8,9,11,13,17,18,21-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine traditional rubrics of theology • Examine personal beliefs and commitment to each of those rubrics • Examine relevance of each rubric to practice of counseling
Unit 4 Nov. 2, 2006	<i>BEPC</i> : 4,7,19-20,23,24,26,33-44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study the ways psychological concepts are applied to psycho-spiritual health

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psycho-Spiritual Health • The Holy Spirit and Counseling 	PTSCC: entirety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become familiar with several standard models of psycho-spiritual health • Examine the relevance of the Christian understand of the Holy Spirit to personal growth and the practice of counseling
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 5 Nov. 7, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature of Evil • Demonization • Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) 	BEPC: 10,12,15-16,27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the problem of evil from a Christian perspective • Examine the biblical teaching of the demonic • Compare biblical teaching with the DSM IV diagnosis of DID

GRADING PROCEDURE

Response Papers	60%
Research Paper	40%
[Participation	10%]

Assignments will be given a letter grade which will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12. The participation grade, if utilized, will be based on the percentage of reading completed, attendance records, level of classroom discussion, presentation, cooperation, and so forth.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Allen, Charles L. *God's Psychiatry*. Westwood, NJ: Revell, 1953.
- Allport, Gordon. *Becoming: Basic Considerations for a Psychology of Personality*. New Haven: Yale, 1955.
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- Barker, C. Edward. *Psychology's Impact on the Christian Faith*. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1964.
- Becker, Ernest. *Angel in Armor: A Post-Freudian Perspective on the Nature of Man*. N.Y.: Free Press, 1975.
- Belgum, David R. *Guilt: Where Religion and Psychology Meet*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Pub. House, 1970.
- Benner, David G. *Psychotherapy and the Spiritual Quest*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- _____. and Hill, P.C. eds. *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology and Counseling*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
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- Bobgan, Martin, and Deidre Bobgan. *The Psychological Way—The Spiritual Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, 1979.
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- Carter, John B., and Bruce Narramore. *The Integration of Psychology and Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.
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- Faw, Harold. *Psychology in Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Edgar Lee, June 2006

REQUIRED ARTICLES: D. G. Benner and P. C. Hill, eds., *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology & Counseling*, 2nd ed. (1999).

Article	Page No.	No. Pages
1. Apostasy	91	1
2. Biblical Anthropology	133	2
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9. Counseling and Psychotherapy: Biblical Themes	275	3
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11. Determinism and Free Will	342	3
12. Dissociative Identity Disorder	357	2
13. Ego	385	1
14. Empiricism	398	2
15. Evil, Psychology of	407	1
16. Exorcism	416	1
17. Faith Healing	429	2
18. God, Concept of	514	2
19. Grace and Pastoral Care	517	1
20. Healthy Personality	547	5
21. Id	603	1
22. The <i>Imago Dei</i> in Personality	608	3
23. Moral Development	764	2
24. Mysticism	778	2
25. Personalities, Christian Theories	853	3
26. Prayer, Psychological effects, use of	894	3
27. Pride	907	1
28. Psychological Roots of Religion	946	1
29. Psychology, History of	952	5
30. Psychology, Presuppositions of	959	2
31. Psychology and Religion	961	5
32. Psychology as Religion	965	5
33. Religion and Personality	1020	3
34. Religious Development	1023	3
35. Religious Experience	1025	2
36. Religious Health and Pathology	1028	3
37. Sanctification	1050	2
38. Self-Actualization	1073	2
39. Self-concept	1075	1
40. Self-esteem	1084	3
41. Sexuality	1107	7
42. Shame	1114	1
43. Spiritual Well-being	1153	1
44. Spirituality, Psychology of	1154	2
45. Unconditional Positive Regard	1235	1