

## **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

### **PCP 541 Psychology and the Christian Faith**

January 12-13/February 9-10/March 9-10

Fridays 1:30 - 5:00 pm

Saturdays 9:00 am – 12:00 noon/1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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### **COURSE\_SYLLABUS**

#### **COURSE\_DESCRIPTION**

This course examines theology and the behavioral sciences in an attempt to integrate spirituality, theology, and pastoral psychology. Psychological investigations of theological themes and phenomena engaged in by counselors will be discussed. Consideration will be given to intra-personal and interpersonal problems of human behavior with emphasis on biblical strategies for cultivating an integrated Christian personality.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this course are stated behaviorally. Thus, upon successful completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Effectively critique scholarly material related to psychology and the Christian faith.
2. Articulate the presuppositions and key principles of theology which interact with psychological theory and methodology.
3. Explain the barriers and the varied approaches to the integration of psychology and theology.
4. Examine crucial theological doctrines as they appropriately influence pastoral counseling methodology.
5. Employ biblically and psychologically sound strategies for cultivating growth and maturity of the Christian personality.
6. Understand the psychological study of religious phenomena.
7. Utilize Scripture, prayer, spiritual and psychological resources, principles, and techniques in counseling under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
8. Provide evidence of participation in research projects which demonstrate involvement in appropriately utilizing psychology and theology.

#### **TEXTBOOKS**

*Required:*

Boa, K. *Augustine to Freud: What Theologians and Psychologists Tell Us About Human Nature.* Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2004.

Carter, J. B., and Narramore, B. *The Integration of Psychology and Theology: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 1979.

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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The course will consist of class lecture and discussion led by the professor, small group discussions, student research projects, and guest speakers.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION/GRADING PROCEDURES**

1. **REQUIRED READINGS:** Student will be required to read all assigned readings. This will include *all* of the text books listed in the required reading and additional supplemental readings as assigned.
2. **BOOK CRITIQUE/INTERACTION #1:** Student will be expected to write a 2-3 page interaction/critique paper on Carter and Narramore's book- *The Integration of Psychology and Theology*. Student will interact with the four proposed models of integration and indicate which of the four models most closely aligns with his/her integration approach.
3. **BOOK CRITIQUE/INTERACTION #2:** Student will be expected to write a 4-5 page paper on Kenneth Boa's book—*Augustine to Freud*. The intent is to compare and contrast what selected theologians and psychologists have written about concerning the nature of human needs and human nature, in order to discover the extent to which the two accounts can be synthesized.
4. **RESEARCH PAPERS:** Students will write 3 papers according to the following schedule:

Paper I will be an 8-10 page summary/analysis of the field of psychology from your personal Christian/biblical/psychological perspective. Use a minimum of 10 books and 5 periodicals with 10 works cited.

Paper II will be an 8-10 page summary/analysis of the Christian faith from your personal Christian/biblical/psychological perspective. Use a minimum of 10 books and 5 periodicals with 10 works cited.

Paper III will be a 10-15 page integration of psychology and the Christian faith from your personal Christian/biblical/psychological perspective. Use a minimum of 15 books

and 8 periodicals with 15 works cited.

Use Papers I and II as the foundation for Paper III.

Be sure to focus on the development, clarification and interjection of your personal psychological/Christian integration for all 3 papers, culminating with Paper III. APA format is required.

Due Dates:

Book Critique	January 26
Paper I	February 10
Paper II	March 10
Paper III	April 13

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Book Critique and Class Participation	10%
Research Paper I	20%
Research Paper II	20%
Research Paper III	50%

### **BASIC OUTLINE**

The course outline and calendar will be discussed in class.

**Chapel – February 9, 1:30 – 2:45 p. m.**

**\*\*Professors reserve the right to modify the course requirements if necessary.**