

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**PTH 640 Stu. Advanced Pastoral Counseling**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course addresses three areas in which the academic study of psychology and pastoral ministry intersect in praxis. The first area is a review of the literature that addresses the psycho-social impact of pastoral ministry as an occupation on the person of the pastor. The second is an introduction to the most common mental illnesses that a pastor is likely to encounter in practice. Participants will have class “lab” time to actually have mock practice working with parishioners with various life issues or disorders. Guest speakers and chaplains will be sought to give examples of how they work with their particular populations. The course will assist the pastor to start developing an integrated model for competent Christian counseling.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Apply the insights they gained from published literature about the pastoral ministry (both as a unique occupation and as an occupation that shares some goals with other helping professions)
2. Evaluate some of the major psychological counseling theories from a Biblical perspective
3. 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
4. Develop an integrated conceptual framework for Christian counseling that accommodates psychological and biblical perspectives on mental illness and psychological health
5. Develop the foundations of an individualized and integrated counseling model for use in pastoral counseling praxis.
6. Gain some confidence via classroom practice, in counseling common pastoral crisis situations.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Benner, David G. (2003). *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 value to the library of any pastor 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: Academie Books.

For counseling from a Biblical perspective:

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

Clinton, T. & Ohlschlager, G. (2002). *Competent Christian counseling: Foundations & practice of compassionate soul care (Volume 1)*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: WaterBrook Press.

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

Kok, J.R. & Jongsma, A.E. (Jnr.) (1998). *The pastoral counseling treatment planner*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc

1. Kruse, 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 videos, discussions led by the professor, student class presentations, and an internet-based “dialogue”.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course requirements are explained in more detail below, as are the relative weights given to each requirement.

1. Active classroom participation in discussions and practice of pastoral counseling.
2. Class tests will test a student's understanding of the material that was prescribed and/or presented from the test, lectures, and assignments.
3. Students will be required to write a two mock treatment plans and programs, to cover two topics approved by the professor.
4. A Midterm Exam will cover Counseling Techniques and Terms
5. A final examination will cover the semester's course work.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The course grade will be calculated in the following manner:

1. Active classroom participation: 10%
2. Class Mock Treatment Papers: 15% Each
3. Midterm Exam 30 %
4. Final exam: 30%

### **GRADE SYSTEM**

94% - 100%	= A Excellent
90% - 93%	= A- Excellent (but)
87% - 89%	= B+ Very Good
84% - 86%	= B Good Work
80% - 83%	= B- Good (but)
77% - 79%	= C+ Fair but almost good enough
74% - 76%	= C Fair
70% - 73%	= C- Just Passable
67% - 69%	= D+ Poor but almost made it
64% - 66%	= D Poor
60% - 63%	= D- Highly questionable

### **CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION**

Classroom participation will normally be broken down into three grades. When a student does not actively participate beyond responding to questions addressed to him/her, they will receive a grade of 75%. When participation is useful and active the grade will be 85%. Exceptional participation in both content and relevance will be given a grade of 95%. A positive attitude

and team spirit is requested.

### **CLASS TESTS**

Two class tests will be given this semester. The first will be a midterm, to be given when enough material is covered. The second will be the final exam, during finals week.

### **RESEARCH FOR CLASS DISCUSSION**

For the dialogue you will be required to search the library's databases of academic journals and choose two articles that address the psycho-social role of the pastoral ministry. This can be an article that specifically addresses the role of the pastor (such as his/her role in counseling, bereavement, terminal illness, hospital chaplaincy, etc.) or the article can refer to the role of a counselor in a role that parallels pastoral ministry.

You will use these articles as references in arguing the following statement

*“In the light of the functional specialization of the pastoral ministry, pastors will need more psycho-social skills and tools to be effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”* Students will be expected to explain and elucidate the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parishioner, and the abilities needed by the Pastor or Chaplain to meet those needs.

**OTHER PARTICIPATION:** The class will attempt to go beyond simple lecture and reading, to include actual counseling labs during class time to give students hands-on experience in working with counseling situations.