

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PCP 541 Psychology and the Christian Faith

Mark Bradford, D-Min, Psy.D.

Spring 2002

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

Carter, John B., and Bruce Narramore. The Integration of Psychology and Theology: An Introduction. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.

Recommended: Faw, Harold. Psychology and the Christian Faith Perspective. Grand Rapids,

MI: Baker, 1996.

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METHODOLOGY

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION/GRADING PROCEDURES

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students should maintain punctual and consistent classroom attendance. More than three (3) absences may reduce the student's grade. Three tardies count as one absence. Students are requested to demonstrate professionalism and courtesy in regards to attendance (if possible, telephone in advance to report sickness or unavoidable absences, etc.).
2. **RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Students will be expected to turn in a Research Project. This is worth 20% of your final grade and must be submitted in a special format as per class handout. Topics not approved by the instructor may be disallowed. Papers are due on the fifth class in February at the beginning of the class and will be lowered a letter grade for each day late.
3. **TESTS:** Unless otherwise noted, there will be two exams, each worth 100 pts. They will attempt to assess mastery level in regards to application of course content. Anything in the required texts or what is shared in class discussions is fair game for test items. This will constitute 60% of the grade for the class.
4. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** There will be a subjective grade (20%) assigned by the professor which takes into consideration the attitude and professionalism of the student, class volunteerism (such as oral presentations, etc.), willingness to help other students, participation in class discussions, pop quiz, attendance, and repeated tardiness.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Allen, Charles L. *God's Psychiatry*. Westwood, NJ: Revell, 1953.

Barker, C. Edward. *Psychology's Impact on the Christian Faith*. London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1964.

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Birkey, Verna. *Your Are Very Special: A Biblical Guide to Self-Worth*. Old Tappan, NJ: Revell, 1977.

Bobgan, Martin, and Deidre Bobgan. *The Psychological Way__The Spiritual Way*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Fellowship, 1979.

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Crabb, Lawrence J. *Effective Biblical Counseling: A Model for Helping Caring Christians Become Capable Counselors*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1977.

Drakeford, John W. *Psychology in Search of a Soul*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1964.

Ellison, Craig W. *Your Better Self: Christianity, Psychology and Self-Esteem*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1983.

Everett, William W. *Disciplines in Transformation: A Guide to Theology and the Behavioral Sciences*. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1979.

Farnsworth, Kirk E. *Integrating Psychology and Theology: Elbows Together But Hearts Apart*. Washington, DC:

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Holmes, A. *All Truth is God's Truth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977.

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Lee, D. John, ed. *Storying Ourselves: A Narrative Perspective on Christians in Psychology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Dr. Mark L. Bradford, January 2002