

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**PCP 541 Psychology and the Christian Faith
Thursdays 2:30 – 5:00**

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Spring 2003

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:

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

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

Recommended:

Anderson, Neil T., Terry E. Zuehlke, and Julianne S. Zuehlke. *Christ Centered Therapy: The Practical Integration of Theology and Psychology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

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

Faw, Harold. *Psychology in Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996.

METHODOLOGY

The course will be team-taught by a theologian and psychologist and will consist of class lectures and discussions led by the professors, student oral presentations, student research projects, and guest speakers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION/GRADING PROCEDURES

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students should maintain punctual and consistent classroom attendance. Unexcused absences may reduce the student's grade. Two tardies count as one absence. Students are requested to demonstrate professionalism and courtesy in attendance and classroom presence.
2. **REQUIRED READINGS:** Students will be expected to complete the assigned readings before class. An annotated (two or three sentences epitomizing each chapter or article) reading report must be submitted on the last day of class. "A" grades will not be given for less than 1,200 pages of reading carefully annotated.
3. **RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Students will be expected to turn in a research project or paper in proper Turabian or APA form. Topics not approved by the instructor may be disallowed. Papers are due at class time on **March 13** and may be lowered a letter grade for each day late.
4. **TESTS:** There will be two exams, a mid-term and final. They will attempt to assess mastery level with regard to understanding and application of course content. Anything

in the required texts or what is shared in class discussions is potential test material.

5. CLASS PARTICIPATION: Attitude and professionalism of the student, class volunteerism (such as oral presentations, etc.), willingness to help other students, participation in class discussions, completion of readings, pop quizzes, attendance, and repeated tardiness may all be considered in grade calculation.

BASIC OUTLINE

The course outline and calendar will be distributed in class.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Research Project	30%
Mid-Term Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Participation	10%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, Jay E. *A Theology of Christian Counseling*. Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library/Zondervan, 1986.

Alcorn, Randy L. *Christians In The Wake of the Sexual Revolution: Recovering Our Sexual Sanity*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1985.

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

Allport, Gordon. *Becoming: Basic Considerations for a Psychology of Personality*. New Haven, CN: Yale, 1955.

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Anderson, Neil T., Terry E. Zuehlke, and Julianne S. Zuehlke. *Christ Centered Therapy: The Practical Integration of Theology and Psychology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

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.
- Biddle, W. Earl. *Integration of Religion and Psychiatry*. New York: Macmillan, 1955.
- 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.
- Boyers, Robert, ed. *Psychological Man*. New York: Harper and Row, 1975.
- Byrnes, Joseph F. *The Psychology of Religion*. New York: The Free Press, 1984.
- Cluff, Charles E. *Parapsychology and The Christian Faith*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1976.
- Collins, Gary R., and Maloney H. Newton. *Psychology and Theology: Prospects for Integration*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1981.
- Collins, Gary R. *The Rebuilding of Psychology: An Integration of Psychology and Christianity*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1977.
- _____. *Can You Trust Psychology?: Exposing the Facts and the Fictions*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1988.
- Conn, Joan Wolski. *Spirituality and Personal Maturity: Integrating Spirituality, Theology, and Pastoral Psychology*. New York: Paulist Press, 1989.
- Cosgrove, Mark R., and James D. Mallory. *Mental Health: A Christian Approach*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1977.
- 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.

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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: University Press of America, 1981.

_____. *Whole-Hearted Integration: Harmonizing Psychology and Christianity Through Word and Deed*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

Fleck, J. Roland, and John D. Carter. *Psychology and Christianity: Integrative Readings*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981.

Freud, Sigmund. *The Future of an Illusion*. Translated by W. D. Robson_Scott. Garden City, NY: W. W. Norton and Company, 1975.

Fromm, Erich. *Psychoanalysis and Religion*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1950.

Fuller, Andrew Reid. *Psychology and Religion: Eight Points of View*. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1977.

Hoffman, John C. *Ethical Confrontation in Counseling*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.

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

Hulme, William. *The Dynamics of Sanctification*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1966.

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- Kelsey, Morton T. *Christianity as Psychology: The Healing Power of the Christian Message*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986.
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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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Wright, H. Norman. *Living With Your Emotions*. Irvine, CA: Harvest House, 1979.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Dr. Edgar Lee and Dr. Melody Palm, December 2002 (edited 12/13/02)