

CP5105L Integration of Psychology and Theology

Instructor:

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SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course explores and critically examines various theories of integration of psychology and theology on three levels of discourse—namely, conceptually, clinically, and personally. Issues such as sin and psychopathology, human concept and God concept, religious experience and faith development, the nature of self, psychotherapy and spiritual direction etc. will be considered from both perspectives along with the psychological and spiritual issues counsellors bring to the healing process.

COURSE AIMS

- Examine and reflect critically on various theories and models of INTEGRATION, conceptually, clinically, and personally.
- Examine and reflect critically on various formulations of the “self” and/or “soul” and how our understanding of these terms informs our practices of counselling or therapy.
- Develop critical awareness of and sensitivity to the psychological and theological dimensions of the narrative of suffering and be able to provide care in a manner that draws resources from psychology, theology, and spirituality.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All texts can be orderd at the bookstore or online.

Benner, David (2004). *The Gift of Being, Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*. IVP:IL

Entwistle, David N. (2004). *Integrative Approaches to Psychology and Christianity*. Wipf & Stock: OR

McMinn, Mark and Campbell, Clark. (2007) *Integrative Psychotherapy*. IVP:IL

REQUIREMENTS

1. Read assigned sections of the text.
2. Students are required to complete an assignment culled from critical analysis and reflection of assigned readings.
3. Students are required to participate in an “on-line forum” on important issues that pertains to the interface of theology with psychology

4. Write a 10-15 page essay on one's evolving "**personal philosophy of integration of theology and psychology**" that can be used as a grid or template in conducting research, professional practice of counselling/psychotherapy, and devotional life. The essay must include critical analysis, appropriation, and expansion of David Entwistle's "*Integrative Approaches to Psychology and Christianity*."

This preliminary essay must be seen as a "work-in-progress." That is, it will be subjected to numerous revisions in the future as you engage new materials and experience new realities that point to the inescapable need for critical integration of these two disciplines.

5. Write a 15-20 **integration paper** on any topic of interest that can be explored from the hermeneutical perspectives of psychology and theology. Possible topics for exploration: sin or mental illness, shame and guilt, forgiveness, self-denial, theory of change or healing, soul care, theological anthropology, prayer, rituals, and the like.

Consider the following:

- What does theology say about the issue? Aspects of the issue theology failed to address.
- What does psychology say about the issue? Aspects of the issue psychology failed to address.
- How can each discipline amplify, elaborate, expand the other?
- If brought together in conversation with each other to come to bear on the topic explored, what "new synthesis, insights, revelation, knowledge" can be drawn from the integrative work?

GRADING

Weekly Assignment	25%
On-line Forum Discussion	25%
Philosophy of Integration	25%
Integration Essay	25%
	100%

PLEASE NOTE

- All counselling students must use the [APA format](#) for citing resources. Other students should follow the guidelines of Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Terms Papers, Theses, and Dissertation*, 6th Edition, or those set forth by the Seminary.
- **Papers are due on the DATE they are DUE.** Any paper submitted after the due date will incur a 1 point deduction for every single day it is turned in late.

COURSE READING SCHEDULE

Session One	Entwistle: Introduction-Chapter 2 McMinn: Introduction-Chapter 1
Session Two	Entwistle: Chapter 3-4 McMinn: Chapter 2-3
Session Three	Entwistle: Chapter 5 McMinn: Chapter 4-5
Session Four	Entwistle: Chapter 6 McMinn: Chapter 6
Session Five	Entwistle: Chapter 7 McMinn: Chapter 7
Session Six	Entwistle: Chapter 8-9 McMinn: Chapter 8
Session Seven	Entwistle: Chapter 10-11 McMinn: Chapter 9
Session Eight	Entwistle: Chapter 12 McMinn: Chapter 10
Session Nine	Entwistle: Chapter 13 McMinn: Chapter 11
Session Ten	Benner McMinn: Chapter 12