Course Description: Integrative Courses

This is the second in a series of three one-hour courses (1PSY622, 1PSY624, 1PSY626) designed to prepare Masters level therapists to relate biblical faith to therapeutic practice (Program Outcome 2). The first course (1PSY622) sets a stage for the understanding of the relationship of theology and psychology by reviewing intellectual and philosophical frameworks that have influenced psychology and theology, with particular attention to the differences between supernatural, empiricist and postmodern frameworks and to the psychological theories that derive from them. Additionally, it examines Christian approaches to the relation of general revelation (Creation) and special revelation (Scripture) and ways in which Christian communities have related to the cultures around them.

This course (1PSY624) pays special attention to a biblical understanding of persons (biblical anthropology), to a framework for understanding the life situation of fallen humanity between the first and second coming of Christ (redemptive history) and to the process and goals of change in Christian life. The place of the family and of marriage within the covenant community and the church as a therapeutic community receive attention. Students will engage with crucial passages in the NT regarding personal and relational change.

In the third integrative course (1PSY626) advanced students select a clinical case, examine the present state of psychological and theological learning in the given area, and then develop and implement an appropriate treatment program.

These three courses, in conjunction with class discussion in regular PSY courses and the courses offered by the biblical studies and the history-theology divisions are designed to prepare students to function as Christian therapists.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the second integrative course students should have demonstrated an understanding of

- Biblical teaching on the place of mankind in relation to the creation, God and other persons,
- Biblical teaching about the relationship of husband and wife in both the Old and the New Testament,
- The changes which came with the coming of Christ,
- Critical New Testament passages addressing the process of change
Course process

The readings for this course are not long. Students are strongly urged to do the readings before the relevant classes.

Meeting 1 will examine biblical anthropology, with particular attention to the opening chapters of Genesis (Readings: Vos chapters on Genesis 1-3; assigned pages from Hurley, Man and Woman).

Meeting 2 will consider redemptive history and the work of God in the present time, with particular attention to therapy (Reading: Hurley, Pauline Ethic).

Meeting 3 will examine the implications of Romans 5-8 and 12-14 for Christian life, change and therapeutic process.

Meeting 4 will examine the teaching of Ephesians 3-6 concerning the process of change in Christian life and in therapy.

Readings


3. Vos, Geerhardus (1948). Biblical Theology, Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, Chapters on Genesis 1-3. (Class 1)


5. Ward, D. and Wampler, K., Moving up the continuum of hope, JMFT, (2010), 36, 212-228

6. Other reading TBA

Assessments

Paper (Weight: 50%): Students will work together in groups of two or three in a biblical studies exploration of significant New Testament concepts relating to counseling using an adapted version of grounded theory research methods. The papers will set the stage for summer explorations of neurobiology and change.

Final exam (March 8 during class time; Weight 50%)

A final exam will be given. It will cover the material presented in the first two lecture sets and readings 1-3. The date will be set in class.

Course schedule

Feb. 8  Class One: Biblical anthropology, with particular attention to the opening chapters of Genesis and their relation to therapy.
Feb. 15  Class Two: Redemptive history and the work of God in the present time, with particular attention to therapy.

Feb. 22  Class Three: Romans 6-8 and 12.

Mar 1    Class Four: Ephesians, esp. chs 3 and 4.