

# PSY630 Psychology in Relation to Theology I

Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando

When: Alternating Thursdays 10am-12pm

Instructor: Dr. Chuck DeGroat

Office Hours: As posted

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## PURPOSE

As the first course in a three-course track in psychological and theological integration, we focus on Scripture as the central text of the Christian counselor. Of special concern in this course is Scripture's understanding of how people change, grow, and mature.

## OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will have a biblical framework for understanding struggle and hope based on "The New Exodus"

## FORMAT

Teaching will include lecture, discussion, video and visual aids where applicable, and some student presentation

## REQUIRED TEXTS

*With Open Hands* - Henri Nouwen

*Inside Out* - Larry Crabb

*How People Change* - Timothy Lane and Paul David Tripp

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will strive to be present and participate actively throughout class presentations and discussions. Differing perspectives and questions will not be ignored, but are encouraged to be shared with the whole class. Discussion will be a major component of the class. Students are expected to speak to the topic based on the class readings to foster a thoughtful discussion.

Students will complete the assignment (below) with quality and in a timely manner.

**Assignment - DUE in Chuck's faculty mailbox the last day of final exam week**

Using the course texts as well as the lectures, write an 8-10 page paper based on the following outline:

- I. Larry Crabb's contribution to an understanding of how people change (1-2 pages)
- II. Lane and Tripp's contribution to an understanding of how people change (1-2 pages)
- III. Henri Nouwen's contribution to an understanding of how people change (1-2 pages)
- IV. De Groot's contribution to an understanding of how people change (1-2 pages)
- V. Your synthesis of and/or assessment of the four views (above) in light of your own growing understanding of how people change. You might consider the following questions below, although it's up to you how to construct this last section:
  - a. What is most helpful to you as you enter the clinic this February?
  - b. What isn't helpful?
  - c. What are the common themes in these views?
  - d. How you answer: How do people change?
  - e. What are the essential elements in changing/growing/maturing?

Please use APA when writing this paper.

I am looking for clear thinking and writing. It might be helpful to begin reading the texts as soon as possible, paying particular attention to and taking notes on parts that answer the question: How do people change? Note: you need not read 100% of each book. Pay careful attention to sections that answer this question.

## GRADING SCALE

Listed below are the assignments that will determine your final course grade.

Class Participation 40 points (class attendance is crucial)  
Final Paper 60 points

A (97-100), A- (94-96), B+ (91-93), B (88-90), B- (86-87), C+ (83-85), C (80-82), C- (78-79), D+ (75-77), D (72-74), D- (70-71), F (below 70)

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

If you should miss a class, you are expected to contact another student regarding the information covered.

All assignments will be due on the last day of finals. For each day a paper is late, 2 points will be deducted from the score of the assignment. Papers may be emailed to me at [cdegroat@rts.edu](mailto:cdegroat@rts.edu)

Plagiarism/cheating will result in the failure of the course.