RE 535 Advanced Christian Psychology
Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Syllabus
Fall 2011

Instructor:

Ronnie J. Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor of Christian Education
BMATS, P.O. Box 670
1530 East Pine
Jacksonville, TX 75766
(903) 586-2501
E-mail - RJeffJ@aol.com                     Website - http://www.RonnieJohnson.info

RJohnson@bmats.edu - Note: If you are E-mailing assignments, I will send a reply that the assignment has been received and the file successfully opened. Do not assume the assignment has been received until you get my reply.

Text:

**ISBN:** 0801062756

Course Description:

Students are introduced to the basic principles of psychology. A study of human behavior and how it applies to specific functions of the minister is made: preaching, efforts to strengthen the congregation, community work, his evangelism. Students conduct appropriate research into current applications.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course you should be able:
1. to **evaluate** the usefulness of current scholarly and professional articles related to Christian psychology.
2. to **demonstrate knowledge** of the basic principles of Christian psychology.
3. to begin **application** of these basic principles to problems and activities of your life and ministry.
4. conduct **analytical** research concerning current issues and applications to ministry.

The content of this syllabus is subject to change as announced in class meetings.
RE 535 Course Assignments:

Attendance and participation in class activities 10%

Reading log - Critique 10 relevant journal articles. Read ten articles relating to Christian psychology. Record (1) bibliographic information, (2) a short summary, (3) and a brief personal reaction regarding value of the information.

Position paper (1 to 4 pages) 10%
What is your position on the use of psychology? Can the study of psychology benefit a Christian worker?

Position paper (1 to 4 pages) 10%
Explain your position on referral and referral procedures. When would you consider referring a church member/counsellee? How would you go about finding resources? What criteria would you require a resource to meet before you would refer?

Exam 20%

Research Paper 20%
Select a subject/topic in the area of Christian psychology and conduct an in-depth study. Write a 12 - 15 page analytical paper on the subject. Prepare a brief outline and bibliography (1-2 pages) for each member of the class. Make a 20 - 30 minute presentation of your research to the class.

Final Exam 20%

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CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY
BIBLIOGRAPHY


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American Journal of Pastoral Counseling (The Halworth Pastoral Press)

Christian Counseling Today (American Association of Christian Counselors)

Discipleship Journal (The Navigators)

Leadership (Christianity Today)

Journal of Biblical Counseling (Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation)

Journal of Counseling and Development (American Counseling Association) = secular

Journal of Pastoral Care (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and others)

Journal of Psychology and Theology (Rosemead School of Psychology)

Journal of Religion and Health (Blanton–Peal Institute)

Psychology Today (Sussex Publishers) = secular + popular + New Age

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