

REGIS COLLEGE

Psychology and Religion

RGP6550HF – 16
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Regis College 312
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The course aims at

- a basic understanding of the relationship between psychology and religion;
- an exploration of the psychological methodology used for research and application of psychological theories in the study of this relationship;
- the application of this research and methodology to spirituality, development, behaviour, individual differences and abnormality;
- an application of these findings within the context of pastoral ministry.

Text: F. Watts, R. Nye, & S. Savage, (2002) *Psychology for Christian Ministry*. [On line through UofT Library]

Reference: James M. Nelson (2009) *Psychology, religion and spirituality*. [On line through UofT Library]

September 15 Spirituality (see Watts et al. chap. 1 & Nelson, 1)

22 The psychology of church services (Neuropsychology) (Watts et al. chap 2 & Nelson, 6)

Seminar: B. Johnstone, et al., 2012. Right parietal lobe-related “selflessness”. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 22, 267-284.

29 Diversity among Christians (Psychological assessment) (Watts et al. chap. 3 & Nelson, 19)

Seminar: Ghorpade, et al., 2010. Intrinsic religious orientation. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*. 20, 201-217.

October 6 Unhealthy religion (Psychological theories of religion) (Watts et al. chap. 4 & Nelson, 15)

Seminar: J. Griffith, 2010. When religion goes bad. *Religion that heals, religion that harms*. (handout)

13 Childhood and adolescent development (Developmental psychology) (Watts et al. 5 & Nelson, 17)

Seminar: B. Hyde, 2010. Godly play nourishing children’s spirituality. *Religious Education*, 105, 504-518.

20 Adult religious development; Ageing, illness, and dying (Watts et al. chap. 6 & 8 & Nelson, 8 & 9)

Seminar: B. Zahl & N. Gibson 2011. God representations, attachment to God, and satisfaction with life. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 22, 216-230.

November 3 Emotional problems (Abnormal psychology) (Watts et al. chap. 9 & Nelson, chap. 17)

Seminar: J. Griffith, 2010. Dark nights and exaltation. *Religion that heals, religion that harms*. (handout)

10 Counselling and pastoral care (Clinical & counselling psychology) (14)

Seminar: M. Raftopoulos & G. Bates, 2011. “It’s that knowing that you are not alone”. *International Journal of Children’s Spirituality*, 16, 151-167.

17 Social processes in church life (Social psychology) (Watts et al. chap. 11 & 12)

Seminar: D.A. Clark, S. Kleiman, L.B. Spanierman, P. Isaac & Gauthamie Poolokasingham, 2014. “Do you live in a tepee?” Aboriginal students’ experiences with racial microaggressions in Canada. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 7 (2), 112-125.

24 Clergy (Watts, et al., 13)

Seminar: P. D’Alton, M. Guilfoyle, P. Randall, 2012. Roman Catholic clergy who have sexually abused children: Their perceptions of their developmental experience. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 37, 698-702.

December 1 Concepts of human nature (Philosophy of psychology) & Psychology and Theology (Watts et al. chap. 14 & 15 & Nelson, 2)
Seminar: Report on essay progress.

Assignments: email to joseph.schner@utoronto.ca

Seminar preparation and participation in seminar assigned reading (10 x 5) 50%

Essay (15 pages, double spaced in 12 point) on a topic in Psychology and Religion after consultation with professor. Due December 15, 2016. 50%

All course work shall be completed by the end of the academic term in which the course is taken, though in some cases extensions may be granted, but no later than the end of the academic year (i.e. August 31). For students who do not meet the deadline the submitted grade shall be the actual grade earned in the course, calculated with zero assigned to any coursework that is still incomplete.

Learning outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	AD OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will have acquired the following levels of knowledge:	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the TST outcomes statement for the individual AD programs:
gained increased familiarity with psychological theories and their application in religion and spirituality	by discussing several theories and practices in psychology and how they might influence religion and spirituality	MA: 1.2 ThM: 1.2 ThD/PhD: 1.1
increased their awareness of the influence of psychological and psychodynamic variables on faith and spirituality	by reviewing various contextual factors and intra-psychic processes and their implication and application in faith and spirituality, and by exploring issues involved in such application	MA: 1.2 ThM: 1.2 ThD/PhD: 1.1
By the end of this course, students will have had an opportunity to demonstrate and enhance their level of ability in the following areas:	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to this aspect of the TST outcomes statement for the individual AD programs:
increased their skill in the application of critical tools and methods;	seminar papers; final paper	MA: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 MTh: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 ThD/PhD: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5
had an opportunity for detailed exploration of a theory or application of a theory;	final essay	MA: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 ThM: 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 ThD/PhD: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5