



## Course Syllabus

**Course Number | Name:** PSY495NT - Psychology & Christianity

**Course Credits:** 3

**Course Duration:** 8 weeks

### Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the integration of Christian theology and psychology. Familiarity with the historical and ongoing tensions between these two approaches to understanding human behavior and the various models of integration used to address such tensions is essential for academic study, research, and clinical application of psychology. Students will begin to develop their own integrative approach and a critical understanding of how psychology informs theology and faith.

### Psychology Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs\*):

<b>1</b>	Apply basic research methods, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
<b>2</b>	Demonstrate critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to applying psychological principles to personal, social, ethical, religious, and organizational issues informed by a biblical worldview.
<b>3</b>	Develop insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management, self-improvement, and self-care, as well as apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
<b>4</b>	Identify and apply basic knowledge of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology and to evaluate them from a Christian worldview.
<b>5</b>	Analyze empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.
<b>6</b>	Communicate effectively in a professional and diverse global environment.
<b>7</b>	Demonstrate digital literacy throughout their program.

**\*Every psychology course must include assessments of some, but not all of the PLOs. The highlighted ones are assessed in this course.**

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### Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

#	CLOs	Bloom's*	PLO(s)~
1	Describe the problems associated with integrating psychology and Christianity.	2	4
2	Analyze psychological concepts and theories in the context of a Biblical worldview.	4	4,5
3	Synthesize and articulate commonly used models of integration.	5	2,6
4	Develop their own approach to the integration of psychology and Christianity.	6	3

\*Indicates Bloom's Taxonomy cognitive domain level.

~Indicates which PLO(s) are aligned with the CLO.

### Biblical Worldview Integration Plan:

1. This course focuses on biblical integration as a major theme and engages students in the praxis of biblical integration with psychology.
2. In addition to sources from academic psychology and counseling journals and texts, students will be encouraged to use the Bible and academic sources in the areas of biblical studies and Christian theology in assigned written work.
3. Students will engage with the biblical view of human nature as a dichotomy of body and soul (spirit) in light of psychological studies of human behavior and consciousness. Understanding human beings as a creation in God's image, yet broken and sinfully depraved, is a theme essential to the integrationist project.
4. Student discussions aim at using critical thinking skills to compare and contrast the claims of psychological science with a biblical worldview, resulting in an integration that upholds the biblical worldview as the ultimate authority for understanding human nature, while being informed by psychology.

### Required Media:

Hathaway, W. L., & Yarhouse, M. A. (2021) *(The Integration of Psychology and Christianity: A Domain-Based Approach*. InterVarsity Press. ISBN-13: 978-0830841837. Paper

Thomas, A. (2017) *(Tackling Mental Illness Together: A Biblical and Practical Approach*. InterVarsity Press. ISBN-13: 978-1783595594. Paper

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### Grading Grid:

Assessments (# in parentheses) - # pts. each if > 1	Total Points
Weekly Discussions (8) - 25 pts. each	200
Weekly Reading Content Quiz (8) - 25 pts. each	<b>200</b>
Special Topics Paper	<b>125</b>
Annotated Bibliography	<b>100</b>
Special Topics Presentation	<b>125</b>
Integration Paper	<b>250</b>
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>1,000</b>

### Course Schedule:

#### Week 1

Media:

1. Thomas, Chapter 1, "It's not all in the mind"
2. Thomas, Chapter 2, "Rule and relationship"
3. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 1, "Integration: The Very Idea"
4. Can Psychology be Christian? Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 1-1 Quiz
2. Wk1 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

#### Week 2

Media:

1. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 2, "Psychological Science: Christian Truth & Method"
2. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 3, "Worldview Integration"
3. Thomas, Chapter 3, "What is Mental Illness"
4. Thomas, Chapter 4, "Freud and the Unconscious"
5. Christianity & Psychology Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 2-1 Quiz
2. Wk2 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

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### **Week 3**

Media:

1. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 3, "Theoretical Integration"
2. Christ & Culture (Review Video)
3. Integration of Psychology and Christianity – Five Views PDF

Assignments:

1. Assignment 3-1 Quiz
2. Assignment 3-2 Annotated Bibliography - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk3 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

### **Week 4**

Media:

1. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 5, "Applied Integration"
2. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 6, "Role Integration"
3. Mark McMinn, Integration of Psychology & Theology Perspective Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 4-1 Quiz
2. Wk4 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

### **Week 5**

Media:

1. Thomas, Chapter 5, "Stress and Culture"
2. Thomas, Chapter 6, "Personal Responsibility and Mental Responsibility"
3. The Diathesis-Stress Model (Intro Psych Tutorial #225) Video
4. Is Stress Making Me More Holy or More Sinful? Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 5-1 Quiz
2. Wk5 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

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### **Week 6**

Media:

1. Thomas, Chapter 7, “Drugs, ECT, and Psychotherapy”
2. Thomas, Chapter 8, “Psychosomatic Illness”
3. Mad, Sad, or Bad Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 6-1 Quiz
2. Assignment 6-2 Special Topics Paper - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk6 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

### **Week 7**

Media:

1. Thomas, Chapter 9, “Severe Mental Illnesses: Schizophrenia, Dementia, Bipolar and Depression”
2. Depression Video

Assignments:

1. Assignment 7-1 Quiz
2. Assignment 7-2 Special Topics Presentation - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk7 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

### **Week 8**

Media:

1. Hathaway & Yarhouse, Chapter 7, “Personal Integration”
2. Think About It Video <

Assignments:

1. Assignment 8-1 Quiz
2. Assignment 8-2 Special Topics Presentation - See Instructions in the course
3. Wk8 Discussion - See Instructions in the course