PM 740 Forgiveness in the Counseling Process

Virginia Todd Holeman

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PM 740: Forgiveness in the Counseling Process
August 9-13 and 16-20, 1999
Asbury Theological Seminary

Instructor: Virginia Todd Holeman, Ph.D.  Credit: 3 hours

Course Description:
This course explores the theological, psychological, and clinical components of forgiveness. Interpersonal and intrapersonal elements of forgiveness receive particular emphasis. Procedures for implementing forgiveness in pastoral and clinical counseling settings are reviewed.

Course Goals:
At the completion of this course you will:
1. Articulate your integration of forgiveness process and personal experience.
2. Explicate forgiveness processes from biblical contexts and theological perspectives.
3. Describe the psychological foundations of forgiveness.
4. Apply forgiveness counseling to case studies.

Course Texts:

Course Packet – purchase at Cokesbury Bookstore

Course Requirements:

Required Reading and Integration/Reflection Journal. [30%]
**Required Course Reading.** Your journal entry for the last day of class will be a report indicating how much of the required course reading you have completed.

**Journal.** A “working” journal will play a key role throughout this class. Your journal entries will take several forms. On some days you will complete instructor-assigned activities prior to class. These will suffice for your journal entry for that day’s class. On other days you will create an entry for your “forgiveness journal” based on your reading and response to class so that you have a chance to INTEGRATE course content with your own experiences. You will turn in your journal entries on a daily basis. I will grade your journals for completeness and depth of your interaction with the course material.

**Biblical or Theological Analysis (10 pages, typed, double-spaced)**

**Due August 31, 1999 by noon.** [30%]

You have an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the biblical and/or theological dimensions of forgiveness. You can choose one of the following three options:

1. You may select a biblical episode of interpersonal forgiveness and analyze this passage from linguistic, historical, and contextual perspectives, and include significant and appropriate applications to contemporary counseling contexts.

2. Or you can reflect on forgiveness from a specific theological perspective and compare contemporary theories of forgiveness with this theological perspective (like Jones did with D. Bonhoeffer). Include significant applications to counseling settings.

3. Or you may have some other idea of how you would like to reflect biblically or theologically on forgiveness.

**Case Study Analysis.**

**Due August 24, 1999 by 4:00 p.m.** [40%]

Think of this case study analysis like an open-book, comprehensive, applied course exam. You are free to consult with your colleagues in this class, but I ask you to write your own case study analysis. You will analyze a forgiveness case study from several perspectives: moral perspective, biblical/theological, psychological, and clinical. You should not need to go beyond the required course reading material to complete the case analysis, although I invite you to include other material that you deem useful in responding to the case.
Submit your TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED case analysis to the Pastoral Ministries Office by 4:00 p.m., on Monday, August 24, 1999.