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CO 515 Forgiveness in the Counseling Process

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CO515: Forgiveness in the Counseling Process  
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This is a Distance Learning Course with students on both geophysical campuses.
Dr. Holeman is planning to teach from the Orlando campus on the following dates:
Sept. 22, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17.

Instructor: Virginia Todd Holeman, Ph.D.  
E: Toddy_Holeman@asburyseminary.edu  
Class Enrollment: 30  
Credit: 3 hours  
Office hours: tba  
BC157 in Wilmore and FC 208  
5:30pm-8:15pm

Course Description:
This course explores the theological, psychological, and clinical components of forgiveness and reconciliation. 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, repentance, and reconciliation from personal experience.
2. Explicate forgiving, repenting, and reconciling processes from biblical contexts and theological perspectives.
3. Describe the psychological foundations of forgiving, repenting, and reconciling.
4. Apply counseling strategies to your own situations and to case studies.
5. Participate in class through discussions, activities, and devotionals.

Required Course Texts for All Students:

OPTIONAL Articles available on-line through Academic Search Premier
Classroom “Community Life” Assignments

Devotionals. We will begin each session with a brief devotional. Noweun’s text is the basis for our meditations. On the first day of class students will sign up to lead our devotional time based on Noweun’s text. Devotionals will run no longer than 10 minutes. I invite you to use all of the technological support that ATS has to offer to lead us into the Lord’s presence. [non-graded activity]

Class Snacks. During the first week of class, students will sign up to bring snacks for our class break.

Course Requirements:

1. Take Home Exam 1 – 35%

2. Take Home Exam 2 – 35%

3. Integrative Assignment – 30%
   Analysis of Forgiveness Event: Select one book from the list of approved books below. You may also submit a text title to me for approval. Analyze the story from theological and psychological perspectives, integrating the material from the course and your own independent research into forgiveness. Paper length 10 pages.


Book Reviews: Select one book from the theological list and one book from the psychological list below. Review each book for its own value and include a section that integrates each review with class reading and material. Each review should be no shorter than 5 pages.

THEOLOGICAL:

PSYCHOLOGICAL:

Research Paper: The purpose of this paper is to allow you to explore a particular area of forgiveness in more depth. This scholarly research paper can focus on any of the following areas: pastoral care and counseling; theology; biblical studies; ethics; multicultural dimension; racial reconciliation; forgiveness and criminal justice system.
- Length – 10 pages
- Format – APA or MLA
- Type – 12 cpi, font, double spaced

Community Practices in Class
I use many different active learning strategies in this course – in other words this is not a lecture-based class. All classes require your preparation for a serious class discussion about the readings.

There is nothing neutral about forgiveness conversation. They tend to generate some intensity because we are talking about painful things. Several ground rules will help us become a conversational community of care:
- No one needs to “fix” any one else in class. Everyone needs to be “heard” and feel that they have been “understood.”
- We will protect one another’s stories by agreeing to keep class conversations confidential.
- We will respect one another’s wisdom to refrain from disclosing some personal information that is too sensitive or too painful for class-level discussion.
We will recognize that stuff about “forgiveness” isn’t necessarily set in stone. We will listen respectfully when others have a differing experience or understanding from our own.

Attendance Policy -- If you miss more than 3 classes, you will not receive a passing grade. Asbury Seminary defines grades using the following criteria (catalog, p. 24):
A= Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives
B= Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives
C= Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives
D= Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives
F= Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives

A plus (+) or minus (–) indicates positions between categories (for example, B+ = very good; C– = slightly below acceptable, etc.).

When all is said and done and all the grades are averaged together, here is the final scale of measurement:
100-96 = A
95-90 = A-
89-87 = B+
86-84 = B
83-81 = B-
80-77 = C+
76-74 = C
73-71 = C-
70-67 = D+
66-64 = D
63-61 = D-
60 and below = F

Late Assignments and Papers
A paper or assignment that is late without prior permission from the instructor receives a grade but no written comments. Late papers are penalize with a 1/3 letter grade reduction for each week that the paper is late. No late Theoretical papers will be accepted.

Incomplete Policy
A grade of "I" denotes course work has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include failure to turn in course work or attending to church work or other employment. See the Asbury Seminary Catalog for further clarification.