



McMaster Divinity  
College

## MS 3XP3 Psychology and Ministry

CLASS TIMES – May 15 to 19, 2017

- 11:30am to 4:00pm Monday
- 9:00am to 4:00pm Tuesday to Thursday (lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm)
- 9:00am to 12:00pm Friday.
- A free lunch is included on Monday and a short chapel will take place on Wednesday

CLASSROOM:

PROFESSOR: Wade C. Rowatt, Ph.D.

EMAIL: Wade\_Rowatt@Baylor.edu

### **Course Description**

Psychology is a broad discipline that focuses on how people think, feel, and behave across cultural and situational contexts. The primary aims of this course will be to better understand psychological issues and processes encountered in the experience of ministry. Example topics include lifespan human development, motivation/emotion, personality, psychological disorders and treatment, the social psychology of prejudice, helping, and violence/aggression.

### **Specializations**

Christian Worldview, Counselling and Spiritual Care, Pastoral Studies

### **Course Objectives**

#### **Knowing...**

- To learn about psychological concepts and processes.
- To know the major theories of social, personality, therapy, and psychological development.
- To develop an understanding of psychology in the context of ministering.
- To increase awareness of psychological and theological perspectives about how and why some individuals and groups thrive and flourish while others remain somewhat stagnant.

#### **Being...**

1. To gain self-awareness as a ministering person through self-reflection on and self-evaluation of one's own psychological qualities.

#### **Doing...**

- To read and discuss articles and chapters about psychology and ministry.
- To communicate clearly, concisely, and accurately when speaking and writing about basic and applied topics.
- To practice and apply new psychological concepts in ministry experiences with diverse individuals across the lifespan.



## Required Texts, Readings

Myers, D. G., & DeWall, C. N. (2015). *Psychology in modules*. Macmillan Higher Education.

Myers, D. G., & Jeeves, M. A. (1987). *Psychology through the eyes of faith*. Harper & Row Publishers.

*\$135 USD for LaunchPad + Loose Leaf Sheets*

Loose-leaf Version for Psychology in Modules 11e & LaunchPad for Myers' Psychology in Modules 11e (Six Month Access)

David G. Myers; C. Nathan DeWall

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## Course Requirements

1. Read chapters and journal article assignments on a daily basis. Please read as much of Myers and DeWall (2015) *Psychology in Modules* textbook as you can before the first day of class. You will be called upon to demonstrate your knowledge of the assigned literature from time to time.
2. Lead and participate in class discussions. It is important for each student to be an active contributor to the thinking in this field, and leadership of this course, rather than a passive recipient of information. **Toward this end, each student is required to lead or co-lead discussion one or more class sessions. To plan ahead, if your last name begins with the letter A-I, please be prepared to lead discussion about modules 1-18; J-R chapters 19-17; S-Z chapters 38-55.** To encourage active participation, it is my practice to call on students (gently) to lead class discussion of required readings. Such discussions proceed more professionally if they are based on a thoughtfully prepared outline of the chapter/article, rather than your memory, highlighting or marginal notes.
3. Outline readings. To facilitate your analysis of the readings, each article or chapter should be outlined or condensed using the following format, and completed by the day of the assignment. The outline need be no longer than a page or two, and written in a form that can be delivered to the class or used as a refresher in the future. I will collect at least **four outlines** as evidence of each students' preparation. The outline should address the main concepts, supporting evidence, threats to validity, counter-arguments, and/or potential applications to your life, work, and ministry.
4. Write and turn in a **ministry application paper** (due June 9, 2017 or earlier): See instructions on the following page.
5. Write and turn in a **book review** (due June 9, 2017 or earlier): A book review on Seligman's *Flourish* (or a comparable book) is due by June 9, 2017 or earlier.

## **Grading**

Class participation and discussion leadership (due May 9-13)*:	10%
Outlines of readings (4 total; due May 9-13):	30%
Ministry application paper/proposal (due June 10 or before):	30%
Book review (due June 10 or before):	30%

\* **Notes:** Class participation includes attendance and participation during class discussions and leadership of class discussions. Some outlines of the readings are to be completed before coming to the class during which they will be discussed. Some outlines may be turned in after May 13.

## **Grade scale**

The letter grade *you earn* will be assigned using the following scale.

A+ = 90-100, A = 85-89, A- = 80-84, B+ = 77-79, B = 73-76, B- = 70-72, C+ = 67-69, C = 63-66, C- = 60-62, D+ = 57-59, D = 53-56, D- = 50-52, F = 0-49

## **Book Review Guidelines (5-7 pages, double-spaced)**

1. Include a reference (i.e., Author, Title, Publisher, Year of publication).
2. Provide a brief statement about the author and his or her background.
3. State the purpose of the book and the methodology of the author.
4. How well did the author accomplish the stated purpose?
5. Summarize the most important chapters in sentence form.
6. Give your brief understanding of the main points.
7. What were the strengths and weaknesses of this book?
8. How would you hope to use this in your current and/or future ministry?
9. Would you recommend this book to others? Who? Why?
10. If you use other reviews or sources, please be clear about giving credit and cite the source(s), and include a References section.
11. Turn in your book review by email to [wade\\_rowatt@baylor.edu](mailto:wade_rowatt@baylor.edu) by June 10 or sooner.

## MINISTRY APPLICATION PAPER/PROPOSAL

Instructions: Type a 10 to 12 page paper in which you discuss how theory and specific psychology research can be applied to your specialization (i.e., Christian Worldview, Counselling and Spiritual Care, Pastoral Studies). A higher-quality paper will integrate research findings about specific concepts or principles when discussing professional issues and applications. A lower-quality paper will simply describe concepts or principles with minimal application or insight beyond the basic research.

1. Professional writing style: The writing style should conform to the college's guidelines: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>
2. Academic honesty/integrity: This assignment is to be completed by you independently. Please do not communicate about the content of this assignment verbally, nonverbally, electronically, in handwriting, by phone, text-message --or in any other way--with anyone else (other than the course instructor). This is not a collaborative assignment. Please be sure you understand what constitutes academic honesty/integrity and dishonesty before completing this assignment: <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>
3. An electronic copy of your paper, along with this signed page, **is due by 11:59pm, Friday, June 9, 2017 (or sooner)**. Please turn in your paper by email to: [wade\\_rowatt@baylor.edu](mailto:wade_rowatt@baylor.edu)

If you have questions about this assignment, please contact Dr. Wade C. Rowatt.

### Academic Integrity Assurance

I certify that I am the sole author of this assignment and that I did not consult anyone else when completing this assignment.

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(Signed Name)

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(Printed Name)

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(Date)

## **McDiv Course Policies**

### A. Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

### B. Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

### C. Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

### D. Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

### Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

**Psychology & Ministry**  
**Course Topics & Schedule of Readings**  
*(Note: order and readings subject to change)*

**Day 1: Chapter/Readings/Topics To Be Announced**

**Day 2:**

**Day 3:**

**Day 4:**

**Day 5:** and wrap-up