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DO 610
THE EMOTIONS, FEELINGS, AND PASSION
Larry Wood, Professor
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(Florida Campus)

The intent of this course is to explore the affective dimensions of belief. It combines the philosophical and psychological perspectives with the theological in an effort to understand and appreciate the role of the emotions, feelings, and passion in the development of one's personal theology.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- (1) A careful reading of all the required assigned material in order to assure a meaningful classroom experience.
- (2) From Session One, write a five page paper on the idea of feeling as a means of knowing God.
- (3) From Session Two, write a five page paper on a theology of **relationality**.
- (4) From Session Three and Four, write a ten page paper on the relation between emotional deprivation and spiritual maturity, noting particularly how dread affects one's perception of reality and stifles one's personal growth.
- (5) From Session Five, write a five page paper on the therapeutic and sanctifying ministry of the Holy Spirit.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Frank Lake, *Clinical Theology* (out of print and available in **xerox** form)
Paul Tillich, *Courage to Be*

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

There will be no formal tests, but each student will write essays on a variety of assigned topics. Students may work together on these essays, producing a single group essay for each assignment. If this option is chosen, each student must contribute significantly to the writing of each group essay. Composing a socialized essay assumes that collaborative **learning** significantly enhances one's understanding, and hence it is encouraged. However, a student may choose to work alone.

Class attendance is required. Learning is more than acquiring factual information contained in texts, though that arduous task is absolutely essential. Learning is more than rote memory. Learning involves "thinking out loud" and engaging in conversation. Attending class provides a dialogical context for listening and participating in the meaning of ideas.

CLASS FORMAT:

Each class session will consist mostly of lectures, though there will be opportunity for open discussion.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session One.

General Introduction

A lecture on the classical theories of **emotion-the** cognitive, the feeling, the behavioristic, and the psychoanalytic. Special attention will also be given to **postmodern** developments in psychology, noting some difference between the **modern** and **postmodern** points of view.

Recommended Reading:

- (1) William Lyon, *The Emotions* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980), pp. 1-52.
- (2) Robert M. Augros and George N. Stanciu, *The New Story of Science* (Chicago: Gateway Editions, 1984), pp. 83-140

that God performs miracles today and that feeling and emotion are vital aspects of human experience and are not to be discredited.

Recommended Reading:

Fletcher, "Experimental Religion," *The Works of the Reverend John Fletcher, late vicar of Madeley* (Imprint, Salem, Ohio: Schmul, 1974) v.4
Call # BX8217 .17628 1974

Left Brain, Right Brain Research and the Neurophysiological Basis of Feeling

A lecture on recent brain research that indicates how the two hemispheres of the brain process emotion, noting in particular on the right hemisphere processes emotional information.

Recommended Reading:

L. Wood, "Recent Brain Research and the Mind-Body Dilemma," *The Best in Theology*, ed. James I. Packer and Paul Fromer (Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today, Inc, 1987), 2:203-141.
Call # BR50 B444 1987

Session Two

Relationality and the Meaning of Persons

A lecture on Paul Tillich who offers an exposition of the meaning of persons who must live with feelings of ambiguity and anxiety. He believes feelings of meaninglessness typify our contemporary world and thus faith must be redefined as courage (a neo-Stoicism) as a result of the modern experience of personal estrangement and a loss of belief in the traditional view of God

Required Reading:

Tillich, *Courage to Be* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 0952)
Call # BJ I 533.C8 T5

A lecture on Jijrgen Moltmann who focuses on the social/relational/emotional characteristics of God's nature. Through his proposal of a Trinitarian pneumatology, he seeks to show how love and human freedom (both personal and social) can become the basis of a meaningful community

Recommended Reading:

Moltmann, "The Passion of God," in the *Trinity and the Kingdom*, pp. 21-60.
"A Companion Volume to Understanding Moltmann," (forthcoming) Asbury Theological Journal (Spring, 2000). Call # BT1 11.2 M613 1981

A brief lecture on Philip Rieff, *The Triumph of the Therapeutic, Uses of Faith after Freud* (Call # BD450 R48). Rieff believes that a psychologizing of the meaning of persons has made Christian theology unintelligible and unacceptable to our therapeutically-minded culture. As a sociologist, he says the future generations will increasingly turn to the therapists for self-discovery instead of to Christian ministers and priests for salvation through Jesus Christ.

Session Three and Four

Intellectual Defense against Emotional, Spiritual Injury and Divine Healing Frank Lake offers a brilliant synthesis of psychotherapy, theology, and philosophy. *Clinical Theology* is one of the few best books ever written. His case-study approach to pastoral theology demonstrates how emotionally scarring events in one's life affect one capacity to relate to others and to God. This is a "must read" book for appreciating the significance of the affective dimensions of religious belief and practice.

Required Reading: from Frank Lake, *Clinical Theology* (Call # BV4012 .L282 1987)
"Introduction," p. xv-xxx

"The Christian Service of Listening, Dialogue, Witness and Counselling in Relation to Troubled Persons, Sufferers from the *Psychoneuroses*, and the Disorders of Personality. "The Understanding and Care of Schizoid Personalities, pp. I -100.

Session Five

Emotions and the Sanctifying Spirit

A Theological, Devotional Series of Lectures on Theology and Christian Maturity

"The Spirit of Patience"

"The Spirit of Promise"

"The Spirit of Christ"

"The Spirit of Holiness"

"The Spirit of Love"

"The Spirit of Hope"

"The Spirit of Power"

"The Spirit of Miracles and Gifts"

"The Spirit of Truth"

"The Spirit of Peace"

"The Spirit of Assurance"

"Receiving the Holy Spirit"

Recommended Reading: David E. Seamands, *Healing for Damaged Emotions*, (Wheaton, 111. Victor Books, c 198 1). Call # BS680.E4 S43 (Call # BV4012 L282 1987 for sound recordings).