

## GUIDELINES FOR RPC QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

Revised Fall 2007

### **General Guidelines**

RPC qualifying examinations are usually taken in the spring or summer of the third year of study and must be taken within four years from admission. They are administered over a period of two weeks three times a year (October; March; and August; *the Department publishes the specific dates each year*). Prior to taking exams, students must have completed four semesters of study and at least 36 hours of course work and satisfied the language requirements and minor area exams.

Six months prior to exams, students petition to take exams, meeting with RPC faculty to review preparation, discuss exam bibliography, and finalize the Ph.D. Committee, appointed by the Graduate School Dean.

Prior to the meeting, students circulate to RPC faculty:

1. Account of preparation (e.g., courses, research papers, clinical work)
2. List of additional books, themes, and questions for each exam
3. Brief abstract on the two minor area exams

Exams are given in five areas:

1. Pastoral and Practical Theology
2. Religion, Personality, and Culture
3. Methods in Religion, Psychology, and Culture
4. GDR minor
5. Social Science minor

Requirements for the first three areas are met through three written exams taken during the exam period. Students arrange dates to take each exam with the GDR office and receive questions and return answers to the office at the designated time. Normally students are given a choice of answering three of four questions and have a total of eight hours for preparation and writing for each exam.

Requirements for the two minor area exams are met through work negotiated by the student and approved by a faculty in the minor area (often a major research paper or written exam that builds on course work in the minor area and that may contribute to dissertation research). Grades and evaluation for minor exams are due in the GDR office and to the area director prior to the written exams.

A two-hour oral exam on the written exams (first hour) and dissertation research (second hour) occurs within two weeks after the written exams. One week prior to the conversation, students should submit to faculty a draft of a dissertation proposal that describes a student's history of exploring a particular concern and begins to identify primary research question(s), thesis, method, outline, and bibliography.

## Required Exam Bibliography

Questions draw on the required bibliography and additional books suggested by the student. They focus on specific interests of the student and general understanding in the exam area. Students are expected to know the key contributions of the required texts and should be able to demonstrate a general breadth of knowledge and depth in specific areas and scholars. RPC courses are designed to assist students in preparing for exams. Students may also draw on major scholars studied in minor area exams. Two weeks before exams, students may submit to faculty additional questions they feel prepared to answer.

### I. Pastoral and Practical Theology

This examination covers major historical and contemporary models and scholars in the fields of practical and pastoral theology. It addresses questions of the relationship between theory and practice, person and society, congregations and public policy, and counseling and care. It expects knowledge about the past and current state of the fields and about distinctive interpretations of human suffering and responses to human suffering as well as understandings of transformation and human fulfillment in pastoral theology.

- Ackermann, D. and R. Bons-Storm, Liberating Faith Practices  
 Andrews, Dale, Practical Theology for Black Churches  
 Boisen, Anton, The Exploration of the Inner World; Out of the Depths  
 Browning, Don S., Religious Ethics and Pastoral Care  
 Dykstra, Robert, Imagining Pastoral Care: Metaphors for Ministry  
 Jaeckle, Charles and William A. Clebsch, Pastoral Care in Historical Perspective  
 Clinebell, Howard, Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling  
 Couture, Pamela and Rodney Hunter, Pastoral Care and Social Conflict  
 Hiltner, Seward, Preface to Pastoral Theology  
 Holifield, E. Brooks, A History of Pastoral Care in American  
 Hunter, Rodney, Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling, selected overview articles  
 Gerkin, Charles, The Living Human Document  
 Glaz, Maxine and Jeanne Stevenson Moessner, eds., Women in Travail and Transition  
 Graham, Larry Kent, Care of Persons, Care of Worlds  
 Lartey, Emmanuel, In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling  
 Lester, Andrew, Hope in Pastoral Care and Counseling  
 Marshall, Joretta, Counseling Lesbian Partners  
 Miller-McLemore, B. "The Living Human Web"  
 Miller-McLemore, B and B. Gill-Austern, Feminist and Womanist Pastoral Theology  
 Neuger, Christie Cozad, Counseling Women: A Narrative, Pastoral Approach  
 Pattison, Stephen. Pastoral Care and Liberation Theology  
 Ramsay, Nancy, ed., Pastoral Care and Counseling: Redefining the Paradigms  
 Moessner, et al. Through the Eyes of Women  
 Smith, Archie, Jr., The Relational Self: Ethics & Therapy from a Black Church Perspective  
 Watkins Ali, Carroll. Survival and Liberation: Pastoral Theology in an African American Context  
 Wimberly, Edward P., African American Pastoral Care

## II. Religion, Personality, and Culture

This examination covers theories of personality, theories of development, and theories of individual and social transformation in religion and the social sciences with emphasis on psychological theory. It expects knowledge of representative theorists from major schools or movements of contemporary psychology and representative theorists in religion or theology and the ability to analyze critically and to position their theories of personality or theological anthropologies within broader cultural, ethical, and philosophical frameworks.

Benjamin, Jessica, Bonds of Love

Brown, L and Ballou, M., eds. Personality and Psychopathology: Feminist Reappraisals

Browning, Don S. and Terry Cooper, Religious Thought and the Modern Psychologies

Burkitt, Ian. Social Selves: Theories of the Social Formation of Personality

Chodorow, Nancy, The Reproduction of Mothering

Collins, Patricia H. Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment

Erikson, Erik, Childhood and Society; The Life Cycle Completed

Fonagy, Peter, Attachment Theory and Psychoanalysis

Frank, Jerome, Persuasion and Healing

Freud, Anna. The Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense

Freud, Sigmund, The Question of Lay Analysis; relevant essays on psychoanalysis in New Introductory Lectures

Gay, Volney, Freud on Ritual; Understanding the Occult; Freud on Sublimation

Gilligan, Carol, In A Different Voice

James, William, The Varieties of Religious Experience

Klein, M. Love, Hate and Reparation

Kohut, Heinz, How Does Analysis Cure?; The Restoration of the Self

McGoldrick, Monica, Ethnicity and Family Therapy

Mahler, M. The Psychological Birth of the Human Infant

Miller, Jean Baker, Towards a New Psychology of Women

Miller-McLemore, Bonnie, Also a Mother

Mitchell, Stephen, Hope and Dread in Psychoanalysis

Rieff, Philip, Triumph of the Therapeutic

Rizutto, Anna-Maria, Birth of a Living God

Rogers, Carl, On Becoming a Person

Winnicott, D.W. Playing and Reality

### III. Methods in Religion, Psychology, and Culture

This examination covers methods in the social scientific study of religion, the interdisciplinary study in theology and the social sciences, and practical theology. It addresses metatheoretical issues involved in making a good argument and interdisciplinary questions about the relationship between theology, religion, and the social sciences. It focuses on and different ways of connecting theology and science in general and religion and psychology specifically. The exam includes both methodological and substantive issues. The former includes how theology and the social sciences are defined, how they handle epistemological and verificational assumptions, and how they address questions of interpretation. The latter includes the ability to understand the ways scholars from different disciplines approach substantive issues, such as human brokenness, anxiety, depression, fulfillment, and joy.

Barbour, Ian, Religion and Science: Historical and Contemporary Issues

Bevans, Stephen B., Models of Contextual Theology

Browning, Don, A Fundamental Practical Theology

Freud, Sigmund, relevant essays on science and religion in New Introductory Lectures and Future of an Illusion; Civilization & its Discontents

Gerkin, Charles, The Living Human Document

Graham, Elaine, Transforming Practice

Graham, Elaine, Walton, Heather, and Ward, Frances, Theological Reflection: Methods

Hunsinger, Deborah van Deusen, Theology and Pastoral Counseling

James, William, Pragmatism

Jonte-Pace, Diane and William B. Parsons, eds., Religion and Personality: Mapping the Terrain

Killen, Patricia and de Beer, John. The Art of Theological Reflection (New York: Crossroad, 1994/1998)

Kuhn, Thomas, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions

McWilliams, Nancy. Psychoanalytic Case Formulation (New York: Guilford, 1999)

Miller-McLemore, B. and B. Gill-Austern, Feminist and Womanist Pastoral Theology

Miller-McLemore, B, "The Subject and Practice of Pastoral Theology as a Practical Theological Discipline," in Liberating Faith Practices: Feminist Practical Theology in Context

Ramsay, Nancy, ed., Pastoral Care and Counseling: Redefining the Paradigms

Ricoeur, Paul, Freud and Philosophy

Segundo, The Liberation of Theology

Tanner, Kathryn, Theories of Culture

Tillich, Paul, Systematic Theology, vol. 1

Tracy, David, Blessed Rage for Order; The Analogical Imagination

## Supplemental Bibliography

In addition to the required texts, students can propose for each exam 5-10 additional books that they have studied in RPC course work and research. The lists below are suggestive of books that could be added to each exam list.

### I. Pastoral and Practical Theology

- Ashby, Jr., Homer U., Our Home is Over Jordan: A Black Pastoral Theology  
 Browning, Don S., The Moral Context of Pastoral Care  
 Capps, Donald, Reframing: A New Method in Pastoral Care or Agents of Hope: A Pastoral Psychology  
 Chopp, R. and Davaney, S. Horizons in Feminist Theology  
 Couture, Pamela, Blessed are the Poor?  
 Gorsuch, Nancy, Introducing Feminist Pastoral Care and Counseling  
 Graham, Larry Kent, Discovering Images of God: Narratives of Care among Lesbians and Gays  
 Hiltner, Seward, Pastoral Counseling  
 Hunsinger, Deborah van Deusen, Theology and Pastoral Counseling  
 McNeill, John T. , A History of the Cure of Souls  
 Moore, Zoë Bennett, Introducing Feminist Pastoral Perspectives on Pastoral Theology  
 Neuger, Christie, ed., Arts of Ministry  
 Neuger, Christie Cozad and Poling, James Newton, eds., The Care of Men  
 Patton, John. Pastoral Care in Context  
 Poling, James, The Abuse of Power  
 Ramshaw, Elaine, Ritual and Pastoral Care  
 Smith, Archie, Jr., Navigating the Deep Rivers  
 Stevenson Moessner, Jeanne, Through the Eyes of Women and In Her Own Time  
 Suchocki, M. The Fall to Violence: Original Sin in Relational Theology  
 Thorton, Sharon, Broken Yet Beloved  
 Thurneysen, E. A Theology of Pastoral Care  
 Towns, Emilie M., A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering  
 Van der Ven, Johannes, Ecclesiology in Context  
 Wicks and Richard D. Parsons, Clinical Handbook of Pastoral Counseling  
 Wimberly, Edward, Counseling African American Marriages and Families  
 Wise, Carroll. The Meaning of Pastoral Care

### II. Religion, Personality, and Culture

- Beck, Judith. Cognitive Therapy  
 Belenky, Mary Field et al. Women's Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice and Mind (Basic)  
 Boyd-Franklin, Nancy, Black Families in Therapy  
 Cooper, Terry D., Sin, Pride and Self-Acceptance (Intervarsity)  
 Cushman, Philip, Constructing the Self, Constructing America  
 Dunlap, Susan, Counseling Depressed Women (WJK)  
 Eichenbaum, Luise and Susie Orbach, Understanding Women

Erikson, E. Identity and the Life Cycle  
 Fairbairn, D. Psychoanalytic Studies of the Personality  
 Farley, Wendy, The Wounding and Healing of Desire: Weaving Heaven and Earth (WJK)  
 Fowler, James W., Stages of Faith  
 Friedman, Edwin H., Generation To Generation  
 Fulkerson, Mary McClintock, Changing the Subject  
 Gay, Volney, Joy and the Objects of Psychoanalysis  
 Graham, Elaine. Making the Difference: Gender, Personhood and Theology  
 Greenberg, Jay R. and Stephen A. Mitchell, Object Relations in Psychoanalytic Theory  
 Hopkins, Dwight H., Being Human: Race, Culture And Religion (Augsburg Fortress)  
 Jones, James, Religion & Psychology in Transition; Contemporary Psychoanalysis & Religion; Terror and Transformation  
 Keller, Catherine, From a Broken Web: Separation, Sexism and Self  
 Kegan, Robert, The Evolving Self; In Over Our Heads  
 Kohlberg, Laurence, The Philosophy of Moral Development  
 Lerner, H.G. Women in Therapy  
 Homans, Peter, Jung In Context; The Ability to Mourn  
 McDargh, John, Psychoanalytic Object Relations Theory and the Study of Religion  
 Mead, G.H. Mind, Self and Society  
 Niebuhr, Reinhold. The Nature and Destiny of Man  
 Ruether, Rosemary Radford, Sexism and God-Talk  
 Tillich, Paul, The Courage To Be; selections from Theology of Culture; selections from Meaning of Health: Essays in Existentialism, Psychoanalysis, and Religion  
 Van Beek, Aart. M. Cross-Cultural Counseling (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996)  
 Wampold, Bruce, The Great Psychotherapy Debate: Models, Methods, and Findings

### **III. Methods in Religion, Psychology, and Culture**

Anderson, Victor, Pragmatic Theology  
 Barth, Karl, Church Dogmatics vol. I, pp. 1-25, 213-283  
 Bernstein, Richard J., Beyond Objectivism and Relativism  
 Benhabib, Seyla, Situating the Self: Gender, Community & Postmodernism  
 Browning, D., Miller-McLemore, Couture, Lyon, and Franklin, From Culture Wars to Common Ground (see appendix to second ed.; an example of practical theology method)  
 Groome, Thomas, Christian Religious Education  
 Gadamer, Hans-Georg, Truth and Method  
 Graff, A. ed. In the Embrace of God: Feminist Approaches to Theological Anthropology  
 Habermas, Jürgen, Theory of Communicative Action  
 James, William, The Principles of Psychology  
 Jones, J. Contemporary Psychoanalysis & Religion or Religion & Psychology in Transition  
 Lindbeck, George, The Nature of Doctrine  
 Miller-McLemore, Bonnie, Let the Children Come (example of practical theology method)  
 Ramsay, Nancy, Pastoral Diagnosis: A Resource for Ministries of Pastoral Care and Counseling  
 Ricoeur, Paul, Hermeneutics and the Human Sciences

Taylor, Mark, Remembering Esperanza

Van der Ven, Johannes, Practical Theology: An Empirical Approach

Volf, Miroslav and Dorothy Bass, Practicing Theology

Whitehead, Evelyn and James Whitehead, Method in Ministry