

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus
Phoenixville, PA
March 21-25, 2005

PCPB 532 CONTEMPORARY FAMILY ISSUES
(3 Credits)

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A focus on issues impacting today's family. This class will aid helping professionals to better understand and work with individuals and families experiencing addictions, substance abuse, and/or sexual abuse within their immediate or extended family.

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Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast secular and Biblical views of marriage and family issues.
2. Describe a theology of courtship, marriage, sexuality, family relations, appropriate roles in marriage and parenting strategies.
3. Identify the traits that make a Christian family different from families of other religions.
4. Describe systems and family life cycle theory in understanding marriage and family issues in context.
5. Explain the types and the importance of communication in the home.
6. Summarize a Biblical understanding of self-esteem and its importance in marriage, family and parenting.
7. Initiate positive change in troublesome marital and family relationships.
8. Dialogue on how to stimulate ministry to families and their involvement in the local church.

Required Textbooks

Balswick, J. and Balswick, J. (1999). *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*. (2nd Ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Campbell, K. (2003). *Marriage and family in the biblical world*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Recommended Textbooks

Chapman, G. (1996). *The five love languages*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press.

Crabb, L. (1992). *The marriage builder*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing Company.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Pre session work

- Read both Campbell (2003) and Balswick and Balswick (1999).
- Select two chapters, one each from Campbell (2003) and from Balswick and Balswick (1999). Prepare a one-hour oral presentation on your selected chapters following the format provided in Appendix A. The chapter presentations will be arranged in chronological order in the way that they appear in each book.

II. In Session work

- There will be one small quiz in each of the (5) class days over material studies that day
- Each student will make two, one-hour oral presentation
- The professor will lecture from Balswick and Balswick and supplementary material
- Construct of three generation family genogram

III. Post session work

- Write a 10-12 page paper on a topic of your choice which addresses a contemporary family issue. **Due date June 25, 2005**. See Appendix B

GRADING SYSTEM

Five (5) small quizzes 14.28% each	71.40%
Two, one-hour oral presentation	14.28%
One 10-12 page paper	14.28%
Total	100%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be distributed on the first day of class.

Appendix A

CRITICAL CHAPTER REVIEW EVALUATION FORM

I. Introduction - include statements about:

1. The topic/subject (a brief, but clear description)
2. Author's stated purpose, thesis, or special interest in writing this work
3. Author's stated perspective on the topic (This would include any foundational presuppositions)
4. Any acknowledged limitations or self-criticisms by the author
5. Author's stated strategy/plan in writing this work

II. Content Evaluation - may include the following:

1. A brief description of the major focus of the work and a statement of assessment as to whether you feel the subject matter was especially significant and worthy of address
2. A general overview and evaluation of the chapter's content
 - a. coverage of the topic - include a description of the major divisions of the chapter
 - b. development of the material in addressing the topic
3. A general description of the chapter's format and physical presentation
 - a. How it was laid out?
 - b. Was the format attractive, useful, and easy to follow?
 - c. What extra features were especially useful or distracting?
4. An evaluation of the author's ability to communicate in his/her writing
 - a. clarity of thought and expression
 - b. vocabulary
 - c. sentence structure (simple and direct, or complex and confusing)
5. A summary of noteworthy observations, finding or conclusions found in this work

Summary - may include:

1. A statement of whether you thought the author accomplished his/her stated goals and objectives (if not, why?)
2. A judgment of your general impression of this work and of its value to the field of study it addresses.
3. Any personal benefits derived from reading it

Appendix B**TERM PAPER EVALUATION GUIDLINES*****Format and Organization: 30 points possible******Score*** _____

- _____ Quality of the title page
- _____ Introduction and components of the introduction addressed in the body of the paper
- _____ Outline format and proper use of headings in the body of the paper
- _____ Items introduced in the introduction revisited and restated in the summary or conclusion
- _____ Paper must be stapled, upper left-hand corner (no paper clips, notebooks or binders a any kind)
- _____ Improper use of bolding or italics
- _____ Use Times New Roman, 12-point font throughout

Documentation: 30 points possible***Score*** _____

- _____ Proper and thorough, in-text documentation
- _____ Proper format for reference page

Content: 40 points possible***Score*** _____

- _____ Completeness of content
- _____ Accuracy of information
- _____ Clarity of expression
- _____ Logical flow of expression
- _____ Compelling argumentation/presentation

Total points _____***Letter grade*** _____