

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PCPB 643 Special Studies in Counseling: Marital and Family Therapy

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Summer 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will survey the basic theories of marital and family therapy, the sociological structure of family systems, and the clinical assessment of systemic dysfunction. Emphasis will be placed on strategies and interventions relevant for pre-marital, marital and family counseling.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will:

1. Become acquainted with the sociological structure and function of the family.
2. Examine the various theories, methods and techniques used in marriage and family therapy and counseling.
3. Demonstrate a refined understanding of the marital system and the family as an integrated system.
4. Begin to identify and assess patterns of systemic dysfunction, maladaptive behavior and relational pathology.
5. Identify positive resources for coping and change within the family system and utilize these within effective counseling treatment strategies.
6. Develop an understanding of ethical and relational issues such as boundaries, power, intimacy and confidentiality, and how these issues can be used to establish goals, improve communication and enrich the marital relationship at each stage of counseling.
7. Identify community resources for individuals, couples and families in crisis.
8. Recognize when referral to another professional may be beneficial.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Worthington, E. (1999). *Hope-focused marriage counseling: A guide to brief therapy*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

METHODOLOGY

This three-hour module course will be conducted as a seminar in which all students participate and contribute ideas and concepts. The instructor will lecture and students will participate in classroom discussions and will complete assigned research, reading and projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all class meetings.
2. Active participation in class discussions and projects.
3. Read assigned text prior to beginning of class.
4. Read an additional 900 pages from current texts relevant to course subject, and submit a one-page summary for each text read. Include text title, author and number of pages read. Due August 23.
5. 15-20 page research paper on a topic relevant to marriage/family counseling. Turabian or APA 5 format required. Due August 23.
6. Miscellaneous in-class assignments/readings.
7. Final Exam

GRADING PROCEDURES

All work is to be completed as scheduled. Students with special needs should inform instructor of any accommodations needed at the outset of the course. Each assignment will be given a numeric grade, and grades for each assignment will be weighted and distributed as follows:

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| Attendance and Participation | 10% |
| Assigned Reading & Summaries | 30% |
| Research Paper | 30% |
| Final Examination | 30% |

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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Angela Reid, MA, LPC – March 2003