

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTHM/PCPM 520 Contemporary Family Ministry

Fall Study Week, October 22-26 (Monday –Friday)

8:00 a.m. – 12:00/1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Richard A. Serbin, Ph.D.
e-mail: raserbin@juno.com

Fall 2007

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the essential components of marriage and family counseling and parenting skills training. Its objective is to enable the minister, chaplain and family life educator to appropriately conceptualize family relationships and relational problems and to employ effective intervention strategies.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Compare and contrast secular and Biblical views of marriage and family issues.
2. Articulate a theology of marriage, and family relations including marital roles and parenting strategies.
3. Utilize systems and family life cycle theory in understanding marriage and family issues in context.
4. Use Gottman's Sound Marital House theory to understand what builds up or erodes marital relationships.
5. Explain techniques and interventions that may be employed to address specific marriage and family issues.
6. Articulate an understanding of Hope-Focused marriage counseling as a therapeutic intervention.
7. Develop an approach for conducting premarital and remarital counseling.
8. Assist families to develop positive parenting/discipline strategies for children and teens.
9. Initiate positive change in troublesome marital and family relationships.

TEXTBOOKS

Gottman, J. M., & Silver, N. (2000). *The seven principles for making marriage work*. New York: Three Rivers Press. ISBN: 0609805797

Kimmel, T. (2005). *Grace based parenting*. Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group.
ISBN: 0849905486

Worthington, E. W., Jr. (2005). *Hope focused marriage counseling: A guide to brief therapy*
(2nd ed.). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. ISBN: 0830827641

BASIC OUTLINE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
October 22 8:00 a.m. – 12:00	<i>Class 1</i> A Theology of Marriage Introduction to Systems Theory	Assigned Readings for Class 1
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Class 2</i> Gottman's Sound Marital House Theory	Gottman & Silver (2000)
October 23 8:00 a.m. – 12:00	<i>Class 3</i> Specific Issues in Marital Counseling (Part 1) Finances, Communication, Domestic Violence, Sexual Dysfunction, Affairs, Separation and Divorce	Assigned Readings for Class 3
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Class 4</i> Counseling (Part 2) Hope Focused Marriage Counseling	Worthington (2005) Specific Issues in Marital
October 24 8:00 a.m. – 12:00	<i>Class 5</i> Mid-Week Exam Marriage & Family Assessment	
October 24 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Class 6</i> Premarital and Remarital Counseling	

BASIC OUTLINE (cont.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
October 25 8:00 a.m. – 12:00	<i>Class 7</i> Parenting Skills (Part 1)	Kimmel (2005)
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Class 8</i> Parenting Skills (Part 2)	Kimmel (2005)
October 26 8:00 a.m. – 12:00	<i>Class 9</i> Specific Issues in Family & Parenting (Part 1)	Assigned Readings for Class 9
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Class 10</i> Specific Issues in Family & Parenting (Part 2) Final Exam	Book critique on Worthington's <i>Hope-Focused Marriage</i> <i>Counseling</i> due
December 3		Research paper due

METHODOLOGY

Multiple methods will be employed to conduct the class. These methods are designed to enhance and facilitate the learning process. They include but are not limited to: lecture, video presentations, group activities and class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE/POSITIVE PARTICIPATION: Presence (which is more than simply “showing up”), promptness, positive participation, and professionalism are encouraged and expected of each student throughout this course.
2. REQUIRED READINGS: Students are expected to read all assigned readings. This will include *all* of the books listed as required texts and additional supplemental readings.
3. TESTS: Students will demonstrate mastery of course content by completing mid-week and final exams. Anything in the required texts or what is covered class lectures and discussions is potential test material (the final will not be a comprehensive exam). Instructor reserves the right to make the exams take home, essay, or “in class.”

4. **BOOK CRITIQUE: *Due Friday, October 26.*** A review and critique of Dr. Everett L. Worthington, Jr.'s model of Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling. Students should summarize the key points of this paradigm and be able to compare and contrast this approach to other theoretical ideas discussed in class as well as biblical congruence. Standard APA style is preferred but Turabian is also acceptable. Suggested length of the paper is 8-10 pages of text.
5. **RESEARCH PAPER: *Due Monday, December 3.*** Students will select a topic of interest that reflects current issues in contemporary marriage and family concerns such as, but not limited to, cultural redefinitions of marriage and family, the impact of divorce on children, blended family issues, parental discipline, marital sexuality, sexual dysfunction, the impact of pornography and/or cyberporn on marriage, domestic violence, addictive behaviors/substance abuse, or a particular approach to marriage or family counseling. The topic should be approved by the instructor no later than the end of the classroom portion of the course. The paper should be 12 -15 pages in length (text). Standard APA style is preferred but Turabian is also acceptable. Paper should be e-mailed to the instructor on or before the due date in Microsoft Word format.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Student evaluation will be based on the total points received from attendance/ participation, tests, book critique and research paper. Grades will be assigned according to the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary schedule.

Attendance/participation	10% of final grade
Mid-Week Examination	25% of final grade
Final Examination	25% of final grade
Book Critique	15% of final grade
Research Paper	25% of final grade

Papers not submitted by the assigned date will be accepted but deducted one letter grade per day late.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be included with the assigned reading materials.