

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PCP 532 CONTEMPORARY FAMILY ISSUES

Berl H. Best, ED.D., LPC
Home: 417-833-4155
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Fall 2001

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A focus on issues impacting today's family. This class will aid in 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.

COURSE 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 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. Utilize 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. Have 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. O. & Balswick J. K. (1991). The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House.

Crabb, L. (1992). The Marriage Builder. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

RECOMMENDED

Carter, B. & McGoldrick, M. (1989). The Changing Family Life Cycle. (2nd ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Chapman, G. (1995). The Five Languages of Love. Chicago: Northfield Publishing.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to family science
2. Balswick and Balswick seminar.
3. Crabb seminar

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, group activities, video presentations, research and class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Read both textbooks and prepare a 4-page REACTION (not a summary) paper on each to be turned in on the first day of class in October for Balswick and the first day of November for Crabb.
2. Attend each class meeting and participate in class discussions. This is a vital part of adult learning. Your involvement is vital to your success in the class.
3. Chapter and/or unit essay or objective examinations may be given over selected parts of Balswick /Balswick and Crabb during the course of the semester.
4. A final paper, 10-15 pages, dealing with the subject of your oral report. The oral report will focus on topics that reflect current issues in contemporary families such as, but not limited to, addictive behaviors, human sexuality, marriage and family counseling, and substance abuse. The paper should include a focus on how the issue impacts the local church and how the church should respond to the issue.
5. A final examination will be given at the time scheduled for this class during finals week.
6. An oral report given in class on a subject assigned by the professor.
7. The subjective opinion of the instructor regarding general attitude as reflected by timely attendance and active class participation.

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GRADING PROCEDURES

Reaction papers	10% of grade
Oral report	15% of grade
Research paper	25% of grade
Mid-term examination	25% of grade
Final examination	25% of grade

Papers are due DURING THE NORMAL CLASS MEETING TIME. Late papers will be deducted one letter grade per day.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Berl H. Best, ED. D., LPC. Fall 2001

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
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Blue, Ron and Judy. Money Matters for Parents and Their Kids. Nashville, TN: Oliver-Nelson Books., 1988

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