

## **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

PCP 646 Advanced Marital and Family Therapy

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### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an advanced level of study of the practice of marital and family therapy. Emphasis is placed on various techniques used in the field of marriage and family therapy. Special emphasis will be placed on practical skills of intervention as well as functioning, developing and implementing a therapeutic treatment plan. As part of this course, students will also begin the process of developing their own systematic model of change and personal theory of marital therapy.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to enable students:

1. To examine the various methods and techniques used in MFT.
2. To develop skill in the use of various methods and techniques of MFT.
3. To develop interventions based on appropriate assessment.
4. To demonstrate certain therapeutic skills and behaviors in both role-play and actual counseling situations.
5. To integrate the student's repertoire of MFT skills with their own personal model of MFT.
6. To develop skill in conceptualizing actual counseling session dynamics in order to construct appropriate interventions as well as to provide helpful feedback to the therapist.
7. To think "Systematically." To conceptualize the family as an integrative system, including such issues as family structure and process, personality and role development, triangulation, myths, secrets, power and change.
8. To conceptualize child and adolescent misbehaviors within a preventive/developmental framework and to aid the student in conceptualizing parent/child problems systematically.
9. To understand the unique aspects of the marital system, including boundaries, power, intimacy and confidentiality and how these issues can be used to establish treatment goals, improve communication and enrich the marital relationship at each stage of therapy.
10. To know how to effectively deal with clinical issues that present themselves in marriage or family therapy.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will be conducted as a seminar in which all students participate and contribute ideas and concepts. Role playing and modeling may be part of the course. Instruction will be in the

form of didactic lecture, as well as incorporating videos of various family experts demonstrating their interventions. Discussions of the text and in-class projects will be expected.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

American Psychological Association. (2001). Publication manual 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D. C. American Psychological Association.

Brock, G. (1999). Procedures in marital and family therapy. New York: Allyn/Bacon.

Harley, W. F. (2001). His needs Her needs. Fleming H. Revell.

### **RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

Nichols, M. & Schwartz, R. (2001). Family therapy: Concepts and methods. 5<sup>th</sup>. Ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Chapman, G. (1995). The five love languages. Northfield Publishing.

Patterson, Williams, Grauf-Grounds, & Chamow. (1998). Essential skills in family therapy. The Guilford Press.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Daily attendance and active participation in class discussions is expected. Class sessions provide opportunities to personally evaluate theories and techniques and see connections between ideas, for which simply copying someone else's notes is not an equivalent experience. Because each class contains elements of marriage counseling that may not be repeated elsewhere, I prefer that you not miss any classes. Serious illness is grounds for an excused absence, as long as you notify the instructor that you will be ill. *Unexcused* absences may result in the reduction of a letter grade. Two tardies count as one unexcused absence.

2. **Daily Journal:** Each student will keep a daily journal entry reflecting on his or her experiences/learning/issues related to the days class. In particular, interaction with the videos and round table/small group discussion of the various techniques modeled. Key points pertinent to the type of therapy illustrated should be noted. All journal entries are confidential; there may be a voluntary sharing of entries or discussion of one's own entry. These will be collected each day before class and returned before the end of class.

3. **Development of a personal theory of marriage counseling/therapy:** Using the theoretical and practical elements that you believe are most valid from your previous studies and the material covered in this class, write a paper that summarizes your present theory and planned method for doing marriage counseling. Unless you are already engaged in professional counseling, it is understood that this will be a beginning theory, which you will refine as you

gain experience. It must be 12 to 15 pages in length, written in APA style (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Minimum of 12 resources is required. This does not include any of the textbooks. Please balance your resources between journal articles, books, on-line resources, and those found in hard print. Adherence to APA style is mandatory. This will be reflected in your grade.

Christian Marital Counseling: Eight Approaches to Helping Couples, by Everett Worthington , Jr. (1996) is a good reference book that identifies various approaches. It may be good a guiding framework to peruse. Include in your paper, your beliefs about the nature of human beings and human behavior. Your beliefs about the nature of change and how to bring it about as well as your personal view on marriage and the spiritual aspects of marriage need to be addressed. Paper should be a synthesis of your personal conceptualization of effective therapy, substantiated by research and tied to a theoretical construct. Paper should be a well a thought out, personal, roadmap that indicates to the instructor, how the student will approach marital therapy. Paper must include: Theory of the conditions necessary to have a healthy marriage; theory of what causes marriages to deteriorate, and how student plans to conduct marriage counseling. Paper needs to be a blend of your personal theory, backed by research and proven methods of intervention. The overriding goal of the paper is to assist you in formulating a work-a-able, results-oriented, approach to marriage counseling. A guiding framework that incorporates ones personality, spiritual emphasis and sound clinical theory and intervention. Grades will be assigned on the basis of overall presentation of material and adherence to APA requirements, which demonstrates an ability to write at the graduate level.

PAPER IS DUE FOUR WEEKS FROM LAST DAY OF CLASS–Friday August, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002, by 3:00 PM.

**4. Recommended Book List**--Student will be required to formulate a reference list of books they would recommend to clients on the following topics. Two to three books, or an audio/video tape should be listed for each of the following topics. These are all topics that regularly present in marriage and family therapy and a current recommended reading list is necessary for those in the counseling/pastoring ministry. Please list books that you will actually recommend. These can be books recommended by someone in the field of counseling, whose opinion you respect. This is intended to be a productive and meaningful assignment.

LIST IS DUE TWO WEEKS FROM LAST DAY OF CLASS–Friday July, 26<sup>th</sup>, by 3:00

- Addictions & Co-Dependancy
- Sexual Abuse
- Communication/Conflict Resolution
- Sexual Issues/Dysfunctions
- Eating Disorders/Self-Harming Behaviors
- Pornography
- Depression
- Anxiety
- PTSD
- Premarital Counseling
- Finances & Career Counseling
- Reconciliation/Divorce and Blended families
- Parenting
- Infidelity
- Emotional Abuse
- Suicide
- Physical Abuse/Violence
- Death

**5. Book Critique**-Student will submit a three to four paged, typed, doubled-spaced reaction paper to the required text, His Needs, Her Needs, by W. F. Harley. Instructor is interested in student's opinion of the author's premise, his recommendations and conceptualizations. Please feel free to state your opinions and/or objections. This is an opinion paper.

DUE ONE WEEK FROM THE END OF CLASS– Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> by 3:00 PM.

**6. Daily Readings**–Beginning on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Student is to read two chapters of His Needs Her Needs a day and be prepared to discuss them in class. Professor reserves the right to administer pop quizzes.

**7. A Final Examination**–A final exam will be given over the contents of the textbook, Procedures in marital and family therapy, by Brock. Professor reserves the right to give either an in class final on the final day of class or a take home essay final.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Grades will be based on a percentage earned of all points possible.

1. Class attendance and participation	20 Points
2. Daily entries in journals	30 Points
3. Recommended Book list	50 Points
4. Book Critique	50 Points
5. Personal Approach Paper	150 Points
6. <u>Final examination</u>	<u>100 Points</u>
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	400 Points

\*\*Assignments will be lower one grade for each day they are late. Professor reserves the right to alter the course requirements and grading procedures if deemed necessary.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Melody D. Palm, Psy.D.  
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