

# SYLLABUS

Winter 2012  
BTS7630 – Marriage and Family Counseling  
Professor: Lou Priolo  
Semester Hours: 2 (36 lecture hours)  
Class Time: 12 weeks on Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 pm

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## PURPOSE

This course is designed to equip pastors, elders, deacons, seminary students, guidance counselors, and other lay Christians to become more biblically faithful and effective in counseling people with relational problems as they prepare for and experience marriage and parenthood.

## Objectives

1. Introduce the student to the biblical approach to counseling couples and families. Biblical concepts and relational dynamics that pertain to marriage and family living will be discussed.
2. Help the student investigate and critique the work of major therapists in the field of marriage and family counseling.
3. Assist the student in specifically applying the principles presented in the *Introduction to Biblical Counseling* course to marriage related counseling issues.
4. Through practical exercise, assist the student in gaining mastery of the 8 critical elements of biblical counseling (as presented in the *Methodology* course), as those elements apply to marital and family problems.

## Course Requirements and Grading

1. Read *Solving Marriage Problems*, and *Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible* by the last day of class (3/27). Graduate students must also read *The Complete Husband*. For all reading assignments a 3X5 note card must be turned in stating that the reading was done.....**10%**
2. Mid-term Exam–(take home) given 2/14 return 2/21.....**20%**
3. Final Exam– (comprehensive take home) given 3/27 return by mail postmarked by 4/3 or return with notebook and term paper .....**20%**
4. Term Paper – due 4/3.....**20%**

The term paper should be at least nine (9) pages (double-spaced) on one of the following topics:

- *A Personalized Family Worship Program for Your Household*
- *A Personalized Premarital Counseling Program* (or Sunday School course)
- *Biblical Submission of the Christian Wife to Her Husband*

- *Loving Leadership of the Christian Husband Toward His Wife*
- An approved topic of special interest to you.

In lieu of a term paper, one of the following may be submitted:

- A program (or power point presentation) on the topic *Communication in Marriage*
- *A 1 Peter 3:7 Notebook for Husbands* (men only, must include an extensive list of Proverbs 20:5 type questions for a husband to ask his wife on a variety of “husbanding” topics)
- A program (or power point presentation) on the topic *Conflict Resolution in Marriage*
- A counseling agenda for *A Man or Woman Involved in an Adulterous Affair*
- A power point presentation on the topic *Resolving In-law Conflicts*

***All topics must be confirmed in advance by the instructor. Papers will conform to the TURABIAN handbook on writing.***

5. Notebook - due 4/3..... **20%**  
 Included in this notebook will be notes of all class lectures and a copy of your term paper.
6. Class participation..... **10%**

**Textbooks:** Solving Marriage Problems by Jay E. Adams  
Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible by Jay E. Adams  
The Complete Husband by Lou Priolo (graduate students only)

### **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Times New Roman #12 font is required on all papers. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

### **DUE DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS**

**All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student’s grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student’s transcript.**

## **Schedule of Class Topics:**\*

*This is only a tentative schedule. It is subject to change.*

Date	Topic
January 10	Premarital Counseling/Danger Signs
January 17	Purpose for Marriage/ Premarital Counseling
January 24	Loving Leadership/Biblical Submission
January 31	Genuine Love
February 7	Character Traits of a Successful Marriage
February 14	Biblical Communication in Marriage
February 21	Conflict Resolution
February 28	The In-law Relationship
March 6	Sexual Relations in Marriage
March 13	Child Training and Discipline
March 20	What to do When Your Children Rebel
March 27	Divorce Intervention/“Divorce Recovery”

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\* Due to the large content of material covered in this course it may become necessary to condense, rearrange the order of or omit one or two of these topics.