

**Birmingham Theological Seminary  
Huntsville Extension  
2200 Briarwood Way  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243**

**Fall 2009  
Marriage and Family Counseling  
BC7630  
Thursdays 5:30- 7:30  
Professor: Mr. Jeff Townsley  
Class Hours: 2**

**COURSE PURPOSE**

This is an introduction to the biblical approach to counseling couples and families. Biblical concepts and relational dynamics that pertain to marriage and family living will be discussed. In this class the work of major therapists in the field will also be investigated and critiqued.

The purpose of this course is to lay down the foundation for the process of becoming a biblical counselor. The adult learner will develop this foundation by looking at an overview of the basic principles of biblical counseling relating to marriage and family issues. The student will also complete a practical project through which he/she will examine the application of these biblical principles in selected marriage and family topics.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The adult learner will be able to define Biblical Counseling as it relates to marriage and family issues.
2. The adult learner will be able to delineate the basic principles and differentiate biblical counseling from psychological counseling models as it relates to marriage and family issues.
3. The adult learner will develop a grasp of the most important biblical constructs for conducting biblical counseling as it relates to marriage and family issues.
4. The adult learner will be able to articulate a basic biblical theology that provides the framework for the implementation of biblical counseling within a marriage and family setting.

**COURSE TEXTS**

**Required Texts:**

*Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling* by Everett Worthington  
*Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage* by Jay Adams  
*Family Therapy* by Herbert and Irene Goldenberg

**Recommended Materials:**

*The Excellent Wife* by Martha Peace  
*The Exemplary Husband* by Stuart Scott  
*The Complete Husband* by Lou Priolo

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading assignments per each lesson in syllabus. (Due on weekly basis)
2. Other assignments per each lesson in syllabus. (Due on weekly basis)
3. Read *Family Therapy* and present an overview of the book that particularly examines two specific treatment models discussed in the text. Your examination must also present a biblical interaction for each model. Paper should be 5-7 pages in length.
4. Research a topic that examines a biblical counseling challenge in today's world. Papers should be 9-12 pages in length. You should average two citations per page and at least five to seven reference works other than your textbooks. Papers should contain the following constituent parts: title page, table of contents, introduction, research question (what are you investigating?), discussion and conclusion, bibliography. (The 9-12 pages begins with introduction and ends with conclusion).
5. Mid-term covering lessons 1-6.
6. Final exam covering lessons 7-13.
7. Write a study guide for both Adam's and Worthington's book.

### **Seminary policy on submitted work:**

“All course materials must be submitted to the respective professors at the end of the semester (last day of classes). 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) 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.”

## **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

## COURSE GRADING

1. Mid-term 20%
2. Adams and Worthington book study guides 20%
3. *Family Therapy* presentation 10%
4. Class participation 10%
5. Final Exam 20%.
6. Research paper 20%

## READING ASSIGNMENTS AND LECTURES

Reading assignments can be found on the first page of each lesson. Be sure to have your reading up to date for the mid-term (even if we have not covered all the lessons).

September 10	Theology of Marriage (Part 1)
September 17	Theology of Marriage (Part 2)
September 24	Marriage Counseling begins at home
October 1	A Biblical Methodology for Counseling
October 8	The process for change and discussion on human needs
October 15	“Leave and cleave” issues and review for mid-term exam <b>(Assignment #7 due)</b>
October 22	Expectations and Role Relations and mid-term exam
October 29	Communication issues <b>(Assignment # 3 due)</b>
November 5	Intimacy Issues
November 12	Family Relations and Finances
November 19	Parenting and Childrearing <b>(Research paper due)</b>
November 26	<b>Thanksgiving NO CLASS</b>
December 3	Sexual Problems in Marriage and review for final exam
December 10	Final Exam

## Bibliography

- Adams, Jay. *The Christian Counselor's Manual* Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1973.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Life under the Sun (Son), Counsel From the Book of Ecclesiastes*, Stanley: Timeless Texts, 1999.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington: American Psychiatric Association, 2004.
- Eyrich, Howard and Ed Hines. *Biblical counseling Homework, Disc 1*. :. CD-ROM.
- Eyrich, Howard. *Three to Get Ready, A Premarital Counseling Manual*. Bemidji: Focus Publishing, 2005.
- Hindson, Ed and Howard Eyrich. *Totally Sufficient*. Birmingham: Growth Advantage Communications, 1997.
- Hines, William *Leaving Yesterday Behind*. Gearnies House, Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2000.
- Kittel, G. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Translation of: Theologisches Worterbuch zum Neuen Testament. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans, 1995.
- Kruis, John. *Quick Scriptural Reference for Counseling*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000.
- MacArthur, John Jr., Wayne Mack and Masters College Faculty. *Introduction to Biblical Counseling*. New York: Thomas Nelson, 1994.
- Mack, Wayne. *A Homework Manual for Biblical Living. Vol 2, Family and Marriage Problems.*, Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1980.
- Mack, Wayne and Wayne Johnston. *A Christian Growth and Discipleship Manual, Vol 3, A Homework Manual for Biblical Living*, Bemidji: Focus Publishing, 2006
- Owen, Jim. *Christian Psychology's War on God's Word*, Santa Barbara: EastGate Publishers, 1996.
- Peace, Martha. *The Excellent Wife*, Bemidji: Focus Publishing, 1997
- Powlison, David. *Seeing with New Eyes*, Phillipsburg: P and R Publishing, 2003
- Prioloe, Lou *The Complete Husband*, Amityville: Calvary Press, 1999.
- Scott, Stuart *The Exemplary Husband*, Bemidji: Focus Publishing, 2002
- Sykes, Charles J. *A Nation of Victims, The Decay of the American Character*. New York: St.

Martin's Press, 1992.

Tripp, Paul David *Instrument in the Redeemer's Hands*. Phillipsburg: P and R Publishing, 2002.

Vine, W. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Old Tappan: Revell, 1981. Published in Electronic Form from Logos Research Systems, 1996.

Wheat, Ed, MD. *Love Life for Every Married Couple*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Wheat, Ed, MD and Gaye Wheat. *Intended for Pleasure*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 2006.

Worthington, Jr., Everett *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling* Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.