

Birmingham Theological Seminary - Dothan Extension

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Spring 2012

BC7630 Marriage and Family Counseling

Instructor: Rev. Lynn D. Miley, B.A., M.S.

Class Hours: 2 semester hours

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COURSE PURPOSE

This course 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. The work of major Christian therapists in the field will also be investigated and critiqued.

The purpose of the course is to lead the student in formulating a biblical foundation for counseling, to help him develop his counseling skills particularly as it relates to marriage and family, and to assist him in learning how to apply those skills to pre-marital, marital, and parenting counseling situations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

- Adams, Jay, ***Solving Marriage Problems***, Zondervan, ISBN-13: 978-0310510819
- Harvey, Dave, ***When Sinners Say "I Do"***, Shepherd Press, ISBN-13: 978-0976758266
- Kostenberger, Andreas J., ***God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation***, Crossway Books, ISBN-13: 978-1433503641
- Worthington, Jr., Everett L., ***Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling***, IVP Academic, ISBN-13: 978-0830827640

Recommended Reading:

- Adams, Jay, ***Christian Living in the Home***, Presbyterian & Reformed, ISBN-13: 978-0875520162
- _____, ***Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible***, Zondervan, ISBN-13: 978-0310511113
- _____, ***Solving Marriage Problems: Biblical Solutions for Christian Counselors***, Zondervan, ISBN-13: 978-0310510819
- Brandt, Henry and Homer Dowdy, ***Building a Christian Home***, Scripture Press, ISBN-13: 978-1120107527
- Brandt, Henry and Phil Landrum, ***I Want To Enjoy My Children: A Handbook on Parenthood***, Zondervan, ASIN: B0006CJJC2
- Eyrich, Howard, ***Three To Get Ready: A Christian Premarital Counselor's Manual***, Presbyterian & Reformed, ISBN-13: 978-1885904164
- Mack, Wayne, ***Preparing for Marriage God's Way***, Hensley Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-1563220197

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance: more than two unexcused absences drop the final grade by one letter grade.
2. Completion of reading assignments: the syllabus gives a schedule of the due dates for the various reading requirements. Certain texts also require a 1-2 page critique. Critiques should include discussion of the strengths and weaknesses, questions raised, and application of the material to the student's own thought and practice.
3. Watch the movie *Fireproof* and write a two page evaluation of the couple's marriage and any interventions in the movie that you could use. The due date is included in the syllabus.
4. As a class, the students will formulate a congregational marriage ministry which will consist of four parts. The students will be divided up into four groups so that each component of the program is developed. The four components are:
 - a. Pre-marital counseling
 - b. Marriage enrichment
 - c. Troubled marriage counseling
 - d. Marriage mentoring program
5. Mid-term Exam and Final Exam

GRADING

Quizzes – 20%
Written book reports – 25%
Church marriage ministry program – 20%
Mid-Term Exam – 15%
Final Exam – 20%

COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 23 Discuss *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, Introduction and Chapter 1
Jan. 30 Quiz on Chapters 2 and 3 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapters
Feb. 6 Quiz on Chapters 4 and 5 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapters
Feb. 13 Quiz on Chapter 6 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapter
1-2 page report on *God, Marriage, and Family*
Feb. 20 Quiz on Chapters 7 and 8 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapters
Feb. 27 Quiz on Chapters 9 and 10 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapters
March 5 Mid-Term Exam
March 12 Spring Break
March 19 Quiz on Chapter 11 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapter,
1-2 page report on *When Sinners Say I Do*
March 26 Quiz on Chapters 12 and 13 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapters
April 2 Quiz on Chapters 14 and 15 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapters
April 9 Quiz on Chapter 16 of *Hope Focused Marriage Counseling*, and lecture over chapter,
1-2 page report on *Solving Marriage Problems*
April 16 Presentations of church marriage ministry programs and report on *Fireproof*
April 23 Final exam

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

1. 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.
2. Proper planning and timely completion of assignments is critical.
3. All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six 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 weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adams, Jay, *Christian Living in the Home*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1972, 143 pp.
- _____, *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1980. 99 pp.
- _____, *Solving Marriage Problems: Biblical Solutions for Christian Counselors*. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1983. 122 pp.
- _____, *What Do You Do When Your Marriage Goes Sour?* Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1975. 8 pp.
- Barker, Dorothy A., *Leader's Guide for Jay E. Adam's Christian Living in the Home*, Philadelphia: Great Commission Publications, 1977. 64 pp.
- Brandt, Henry, *Build a Happy Home with Discipline*. Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press, 1965. 34 pp.
- _____, *Keys to Better Living for Parents: A Bible Correspondence Course*. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Bible Institute, 1959. 224 pp.
- _____, *Six Talks on Family Living*. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1958. 126 pp.
- _____, *When a Teen Falls in Love*. Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press, 1965. 34 pp.
- _____ and Homer Dowdy, *Building a Christian Home*. Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press, 1960. 156 pp.
- _____, *Happy Family Life*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Back to the Bible Broadcast, 1963. 61 pp.
- _____ and Phil Landrum, *I Want My Marriage To Be Better*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1976. 184 pp.
- _____, *I Want To Enjoy My Children: A Handbook on Parenthood*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1975. 184 pp.
- Eyrich, Howard, *Three To Get Ready: A Christian Premarital Counselor's Manual*. USA, Presbyterian & Reformed, 1978. 147 pp.
- Mack, Wayne, *How To Develop Deep Unity in the Marriage Relationship: A How To Manual for Christian Growth and Development*, USA, Presbyterian & Reformed, 1977. 151 pp.
- _____, *Strengthening Your Marriage*. USA, Presbyterian & Reformed, 1977. 151 pp.
- _____, *Your Family God's Way: Developing and Sustaining Relationships in the Home*. USA, Presbyterian & Reformed, 1991. 227 pp.
- _____ with Nathan Mack, *Preparing for Marriage God's Way*. Tulsa, Oklahoma, Virgil W. Hensley, 1986. 153 pp.
- Somerville, Mary G., *Mentor Moms: A Handbook for Mentoring Teen Moms*. USE, Goodpaige Print Communications, 1992. 126 pp.