



**COUN6357 Contemporary Approaches to  
Marital and Premarital Counseling  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Counseling  
Fall 2021 (NOLA2U Live)**

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**Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.**  
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**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to prepare leaders to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Mission Statement of the Counseling Program**

The mission of the NOBTS Counseling Program is to provide training and supervised experience in evidence-based counseling methods to help people deal with life issues in a biblically sound way and prepare students for licensure in counseling and counseling-related professions. We seek to produce graduates who have the values, knowledge, skills, and personal disposition to promote the mental health and holistic wellness of clients across diverse populations.

**Course Description**

Students study a variety of leading contemporary theories of marriage and premarital therapy from a systemic approach. Concurrent emphasis is placed on mastery of the techniques used within each of those theories. Students will develop a personal model of marriage and premarital Therapy including assessment, treatment planning, interventions, and follow-up. (Prerequisites: PSYC6250, PSYC6251 and PSYC6302).

**For NOLA2U Live:**

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. These courses will require weekly attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf> ).
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

**Program Objectives:**

- #1. Equip students to synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge in the field of counseling.
- #2. Train students to have the necessary academic and clinical skills to obtain professional licensure.

#3. Equip students to develop a deeper understanding of cultural diversity to enhance counseling skills.

#4. Train students to Integrate historical Christian beliefs, faith, and spirituality with the best practices of mental health science, in an ethical manner.

**Signature Assignment:**

<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Learning Experiences</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Specialty Area: Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling: 5.F.3.c Techniques and interventions of marriage, couple, and family counseling.	<b>Instruction:</b> Lectures, discussion, training, and role plays related to various interventions for marital issues <b>Readings:</b> Gottman, Markman et.al., Johnson, Weeks et.al., Vernick, and Carder	1. Pre and Post self-evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues

**Course Objectives**

<b>Course Objectives</b>	<b>Learning Experiences</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the biblical foundation for marriage, major contemporary theories, and ethical issues in marital and premarital counseling. (CACREP 5.F.1.a,b, c, d, e, f 2.a, b, c, n, o)	<b>Instruction:</b> Lectures: History of Marital/Premarital Therapy Biblical Foundations for Marriage Views of Divorce Models for Couples counseling Legal and Ethical Issues Avoiding Common Mistakes Gottman Lectures EFT Lectures Markman Lectures Vernick Lectures Carder Lectures Videos, Role Plays <b>Readings:</b> Instone-Brewer, Gottman, Markman et.al., Johnson, Weeks et.al., Vernick, and Carder	1. Percentage of each reading assignment. 2. Exam over History and Models of Couples Counseling, Legal & Ethical issues, Avoiding Common Mistakes
Increase skills related to premarital and marital counseling, including assessment and techniques. (CACREP 5.F.1.c, e, f, 2.c, d, 3.a, c, d)	<b>Instruction:</b> Lectures, Role plays using Gottman and EFT Interventions; practice techniques for assessment (Gottman & Prepare/Enrich Training); developing a treatment plan for infidelity. <b>Readings:</b> Gottman; EFT	1. Successful completion of Prepare/Enrich Training 2. Treatment plan for infidelity
Increase skills in developing	<b>Instruction:</b> Lectures on	1. Pre-Marital/Marital



<p>disallowed, role of the therapist/clients, etc. Include any procedures concerning meeting with pastor first (if other counselor is going to do the counseling), any fee structures, other requirements. The Policy brochures should be typed. It should be in a brochure format that is ready to give to any couples inquiring about marriage at your church.</p>		
<p><b>Exam I</b> The exam is a mixture of objective and subjective questions covering the History of Couples Counseling, the Biblical Foundations for Marriage, Major approaches (models) for Couples counseling, Legal and Ethical Issues in Couples Counseling, and Avoiding Common Mistakes in Couples Therapy.</p>	<p><b>10%</b></p>	<p><b>9/8 by 7:00 AM</b></p>
<p><b>Instone-Brewer: report % read</b> on Blackboard/Discussion Board/Click Thread and Reply with the percent you completed by class today. Upload the QQTP to Blackboard in the Assignment area. Bring a copy or have access to your copy for discussion in class.</p> <p><b>QQTP - Questions, Quotations &amp; Talking Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions: Note the points at which a question comes to mind as you read <i>Divorce and Remarriage in the Church</i>. Write a thoughtful question that invites analysis, synthesis, or evaluation of the material, or makes connections between the readings and previous readings</li> <li>• Quotation: Select a quotation that is especially pertinent or relevant to the main points of the text. The quotation should be neither too short (1-2 lines), nor too long (10-12 lines). Cite the page number.</li> <li>• Talking Points. Write talking points that show that you have thought seriously and critically about the reading. You do not need to answer your question here, but you may talk about it if you wish. Write at least five detailed talking points, covering several different topics from the reading. A rubric for this assignment is posted on Blackboard.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5%</b></p>	<p><b>9/1</b></p>
<p><b>Final Exam</b> The final exam in this class will be a treatment plan for a case study regarding infidelity or a treatment plan for a case study regarding a client involved in an emotionally destructive marriage. Due 8 am of the final exam date. Submit online in Blackboard</p>	<p><b>10%</b></p>	<p><b>12/8 9:00-11:00 AM</b></p>
<p><b>Reading of all Texts and Assigned Readings</b> The reading in this class is heavy. You will need to make reading the texts a priority. No book reviews will be required,</p>	<p><b>30%</b></p>	<p><b>See Course Schedule for corresponding due dates</b></p>

but your class participation and role playing will depend heavily on your understanding the concepts in each model. You will be asked to report the % read of each book at the due date. Some independent reading of articles may be assigned.		
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### **Textbooks**

- (Required): Gottman, J. M. & Silver, N. (2015) Seven principles for making marriage work. New York, NY: Crown Publishing. ISBN: 978-0553447712
- (Required) Johnson, S.M. (2016). Created for connection: The “hold me tight” guide for Christian couples. Little, Brown Spark: NY:NY.
- (Required): Weeks, Odel, & Methven. If Only I Had Known: Avoiding Common Mistakes in Couples Therapy. Norton. 978-0393704457
- (Required): Instone-Brewer, David (2007). Divorce and remarriage in the church: Biblical solutions for pastoral realities. IVP Academic. ISBN: 978-0830833740
- (Required): Vernick. Emotionally Destructive Marriages: How to find your voice and reclaim your hope. Waterbrook. ISBN: 978-0307731180
- (Required): Carder, D. Torn Asunder: Recovering from an Extra-Marital Affair (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed) ISBN 978-0802471352
- (Required): Boyd-Franklin, N. (2006). Black families in therapy: Understanding the African American experience. Guilford Press, NY:NY. IBSN: 978-1593853464
- (Required) Hunter, M.H., LaRochelle, R. F., Eddy, B. (2019). The High-Conflict Co-Parenting Survival Guide. Unhooked Books. ISBN-13: 978-1936268306
- (Optional): David Olson (1998). PREPARE/ENRICH Counselor’s Manual. Minneapolis, MN: Life Innovations. (Obtain from professor)

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methods of instruction: lecture, skills training in various models, videos, role-plays, and discussions.

**NOTICE:** Blackboard course: Contemporary Approaches to Marital/Premarital Therapy (COUN6357KS). Powerpoint notes from lectures and other important material from the course will be found there.

### **Grading Scale**

The following grading scale is used at NOBTS (see the Graduate Catalog, available online at <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/GraduateCatalog.pdf>):

- A: 93-100
- B: 85-92
- C: 77-84
- D: 70-76
- F: Below 70

### **Evaluation of Grade:**

Research Paper OR Prepare/Enrich Training:	25%
Premarital/Marital Counseling Policies	20%
Exam 1	10%

Instone-Brewer QOTP Assignment	5%
Reading of All Texts and Assigned Readings	30%
Final Exam	10%

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Disabilities and Accommodations**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary does not discriminate against applicants/ students on the basis of personal disabilities. The Seminary, in voluntary compliance with the American Disabilities Act, will provide reasonable institutional accommodations, modifications, and adjustments to enable and empower students with disabilities to participate in Seminary programs and activities to the fullest extent possible. However, NOBTS cannot support accommodations that place undue hardship on the Seminary or its resources or which alter the essential requirements of curriculum and academic progress. While the seminary does not provide direct assistance to students in the form of equipment or personnel, accommodations may be made by individual professors at their discretion. These accommodations usually take the form of early access to lecture materials in electronic format and additional time to complete tests and assignments. The most efficient way to pursue such accommodations is to provide the Director of Testing and Counseling (Dr. Jeff Nave, [jnave@nobts.edu](mailto:jnave@nobts.edu), 504-282-4455 ext. 8004) with documentation of the condition for which you seek accommodation, an explanation of helpful accommodations received in the past, and a description of the specific accommodations you desire. The Director of Testing and Counseling will document your request and

communicate on your behalf with the professors who teach the course(s) for which you are registered. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for “special” accommodations on a case by case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

### Diversity

The Counseling Program at NOBTS affirms the Christian doctrinal position that God created man in His own image, and that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. We believe the counseling profession affords our students and graduates the opportunity to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16) whatever their places of service, and that a robust appreciation for and sensitivity to human diversity is key to that end. Further, a learning environment diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. Students and faculty benefit from diversity. The quality of learning, research, scholarship, and creative activities are enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding, and appreciation of the full range of human experience. We are committed to nurturing and training a diverse student body in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of differences. As a result, the counseling program is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society, reflected in our local community, and aligned with the core values of the NOBTS community.

### Course Schedule

Date	Lecture	Assignment
8/18	Intro/Course Overview; History of Premarital Therapy Models for couples counseling Legal and ethical issues, and professional issues in couples counseling	Completion of Pre-Self Evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues.
8/25	Weeks: Avoiding Common Mistakes (CACREP 5.F.1.f, 2.c, 2.o, 3.e)	Weeks, Odel, & Methven—all of the book.
9/1	Biblical Foundations for Marriage Views of Divorce	Instone-Brewer—pages 1-208 QQTP Due: Discussion in class
9/8	Gottman: Myths and Mistakes of Marital Therapy Repair and the Core Triad of Balance The Sound Marital House: A theory of Marriage (Gottman Overview) The Assessment of Marriage Paper Topic Due if Not Attending Prepare/Enrich	Gottman, Ch. 1-3  Exam I online—complete before class 7 am (open 9/1 – 9/8, 7 am closes)
9/15	Gottman: Principles 1-4	Gottman, Ch. 4-7
9/22	Gottman: Principles 5-7	Gottman, Ch. 8-12 + Afterword

<b>9/29</b>	Black Families in Therapy Prepare/Enrich Payment Due OR Paper	Boyd-Franklin All of book
<b>10/6</b>	Fall Break Oct. 6 No Classes	
<b>10/13</b>	Sue Johnson	Johnson, Part 1
<b>10/16</b>	Prepare/Enrich Training	Saturday 8:30-4:30
<b>10/20</b>	Sue Johnson	Johnson, Parts 2 & 3
<b>10/27</b>	Sue Johnson	Videos
<b>11/3</b>	Carder	All of Torn Asunder
<b>11/10</b>	Carder	
<b>11/17</b>	Vernick, Emotionally Destructive Marriages	All of Vernick
<b>11/24</b>	Thanksgiving Break—no classes	
<b>12/1</b>	The High Conflict Co-Parenting Survival Guide	PreMarital / Marital church policies due
<b>12/8</b>	Final Exam 9:00-11:00 AM	Completion of Post Self Evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues.

### **Selected Bibliography**

- Carder, D. (2008). Close calls: What adulterers want you to know about protecting your marriage. Chicago: IL: Northfield Publishing.
- Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2004). Boundaries in marriage. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing.
- Gottman, J. M. & Silver, N. (2000) Seven principles for making marriage work. New York, NY: Crown Publishing.
- J. M., Gottman, J.S., & Declaire, J. (2007). Ten lessons to transform your marriage. New York, NY: Three Rivers Publishing.
- Instone Brewer, D. (2007). ). Divorce and remarriage in the church: Biblical solutions for Pastoral realities. IVP Academic. ISBN: 978-0830833740
- Johnson, S. M. (2005). Focused couple therapy with trauma survivors: Strengthening attachment bonds. New York, NY: Guilford Press.
- Johnson, S.M., Bradley, B., Furrow, J.L., Lee, A., Palmer, G., Tilley, D., & Woolley, S. (2005). Johnson, S. The emotionally focused therapist training set: becoming an emotionally focused couple therapist: The workbook. New York, NY: Routledge Publishing Company.
- Love, P., & Stosney, S (2008). How to improve your marriage without talking about it. New York, NY: Broadway Books.
- Thomas, Gary. (2002). Sacred marriage: What if God designed marriage to make us more holy than to make us happy. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing.