



ETHC6306 Marriage and Family

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies**

Spring Intensive: March 14-18, 2022

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This course is an ethical study of the biblical basis for Christian family life, utilizing insights from theology, sociology, and psychology. Emphasis will be upon the Christian interpretation of marriage, marital roles and relationships, sexuality, parenting, divorce and remarriage, and “clergy” marriages. Further study will examine the public nature of marriage and its importance for Christian witness.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling Christian character and communicating ethical truth, students, by the end of the course, should:

1. **Understand** the biblical and philosophical basis for a Christian ethic related to marriage and family.
2. Be able to **apply** a Christian ethic to marriage and family.
3. Be able to **communicate** Christian ethical and moral truths competently and convincingly related to marriage and family.

Primary Textbooks

Köstenberger, Andreas J., and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Grant, Jonathan. *Divine Sex: A Compelling Vision for Christian Relationships in a Hypersexualized Age*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2015.

Hiestand, Gerald, and Todd A. Wilson. *Beauty, Order, and Mystery: A Christian Vision of Human Sexuality*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2017.

Review Textbooks

Choose *two* of the following books for review. Do not select a text that you have reviewed for another course.

Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible, and Same-Sex Attraction*. Purcellville VA: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Anderson, Ryan I. *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment*. New York: Encounter, 2018.

Budziszewski, J. *On the Meaning of Sex*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2012.

Butterfield, Rosaria Champaign. *Secret Thoughts on an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith*. 2nd and Expanded Edition. Pittsburg: Crown & Covenant, 2014.

Girgis, Sherif, Ryan T. Anderson, and Robert P. George. *What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense*. New York, NY: Encounter, 2012.

Köstenberger, Andreas J, and Margaret E. Köstenberger. *God's Design for Man and Woman: A Biblical-Theological Survey*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.

Moore, Russell, and Andrew T. Walker, eds. *The Gospel and Marriage*. The Gospel and Life Series. Nashville: B & H, 2017.

Pearcey, Nancy. *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2018.

Struthers, William M. *Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2009

Walker, Andrew T. *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say about Gender Identity?* Foreword by Albert Mohler, Jr. Purcellville, VA: The Good Book Company, 2017.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will utilize lecture, discussion, textbooks, notes from class, unit tests, reading assignments, written assignments, and audio-visual resources to reach the goals of the class. Self-motivation will be an important ingredient to success in the course. Other methods may be used at the professor's discretion.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Discussion

This will be a highly interactive classroom setting. Come prepared to discuss what you were reading and learning. While attendance and discussion participation are not formally reflected in your grade, personal character and conviction grow through study and practice. Thus, your attendance and participation are highly recommended.

Students should attend all class sessions and seek to contribute to the course during the instruction time. Students should be prepared to answer questions from the professor, engage ideas expressed through multiple areas such as professor, peer, news, social media, etc., and to discuss reading and other material directly related to the discussion topic. Students will be measured on preparedness, contribution, and faithfulness to discuss in a manner worthy of Christian conduct.

There will be no tolerance for acting/speaking in ways that are un-Christlike regarding the topics or to the professor or peers. We will most certainly disagree on these issues/readings/positions/etc, but we will honor our Lord through our unity that is anchored in the person of Christ expressed through our interaction with one another.

Text Review (35% of final grade)

Students will write two book reviews from texts selected from the list above.

These reviews should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The book review should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account biblical, theological, and ethical principles and sound reasoning.

2. The critique should be **3-5 single spaced typed pages**.
3. Content should include the following. **Do not simply summarize chapters:**
 - A brief statement introducing the author and title of the book and communicating that the book has been read in its entirety. If the book has not been completely read, then communicate the truth about how much was read
 - The primary thesis, purpose, and/or description of the book
 - Major ethical insights communicated by the book. What points are particularly helpful for applying Christian ethics?
 - Ideas that changed or challenged your thinking (Ideas that are interesting, novel, or problematic). How and Why?
 - Insights in this book that relate practically to life and ministry, the life of the church, and to moral life in America
 - Major strengths and weaknesses of the book
 - In the conclusion, a brief statement of recommendation; why you would or would not recommend this book.
4. Develop subheading from the above bullet points (2-7).

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.

Research Paper (35% of final grade)

Each student will **write** a research paper on an issue related to the course.

Responsibilities: submit papers to Dr. Lyon via SafeAssignment on Blackboard.

Research Paper Guidelines

1. The official style and form guide is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, latest edition.
2. Length: 12-15 double-spaced pages
3. Use footnotes, not endnotes.
4. Use Times New Roman 12 point font for body of text.
5. 1" margins all around.
6. Include a title page
7. Do not include a table of contents. Do not use Chapters for a paper this length.
8. Limited use of first person (I or we) and second person (you) is allowed. Arguments, however, should be presented in such a manner so as to eliminate the need for all but third person references.
9. Use correct grammar and spelling.
10. The uses of past tense and present tense must be consistent. Generally, past tense is used to refer to historical events and persons, including writers of published materials. Present tense is utilized to present arguments, interact with opinions and viewpoints, and cite extant texts.
11. Do not use split infinitives.
12. Avoid one-sentence paragraphs.
13. Do not overuse indefinite pronouns (such as "it" or "there" without an antecedent).
14. Avoid "widows" and "orphans."

Scripture and Issues Project (30% of Final Grade)

Each student will prepare a document that contains a summary of your position related to 10 issues with scriptural references and academic source material.

The project will be single-spaced, and address numerous issues related to marriage and family.

The 10 topics that will be covered are:

1. Adultery
2. Marriage as a Picture of Christ and His Church
3. Marriage as Covenant
4. Divorce
5. Singleness
6. Premarital/Non-Marital Sex
7. Contraception and Birth Control
8. Homosexuality
9. Transgender/Gender Dysphoria
10. Same-sex Marriage

How to do this assignment:

1. Write a one to two paragraph summary of your position. This is single-spaced.
2. Identify five central scripture references relating to each issue. These should be written out in full and, where appropriate, explain as to why they are important for the issue.
3. Cite six quotes from important figures or sources that relate to the issue. You will cite these following the Turabian with a full footnote.
 1. Sources should include:
 - Two quotes must come from scholars prior to 1000 A.D.
 - Two quotes must come from 1001-1900.
 - Two quotes must come from modern SCHOLARS from 1901 until now.
 - Please note the emphasis on scholars for the more contemporary quotes. Not included in this list would be politicians, entertainers, Internet quotes with no citation, or many popular preachers. You may not use study Bibles or lay level commentaries. Using scholars who hold a different position than you may be used.
 2. You may not use two quotes from one person on any given issue. You may, however, “from the same person on his many as five issues.
 3. Proper citation of all sources is an absolute must!
 - Since this is a graduate level research project your figures and sources should be from academically acceptable sources. Study Bible notes and lay level dictionary’s, encyclopedias, and webpage sources that do not cite specific people and give original source information or not acceptable.
 - You will use footnotes to cite all of your source material. The source material should come from the original source, not another citation from another text.

Evaluation of Grades

Grades will be determined on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale—an A for 93-100, B for 85-92, C for 77-84, D for 70-76, and F for 69 or below.

- Text Review 35%
- Research Paper 35%
- Scriptures and Issues Project 30%

Submitting Assignments

- The **Book Review** and **Research Paper** are uploaded to **SafeAssignment** on Blackboard. Follow the appropriate links from Blackboard.
- The **Scriptures and Issues Project** will be submitted on Blackboard. Follow the appropriate links from Blackboard.

- Please do not send your assignments to the professor or grader as email attachments unless requested to do so or unless there is a compelling reason. You may send an email announcing that you have submitted an assignment, but, if you follow the correct procedures, I will find it. I enjoy hearing from my students, but my Inbox fills up pretty quickly with attachments, and then I have to shift them over to the proper location.

Penalties

- **Book Review, Research Paper, and Project:** A late paper will be assessed an initial 10 point penalty. For each calendar day after the due date an additional 2 point penalty will be assessed.

Technical Assistance

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

Blackboard

An important instrument in the implementation of this course is the Blackboard Learning System. *Some assignments will be submitted using Blackboard SafeAssign technology.*

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.

	Topic	Reading and Assignments
Unit 1	Introduction	GMF-1; DS-1
Unit 2	Theology and Marriage	DS-Part 1
Unit 3	Theology and Marriage	DS-Part 2
Unit 4	Design, Intent, Covenant	GMF-2
Unit 5	Design, Intent, Covenant	GMF-3
Unit 6	Divorce and Remarriage	GMF-11; Text Review 1 Due
Unit 7	Sexuality and Gender 1	BOM-2,4
Unit 8	Sexuality and Gender 2	BOM-3,
Unit 9	Sexuality and Gender 3	BOM-7,9,10; Text Review 2 Due
Unit 10	Marriage Relationships (Male and Female)	BOM-8
Unit 11	Sex, Contraception, and Birth Control	GMF-7,8
Unit 12	Singleness	GMF-9; Scriptures and Issues Project Due
Unit 13	Marriage, Family, and Parenting	GMF-5,6
Unit 14	Marriage, Family, and the Church	GMF-13; Research Paper Due
Unit 15	Marriage, Family, and Christian Public Witness	BOM-14

Selected Bibliography

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- Budziszewski, J. *On the Meaning of Sex*. Wilmington, DE: ISI, 2012.
- Burk, Denny. *What Is the Meaning of Sex?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
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- Charles, J. Daryl. *The Unformed Conscience of Evangelicalism: Recovering the Church's Moral Vision*. InterVarsity, 2002.
- Cuter, William R., and Sandra L. Glahn. *The Contraception Guidebook: Options, Risks, and Answers for Christian Couples*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Eberstadt, Mary. *Adam and Eve after the Pill: Paradoxes of the Sexual Revolution*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2012.
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- Hollinger, Dennis P. "The Ethics of Contraception" *JETS* 56, no. 4, December 2013: 683-96.
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- Newheiser, Jim. *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: Critical Questions and Answers*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017.
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