



## Marriage and Family Issues (LSCM3371)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Leavell College

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### Mission Statement

The Mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries

### Core Values

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary highlights five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. While all five core values are emphasized, the primary focus for the 2014- 2015 academic year is spiritual vitality. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the lens of spiritual vitality. Throughout this course students will be encouraged to consider how the core value of “spiritual vitality” impacts their development as Christian counselors being called to operate in the local church.

### I. Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to explore the basic issues of the marriage relationship and the family. The emphasis of this course is on marriage and the family as social institutions with application to the student’s life and to the local church.

### II. Course Objectives:

This course will emphasize the competency in the following areas: reading, writing, computer skills, interpersonal relationships, and life skills.

1. Comprehend marriage and family issues
2. Value marriage, family, and ministry to families.
3. Enhance marriage and family relationships.

### III. Required Textbook:

Smalley, Gary. (1996). *Making Love Last Forever*. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing House.

### IV. Course Methodology:

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, Power Point presentations, and group activities.

### Assignments

#### Exams. Exams 15% each (45% in total)

Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams are not cumulative. Exams will be comprised of objective questions (matching, true/false, and multiple choice) and subjective questions (short answer and essay).

#### Development and Presentation of Five Marriage Enrichment Tools/Resources (20%)

Research and present five marriage enrichment tools and/or resources. Share with the class the what, why, how to use, positives, negatives, and Scripturally relevant nature of each of your identified resources.

## **Portfolio (10%)**

This portfolio will be collected at the final.

It should contain four sections (1) class notes, (2) book reviews, (3) group work, (4) individual projects (including, but not limited to, an autobiography, genogram, and a budget).

## **Class Participation 10%**

Class discussion is a major component of this class. Role-plays, videos, and possibly actual sessions will be used as forms of class participation.

## **Book Review 15%**

In addition to the required textbook for this course, each student will be responsible for selecting an additional book to read, review and report on. Students must choose a book he/she has not previously read, which relates to material covered in this course. The book should be at least 100 pages in length. Grades will be based on a one page review submitted by the student and presented to the class. Students are responsible for bringing a copy of their review for each student in the class and submitting a copy for grading on blackboard on the day they present their evaluation.

## **Additional Information**

### **Assignments**

Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a **5 point penalty** for **each class period** the assignment is late. After 4 class periods assignments will not be taken without clearance from the faculty of the Psychology and Counseling Dept.

### **Exams**

If an emergency prevents a student from taking a scheduled exam, it is that **student's responsibility** to reschedule with the instructor. If a student misses an exam and does not get **preapproval** from the instructor and/or cannot provide **documentation** (doctor's note, police report, death of loved one) they **will not** be allowed to make up the exam. The exam must be made up within one week of the missed exam. After one week, the student will earn a grade of 0 for the assignment.

### **Attendance**

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. According to seminary policy, students are allowed nine absences from a three-hour class. Arriving 20 minutes late for a class or leaving 20 minutes early from class will count as one absence. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class the minimum number of hours. This policy will be strictly enforced.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Please do *not plagiarize* when writing your paper for this class. The seminary policy on plagiarism can be found in the student handbook, which is available as a pdf on the "Student Services" page of the seminary website (<http://www.nobts.edu/students>). Plagiarism is a serious academic and ethical offense, and will be treated as such. Please see your instructor in advance if you have any questions about proper citation or plagiarism.

### **Course Schedule**

| WEEK | DATE     | Lecture & Reading  | Exams/Assignments                                    |
|------|----------|--|--|
| 1    | 22 Jan   | Introduction/Syllabus Family Demographics  | MLLF = Chapter 1-5                                   |
| 2    | 29 Jan   | Sacred Marriage Biblical Perspective   | MLLF = Chapter 6, 7                                  |
| 3    | 5 Feb    | Family as a Social Institution Family Systems Model                                      | MLLF = Chapter 8, 9                                  |
| 4    | 12 Feb   | Characteristics of Families  | Exam 1   |
| 5    | 19 Feb   | Family Life Cycle  | Marriage Enrichment Information and Presentation Due |
| 6    | 26 Feb   | Circumplex Model Genograms   | MLLF = Chapters 10-12                                |
| 7    | 5 Mar    | Family Ties that Bind  | Chapters 14-16                                       |
| 8    | 12 Mar   | Being yourself and knowing who that it<br>Making Love Last<br>Forever Exploration Groups |  |
| 9    | 19 Mar   | Roles in Marriage  | Book Review Due along with Brief Presentation        |
| 10   | 26 Mar   | Spring Break   |  |
| 11   | 2 April  | 5 Love Languages   | Exam 2   |
| 12   | 9 April  | Listening and Communication  |  |
| 13   | 16 April | Finances   |  |
| 14   | 23 April | The Marriage Clinic — Gottman  |  |
| 15   | 30 April | Premarital Counseling  |  |
| 16   | 7 May    |  | Exam 3 and Portfolio Due                             |

## Selected Bibliography

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