

**LSCM 3371**  
**Marriage and Family**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Leavell College  
Spring 2011

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**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to explore the basic issues encountered in marriage relationships and family life. The emphasis of this course is the design, purpose and instruction God has ordained in marriage and the family. A direct application will be made between these social institutions and the student's life and the impact on the local church.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Understand God's design and purpose for both marriage and the family.
2. Gain a theological perspective for marriage and God's instructions for Christ centered marriages.
3. Gain a theological perspective for family and God's instructions for Christ centered families.
4. Enhance pastoral care skills and strategies for ministering to married couples.
5. Enhance pastoral care skills and strategies for ministering to families.

**Textbook:** Smalley, Gary. Making Love Last Forever. Dallas: Word Publishing House, 1991.

**Course Methodology:**

The course will consist of lectures, group discussions, media presentations, and group activities.

**Participation:**

This class will require the student's participation in discussions in class and out of class (on line). It is imperative that materials and assignments be completed prior to the date it is covered in class. Oral and/or written quizzes may be given if deemed necessary by the instructor.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend class the minimum number of hours. In the course we will only be meeting for four class periods with each class being four hours in length, therefore, it is imperative that the student be present for each class. Any attendance conflicts must have the approval of the professor.

**Due Dates:**

All 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 lower grade. All assignments are to be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font and follow Turabian guidelines unless otherwise specified by the professor.

**Plagiarism:**

Since NOBTS exists to provide training for the Christian Ministry, a high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, failing to cite sources in submitted papers, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other forms of dishonesty is strictly forbidden.

**ANY INFRACTION WILL RESULT IN FAILING THE COURSE.**

## Course Requirements:

### Assignments:

1. Two Reading Reports indicating a complete reading of:
  - A. Making Love Last Forever (textbook) *5% of grade*
  - B. Book related to class subject as selected by the student and approval by the instructor. *5% of grade*
  
2. Three Marriage/Family Observation Summaries, 2 pages each
  - #1 Due Week 2 *10% of grade*
  - #2 Due Week 3 *10% of grade*
  - #3 Due Week 4 *10% of grade*
  
3. Two Exams
  - A. Mid term - Week 3 *10% of grade*
  - B. Final Exam – Week 4 *10% of grade*
  
4. One Research Paper, 8-10 pages, plus Bibliography  
Subject: One from the listings to be compiled during the first class meeting.  
Due week 4 *20% of grade*
  
5. Using the Internet, compile marriage and family resources that would be beneficial to both you and the local church. *5% of grade*
  
6. Group Presentation *10% of grade*
  
7. Participate in online discussions *5% of grade*

**Course Outline:**

- Week 1**      Introduction to Course/Syllabus  
Introduction to Marriage  
Defining Marriage  
The Love-for-Life Factor  
Understanding Marriage from a Theological Perspective  
Love's Best Kept Secret  
Vital Signs of a Healthy Marriage  
Group Presentation Discussion
- Week 2**      Marriage Family Observation #1  
Handling Anger  
Dealing with Conflicts  
Balancing Expectations and Reality  
Avoiding Hurt  
Responsibilities in Marriage  
Boundaries in Marriage  
Love is a Choice  
Group Presentation Discussion
- Week 3**      Mid-Term  
Marriage Family Observation #2  
Vital Signs of a Healthy Marriage  
Understanding Different Personalities  
Intimacy  
Divorce-Proof  
Dealing with Finances  
Group Presentation Discussion
- Week 4**      Understanding Family Roles  
Family Conflict  
Family Goals  
Family Boundaries  
Marriage Observation #3  
Group Presentations  
Final Exam