



## **Marriage & Family Therapy COUN9409**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church & Community Ministries Division**  
**Fall 2016**

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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 Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is *characteristic excellence*.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

4. Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. Worship Leadership: To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Disciple Making, and Interpersonal Skills

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this seminar is to increase students' familiarity with the major schools of marriage and family therapy, to develop a broad knowledge of systems theory, to develop knowledge of current family life demographics, to examine various clinical family assessment techniques and tools, to understand marriage and family symptomatology, to develop interviewing and assessment techniques, and to study healthy and dysfunctional families.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student who satisfactorily completes this course by fulfillment of the requirements should be able to:

- A. Describe the major models of marriage and family therapy, in terms of their philosophical assumptions and pragmatic implications.
- B. Pursue an ongoing integration of biblical concepts of the healthy family into one's personal framework for conducting marriage and family therapy, as well as an understanding of current research concerning healthy and dysfunctional families.
- C. Articulate a personal model of therapy, drawing from existing models of therapy.
- D. Describe current family life demographics and know how to stay abreast of current family life demographics by researching and analyzing that information.
- E. Identify various clinical family assessment techniques and tools, and identify important factors that lead to the selection of specific assessment techniques, tools, and monitoring instruments.
- F. Demonstrate skills in case conceptualization, structuring therapy, problem solving, and implementing therapeutic interventions within a range of therapeutic modalities.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: Video, Blackboard, class discussion, and student presentations. This course will meet three times throughout the semester, with additional content addressed through Blackboard.

### **Textbooks**

Each student will select readings related to a model of marriage and family counseling. The books selected will be left to the student's discretion.

## Course Requirements

1. **Blackboard:** Students are required to complete the investigations and discussions on Blackboard as assigned. Students must be sure to check the course schedule to be aware of discussions and evaluations on Blackboard.
2. **Video Resources:** Students are required to develop three resource videos related to marriage and family. Topics will be assigned on a first come basis through blackboard. These videos may be used on the Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center website as a resource for the community. Videos should be 2-6 minutes in length. Each video should have a brief title that clearly communicates the focus of the video. Videos will be submitted through Blackboard.
3. **Gottman Training:** Students will complete training for Levels 1 and 2 of the Gottman Method Couples Therapy. Level 1 training will provide insights into treatment for couples who struggle, using research-based assessments and effective interventions. Level 2 will help deepen student understanding of Gottman Method Couples therapy and expand strategies and interventions in working with couples. During each seminar meeting students will view and discuss the training videos. Students are expected to be actively engaged in the training process, to take notes and remain focused. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points for this assignment. Students will complete an exam on the materials and may choose to purchase continuing education credits for Levels 1 and 2. It is up to students to go to the Gottman Institute Website and purchase the training binders for Level 1 & 2. These are not required, but are necessary for certification for Levels 1 & 2. There are a few training binders in the counseling office available for purchase on a first come basis. Students not purchasing the training materials will need to be prepared to take notes on the content.
4. **Model Review:** Students are required to select one model of counseling related to marriage and family. Review selected works related to the model and submit a review of the model. The review should include:
  - 1) Explanation of basic tenets of the model
  - 2) Techniques or strategies associated with the model
  - 3) Analysis of the model from a biblical perspective
  - 4) Annotated list of 5 or more resources related to the model
5. **Couple Assessment:** Each student will select a married couple to assess using materials from John Gottman. This couple does not necessarily have to be a clinical couple, but they must give written permission for the assessment and submission for review and grading. Students will select and administer a minimum of three assessments from John Gottman. Students will score assessments and write up a summary of findings from the results, including a treatment strategy based on the findings.
6. **Resource Guide:** One role of professional Christian counselors is being well acquainted with resources available in the community. Each student will complete a *simple* resource guide that could be useful in practice. Content should include the name, phone number, web address, services offered, fees,

location, is the resource faith based, and brief description of each resource. Students may select a specific population or target of focus (foster families, substance abuse, English as a second language). Each resource guide should have a minimum of 15 resources. Submissions from this assignment may become part of the LMCCC resource guide so please be certain information is current and accurate. Students not residing in New Orleans may choose to prepare a guide for the community in which they work.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

Blackboard	15%
Video Resources	15%
Gottman Training	10%
Model Review	20%
Couple Assessment	25%
Resource Guide	15%

### **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.

### **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.

## Course Schedule

Date	Assignment
August 22-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sign up on Blackboard for video resource topics – Can be any subject related to marriage or family (no duplications)</li><li>- Sign up for the model of Marriage or family counseling you will review (no duplications)</li></ul>
August 28-September 3	<i>Seminar Meeting – September 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup></i>
September 4-10	Work on assignments (video #1 due next week)
September 11-17	Video #1 Due – Post on Blackboard
September 18-24	Review & Score Video #1 Submissions on Blackboard
September 25-October 1	Work on Assignments
October 2-8	Video #2 Submissions Due
October 9-15	Review and score Video #2 Submissions
October 16-22	Work on Assignments
October 23-29	<i>Seminar Meeting – October 28<sup>th</sup> &amp; 29<sup>th</sup></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Model Review is Due</li></ul>
October 30-November 5	Work on Assignments
November 6-12	Video #3 Submission Due
November 13-19	Review & Score Video #3 Submissions
November 20-26	Resource Guide is Due – Submit on Blackboard
November 27-December 3	<i>Seminar Meeting – December 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup></i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Couple Assessment is Due</li></ul>