

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PMPS8302 PASTORAL COUNSELING FOR MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

Professor: Dr. Paul E. Gregoire, Jr.
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Location: New Orleans, LA

Time: January 14 - 16, 2009

Wednesday: 1:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Thursday: 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Friday: 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Mission Statement:

To equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Description:

The purpose of this seminar is to enable students to develop broad knowledge of the marriage relationship, to develop knowledge of current family life demographics, to study healthy and dysfunctional families, to guide students in an understanding of the characteristics of a healthy marital relationship and in the application of principles to provide lasting change in marriages and families in the church, as well as understand and apply basic helping techniques to families in crisis. Students study a variety of leading contemporary theories of marriage and pre-marriage therapy from a systematic approach. Emphasis is placed on mastery of the techniques used within marital and premarital pastoral counseling. Students will develop a personal model of marriage and pre-marriage pastoral counseling including assessment, treatment planning, interventions, and follow-up.

Course Objectives:

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

- Identify the biblical foundation for the marriage relationship.
- Describe major challenges facing Christian homes in contemporary culture.
- Recognize how variables such as divorce, gender, ethnicity, chronic illness, death, alcoholism, and socio-economic background impact and change the family.

- Identify the basic theories, concepts, models, and techniques in the family systems approach to marriage and family therapy.
- Develop systems thinking in family assessment and intervention.
- Demonstrate skill in a systemic approach through group presentations, discussions, role-plays, case studies, reports and examinations.
- Assess satisfaction of married couples and goals of treatment for pre-marital couples utilizing various tests and measurement devices.
- Apply concepts of marriage and pre-marriage therapy to ministry in a local church.

Required Textbooks:

McDonald, C., and McDonald, P. *Creating A Successful Christian Marriage, Fourth Edition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books (1994).

Christensen, Andrew and Jacobson, Neil S. *Reconcilable Differences*. New York, NY: Guilford, (2002).

Worthington, Everett. *Christian Marital Counseling: Eight Approaches To Helping Couples*. Wipf & Stock Publishers. (2001).

Weaver, Andrew, et. al. *Counseling Families Across The Stages Of Life: Handbook For Pastors And Other Helping Professionals*. Abingdon Press. (2002).

Course Requirements #1 - PowerPoint Presentations (30%) - Due January 14, 2009

Each student will create three 50-minute PowerPoint presentations from the content contained in the textbooks. Each presentation should be a thorough synthesis of the materials contained in the assigned texts. The presentations should be designed for use in a church setting. These presentations should be ready to use in a family enrichment seminar, marriage retreat, Sunday School class, or discipleship small group. Each presentation should address a different issue of marriage or family life such as: biblical foundation for marriage, roles of husband and wives, conflict resolution, communication skills, or reconciling marriages. Presentations will be graded on content and creativity. (20%)

Each student will pick one PowerPoint presentation to present to the class. Presentations should be 50-minutes in length and should cover one major topic of family ministry, marriage enrichment, or family development. (10%)

Course Requirement #2 - Annotated Bibliography (25%) - Due March 14, 2009

Each student will prepare an annotated bibliography of twenty-five books related to marriage and family health. Only the best and most current books should be chosen for the assignment. List the bibliographic information first, with a brief 3-5 sentence summary for the importance of the book underneath. Please keep the synopses brief.

Course Requirement #3 - Research Paper (25%) - Due April 14, 2009

Each student will write a fifteen (15) page research paper on a chosen marriage and family issue. The paper should comply with the latest Turabian or APA style manual and address one contemporary issue in the field of family development. This should have 15 pages of content, not including the cover page, abstract, or bibliography. Follow grammar rules and formats.

Course Requirement #4 - Class Participation (20%)

Each student is expected to attend each seminar in its entirety, and to be fully prepared to discuss the texts assigned in the syllabus. As this is a doctoral seminar, scholarly and practical discussions will dominate class time. Students failing to participate in class or failing to be prepared for class discussions will see a reduction in their grade.

Independent Study Requirement

Should a student desire to take this seminar as an Independent Study, he or she must meet the following additional requirements:

1. Student must present one of the presentations designed in assignment one to a class or group audience of some sort. Presentation should be video-taped and must be received by the professor by January 14, 2009.
2. Student must write an additional twenty-five page paper on the topic of "The Role of Relationship in Pastoral Counseling." The paper should comply with the latest Turabian style manual and should have 25 pages of content, not including the cover page, abstract, or bibliography. Follow grammar rules and formats. This paper will be due on April 14, 2009.