New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary 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:
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.

Student Outcomes:
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 premarital couples utilizing various tests and measurement devices.

• Apply concepts of marriage and pre-marriage therapy to ministry in a local church.

**Required Textbooks:**

Carder, D. Torn Asunder: Recovering from an Extra-Marital Affair (3rd Ed) ISBN 978-0802471352

Training materials - Prepare/Enrich (to be ordered by professors $85.00) or Couples Communication Training (to be ordered by professors $50.00). We will be completing training for one of these two options. Please inform Dr. Steele (ksteele@nobts.edu) whether you have already completed Prepare/Enrich Training or not, and if you have already been trained, what year you completed the training. If the majority have been trained in Prepare/Enrich, we will do the training for Couples Communication, a great system to use with couples and families.

**Course Requirements #1 - PowerPoint Presentation of a Curriculum Plan**

**Due: January 12, 2020**

Each student will create a 50-minute PowerPoint presentation from the content contained in one of the textbooks (20%). Each presentation should be a plan ready for use in one of the following settings: a family enrichment seminar, marriage retreat, Sunday School class, or discipleship small group. Each presentation should include the entire plan, the schedule, and the complete introductory session. The Presentation should be detailed enough that others could easily utilize them in their desired settings.
Presentations will be graded on content and creativity. The presentation will be presented to the class. (10%)  

**Course Requirement #2** Relational Autobiography (20%)  
**Due: February 1, 2021**  
Each student will prepare a relational autobiography, and will utilize the principles presented in the Emotionally Healthy Leader. The autobiography should cover relationship experiences throughout life, but focus specifically on marriage and relationships with children. Use the material in Chapter 3 of the Emotionally Healthy Leader to evaluate your marital relationship (or your attitude toward your singleness).

**Course Requirement #3** –Couples Resource Training and Assessment (30%)  
**Due: February 1, 2021**  
Students will participate in and complete training for Prepare/Enrich and/or Couples Communication Training; and utilize technique with at least one couple. A one-page (single-spaced) assessment of the student’s experience utilizing the technique will be submitted. If the student is in a setting that does not provide a couple to work with, the student should contact the professors for an alternate assignment.

**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.

**Directed Study Requirements:** Students utilizing the DS option must complete all of the course requirements PLUS these additional requirements

1. Student must present one of the presentations designed in assignment one to a live class or group audience. Presentation should be videotaped and must be received by the professor by **February 15, 2021**.

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 **February 1, 2021**.  
   This paper will be evaluated by the Writing Assessment Coordinator for re: grammar, writing style, and Turabian formatting. Please email the assignment, in a Word document, to pgarrett@nobts.edu. She will evaluate the document by inserting comments and email the edited document back to the student. After revising and correcting the assignment, upload into Blackboard."

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


