Professors:
Dr. Ashley Brooks (504-913-5039); email: a.brooks@restorationnola.com
Dr. Kathryn Steele (504-252-4455, ext. 8306); email: ksteele@nobts.edu
Office: N/A
Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.
Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center
Class Grader: N/A

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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Spiritual Vitality.

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: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, and Spiritual and Character Formation.

Course Description
Students study a variety of leading contemporary theories of marriage and premarital therapy from a systemic approach. Concurrent emphasis is placed on mastery of the techniques used within each of those theories. Students will develop a personal model of marriage and premarital Therapy including assessment, treatment planning, interventions, and follow-up. (Prerequisites: PSYC6250, PSYC6251 and PSYC6302).

Course Teaching Methodology
The course will involve the following methodologies: Lecture, readings, class discussion, the use of training videos.

Program Objectives:
#1. Equip students to synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge in the field of counseling.
#2. Train students to have the necessary academic and clinical skills to obtain professional licensure.
#3. Equip students to develop a deeper understanding of cultural diversity to enhance counseling skills.
#4. Train students to Integrate historical Christian beliefs, faith, and spirituality with the best practices of mental health science, in an ethical manner.
### Key Performance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Learning Experiences</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Speciality Area: Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling: 5.F.3.c Techniques and interventions of marriage, couple, and family counseling. | *Instruction:* Lectures, discussion, training, and role plays related to various interventions for marital issues  
*Readings:* Gottman, Markman et.al., Johnson, Weeks et.al., Vernick, and Carder | 1. Pre and Post self-evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues |

### Course Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>Learning Experiences</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the biblical foundation for marriage, major contemporary theories, and ethical issues in marital and premarital counseling. (CACREP 5.F.1.a,b, c, d, e, f 2.a, b, c, n, o) | *Instruction:* Lectures: History of Marital/Premarital Therapy  
Biblical Foundations for Marriage Views of Divorce  
Models for Couples counseling  
Avoiding Common Mistakes  
Gottman Lectures  
EFT Lectures  
Markman Lectures  
Vernick Lectures  
Clark Lectures  
Videos, Role Plays  
*Readings:* Instone-Brewer, Gottman, Markman et.al., Johnson, Weeks et.al., Vernick, and Clark | 1. Percentage of each reading assignment.  
2. Exam over History and Models of Couples Counseling, Legal & Ethical issues, Avoiding Common Mistakes |

| Increase skills related to premarital and marital counseling, including assessment and techniques. (CACREP 5.F.1.c, e, f, 2.c, d, 3.a, c, d) | *Instruction:* Lectures, Roleplays using Gottman and EFT Interventions; practice techniques for assessment (Gottman & Prepare/Enrich Training); developing a treatment plan for infidelity.  
*Readings:* Gottman; EFT | 1. Successful completion of Prepare/Enrich Training  
2. Treatment plan for infidelity |
Increase skills in developing policies for the local church regarding marital and premarital therapy. (CACREP 5.F.3.a, b, c, d)

| Instruction: Lectures on Biblical Foundations for Marriage; Views of Divorce | Readings: David Instone/Brewer | 1. Pre-Marital/Marital Therapy Policies Brochures |

Increase in personal ability to experience appropriate empathy with persons in dysfunctional systems, and to demonstrate confidence in ability to counsel couples. (CACREP 2.d, g, f)

| Instruction: Lectures on Avoiding Common Mistakes | Readings: Weeks et.al.; Vernick | 1. Exam I |

### Course Requirements/Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment/Requirements &amp; Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Paper:</strong> The student will write a fifteen (15) page research paper on a given marital/premarital issue. The paper should comply with the latest APA style manual and address one contemporary issue facing marital or premarital counselors. Clear topic with Dr. Brooks no later than Sept 4, 2019. Examples would be a study of a specific therapy model (not one we are studying in class), a comprehensive look at the latest research concerning couples therapy, premarital therapy, etc. <strong>OR</strong> Prepare/Enrich Training Each student will complete the certification requirements for the PREPARE/ENRICH inventory system. The cost for this certification is $100 and consists of attending the Prepare/Enrich Workshop to be held Saturday, November 2, 2019 in LMCCC. Course notebooks will be ordered by the professor. If you have not paid by the deadline you cannot get the materials and receive certification. Deadline for Payment September 25. You may pay cash or by check, made out to Kathy Steele. If necessary, please speak to Dr. Brooks about dividing the payments. If you have previously completed the Prepare/Enrich Training, you do not have to write a paper.</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>9/25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prepare/Enrich Training**

Each student will complete the certification requirements for the PREPARE/ENRICH inventory system. The cost for this certification is $100 and consists of attending the Prepare/Enrich Workshop to be held Saturday, November 2, 2019 in LMCCC. Course notebooks will be ordered by the professor. If you have not paid by the deadline you cannot get the materials and receive certification. Deadline for Payment September 25. You may pay cash or by check, made out to Kathy Steele. If necessary, please speak to Dr. Brooks about dividing the payments. If you have previously completed the Prepare/Enrich Training, you do not have to write a paper.

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Pre-Marital/Marital Therapy Policy
Each student will formulate a formal Pre-Marital/Marital Therapy policy for his/her church. The policies should be in the format of two separate brochures:
   A. Policies and Procedures for Premarital Ministry
   B. Policies and Procedures for Counseling Married Couples
These policies should include the following for each set of policies: the number of therapy sessions, content of each session, cost, special stipulations, types of marriages disallowed, role of the therapist/clients, etc. Include any procedures concerning meeting with pastor first (if other counselor is going to do the counseling), any fee structures, other requirements. It should be in a brochure format that is ready to give to any couples inquiring about marriage at your church.

Exam I
The exam is a mixture of objective and subjective questions covering the History of Couples Counseling, the Biblical Foundations for Marriage, Major approaches to Couples counseling, Legal and Ethical issues in Couples Counseling, and Avoiding Common Mistakes in Couples Therapy.

Final Exam
The final exam in this class will be a treatment plan for a case study regarding infidelity or a treatment plan for a case study regarding a client involved in an emotionally destructive marriage. Due 8 am of the final exam date.

Reading of all Texts and Assigned Readings
The reading in this class is heavy. You will need to make reading the texts a priority. No book reviews will be required, but your class participation and role playing will depend heavily on your understanding the concepts in each model. You will be asked to report the % read of each book at the due date. Some independent reading of articles may be assigned.

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<th>text</th>
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<th>11/20</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Marital/Marital Therapy Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9/11 by 7:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12/11 9:00-11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading of all Texts and Assigned Readings</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>See Course Schedule for corresponding due dates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Textbooks
Grading Scale
The following grading scale is used at NOBTS (see the Graduate Catalog, available online at http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/GraduateCatalog.pdf):
A: 93-100
B: 85-92
C: 77-84
D: 70-76
F: Below 70

Course Policies, Academic Conduct, and Professional Conduct

Academic Honesty Policy
All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Academic Policies
Academic policies relate to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog.

Classroom Parameters
Please arrive on time.
Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
Respect the professor and other members of the class.
Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.
 Participate in class and group discussions.

Classroom Participation/Active Dialogue
Student participation is expected. Class interaction is an important and valuable aspect of the learning environment where we can experience the truth of the Great Commandment by truly knowing one another.

Disabilities and Accommodations
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary does not discriminate against applicants/students on the basis of personal disabilities. The Seminary, in voluntary compliance with the American Disabilities Act, will provide reasonable institutional accommodations, modifications, and adjustments to enable and empower students with disabilities to participate in Seminary programs and activities to the fullest extent possible. However, NOBTS
cannot support accommodations that place undue hardship on the Seminary or its resources or which alter the essential requirements of curriculum and academic progress. While the seminary does not provide direct assistance to students in the form of equipment or personnel, accommodations may be made by individual professors at their discretion. These accommodations usually take the form of early access to lecture materials in electronic format and additional time to complete tests and assignments. The most efficient way to pursue such accommodations is to provide the Director of Testing and Counseling (Dr. Jeff Nave, jnave@nobts.edu, 504-282-4455 ext. 8004) with documentation of the condition for which you seek accommodation, an explanation of helpful accommodations received in the past, and a description of the specific accommodations you desire. The Director of Testing and Counseling will document your request and communicate on your behalf with the professors who teach the course(s) for which you are registered. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for “special” accommodations on a case by case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

**Diversity**
The Counseling Program at NOBTS affirms the Christian doctrinal position that God created man in His own image, and that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. We believe the counseling profession affords our students and graduates the opportunity to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16) whatever their places of service, and that a robust appreciation for and sensitivity to human diversity is key to that end. Further, a learning environment diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. Students and faculty benefit from diversity. The quality of learning, research, scholarship, and creative activities are enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding, and appreciation of the full range of human experience. We are committed to nurturing and training a diverse student body in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of differences. As a result, the counseling program is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society, reflected in our local community, and aligned with the core values of the NOBTS community.

**Emergencies**
In cases of emergency, such as hurricanes, disease outbreaks, or other disasters, go to the seminary website (www.nobts.edu) for information. The seminary administration will post information, such as the nature of the emergency, instructions for response, and evacuation and return dates. Please check Blackboard for information specific to this course. Because Blackboard is available, the course will continue even if the main campus is closed. Please consider registering for the seminary’s priority text messaging service through SelfServe. This service is used only in emergencies, and will allow the seminary to deliver urgent information to you as needed.

**Extra Credit**
No extra credit is available in this course.

**Netiquette**
Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

**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.

**Policy for Graduating Seniors**
Graduating seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Professor’s Policy on Late Assignments
All work is due on the assigned date in the syllabus. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by one letter grade per week late.

Professional Conduct
Students are expected to adhere to the appropriate codes of ethics for their particular programs. Any behavior deemed unethical will be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Professor’s Availability and Assignment Feedback
The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student’s Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Reading Assignments
Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Technical Assistance
For assistance regarding technology, consult the NOBTS Information Technology Center (ITC) at 504-816-8180 or the following websites:
1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Center
NOBTS has adopted a Quality Enhancement Plan to improve English writing at the graduate level. As part of this effort, NOBTS has established a writing center located in the Hardin Student Center (290B). Visit the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.
More information about how to set up an appointment for writing assistance is available on the writing center page.

Writing Style
All papers in counseling courses are to be written in American Psychological Association (APA) style. Please see the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

Student Services
(CACREP I.F. H)

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location.
If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to [www.nobts.edu/studentservices](http://www.nobts.edu/studentservices), email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Web Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advising – Graduate Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studentservices@nobts.edu">studentservices@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.282.4455 x3312</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html">www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html</a> #advising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advising – Undergraduate Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcadminasst@nobts.edu">lcadminasst@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8590</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege">www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cmr@nobts.edu">cmr@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.282.4455 x3291</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/CMR">www.nobts.edu/CMR</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:financialaid@nobts.edu">financialaid@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.282.4455 x3348</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/financialaid">www.nobts.edu/financialaid</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP (help to avoid student debt)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Prepassistant1@nobts.edu">Prepassistant1@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8091</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/prep">www.nobts.edu/prep</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatekeeper NOBTS news</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pr@nobts.edu">pr@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8003</td>
<td>nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:itcsupport@nobts.edu">itcsupport@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8180</td>
<td>selfserve.nobts.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with Blackboard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu">blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8180</td>
<td>nobts.blackboard.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td><a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8018</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/Library">www.nobts.edu/Library</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online library resources</td>
<td><a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8018</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html">http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing and Turabian style help</td>
<td><a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8018</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html">http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ph@nobts.edu">ph@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.282.4455 x4455</td>
<td><a href="http://www.provhouse.com">www.provhouse.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Counseling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmccc@nobts.edu">lmccc@nobts.edu</a></td>
<td>504.816.8004</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling">www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling</a> services.html](<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling">http://www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling</a> services.html)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/21</td>
<td>Intro/Course Overview; History of Premarital Therapy</td>
<td>Completion of Pre-Self Evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues.</td>
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<td>Models for couples counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal and ethical issues, and professional issues in couples counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Biblical Foundations for Marriage</td>
<td>Instone-Brewer—pages 1-208</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Views of Divorce</td>
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<td>Paper Topic Due (if not attending Prepare/Enrich)</td>
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<td>(CACREP 5.F.1.f, 2.c, 2.o, 3.e)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Gottman: Myths and Mistakes of Marital Therapy</td>
<td>Gottman, Ch. 1-7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Repair and the Core Triad of Balance</td>
<td>Exam I online—complete before class 8am (open 9/4 – 9/11, 7 am closes)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Sound Marital House: A theory of Marriage (Gottman Overview)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Assessment of Marriage</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Gottman: Part 1</td>
<td>Gottman, Ch. 8-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Gottman: Part 2</td>
<td>Prepare/Enrich Payment Due OR Paper Due (Friday)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>EFT - Johnson: Intro &amp; Recognizing the Cycle</td>
<td>Johnson, Part 1</td>
<td></td>
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10/9  | AACC World Conference - No class  
| Those attending AACC will receive credit for attending class. Those not attending AACC can earn class attendance by completing a 1 page essay assignment. If the conference is not attended and an essay is not completed, an absence will be given for this class date. *  
| *Those not attending AACC can listen to a previous AACC conference workshop located on Blackboard and write a 1 page essay answering the following questions: What were the main points? (outline format); What did you learn?; What will you take from it and put into practice? This essay should be turned in online on or before October 11.

10/16 | Fall Break Oct. 14-18 – No Classes

10/23 | EFT - Johnson: Withdrawers  
| Johnson, Part 2

10/30 | EFT - Johnson: Pursuers  
| Johnson, Part 3

11/2 - Sat. | Prepare/Enrich Training

11/6 | Prep Program  
| A Lasting Promise--all

11/13 | I Don’t Want A Divorce: Clarke  
| I Don’t Want A Divorce (all of the book)

11/20 | I Don’t Want A Divorce: Clarke  
| PreMarital / Marital church policies due

11/27 | Thanksgiving Break Nov. 25-29 – No Classes

12/4 | Vernick, Emotionally Destructive Marriages  
| Vernick—all of the book

12/11 | Final Exam 9:00-11:00 AM  
| Completion of Post Self Evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues.

**Signature Assignments**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage/Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Self Evaluation of knowledge of techniques and interventions for various marital issues. S.F.3.c | | n/a | Pre Exam 1st class of COUN6357  
Post Exam at end of COUN6357 |

**Selected Bibliography**