

Marriage & Family Counseling

May Term, 2022

Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary

Subject	Marriage and Family Counseling
Course Number	PT31
Professor	J. Ryan Davidson, (Ph.D. Candidate)
Credits	2.0
Schedule	Saturday, May 28 Monday, May 30 Tuesday, May 31
Content	<i>A survey and introduction to the role of the pastor as a counselor of God's people using the Word of God specifically with applications to marriage counseling and work with families. The course will survey theological, historical, and practical areas related to marriage and family counseling and will focus on the use of the Scriptures in the counseling ministry of the church. Various topics will be addressed from a biblical perspective such as pre-marital counseling, marital challenges, conflict, and spiritual issues.</i>
Objectives	<p>A. Identify & evaluate pastoral counseling and care methods related to caring for marriages and family in the local church context. This will involve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). An opportunity to increase the student's reflection upon practical theology and the shepherding aspects of local church ministry particularly those of pastoral care and counseling related to marriage and family. 2). An introduction to basic pastoral counseling methods, theories and techniques related to marriage counseling, and to aid the student in developing a basic pastoral counseling approach. 3). An opportunity to increase the student's theological/Scriptural reflection upon the specific problems, situations, sins and challenges faced in the human experience and how the Scriptures speak to those issues. Multiple Scriptural passages will be examined. <p>B. Demonstrate an introductory ability to engage in the work of marriage counseling within pastoral ministry.</p> <p>C. Effectively teach and apply the Scriptures through the personal ministry of pastoral counseling throughout the congregation. This will be accomplished through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Providing some introductory, hands on counseling experience to the student through case studies and class exercises. 2). Providing the student with a brief period of self-reflection and introspection regarding the ministry of the Word and pastoral counseling.

Evaluation Methodology	<p><u>Course Requirements & Evaluation:</u></p> <p>Class Participation-20% Reflection Paper- 40% Case Study/Exam-40%</p> <p><i>Regarding time allotment/work load for the course, class sessions/lecture will be approx. 20-24 hours, reading work will be around 750 pages, writing work will involve close to 6-7,000 words. Although this allotment may vary based on the student, these are general estimates based on average work to hours ratios</i></p>
Educational Strategies	<p>Objective A: Reflection Paper & Case Study Objective B: Research Paper Objective C: Case Study following Class Work/Presentations</p> <p><i>*All of these educational strategies assume proper reading and Lecture Attendance.</i></p>
Required Literature and/or Textbooks	<p>1). Jonathan D. Holmes. <i>Counsel for Couples: A Biblical and Practical Guide for Marriage Counseling</i>. Grand Rapids, MI; Zondervan, 2019.</p> <p>2). Herman Bavinck. <i>The Christian Family</i>. Translation by: Nelson D. Kloosterman. Grand Rapids, MI: Christian’s Library Press, 2012</p> <p>3). William Gouge, <i>Building a Godly Home, Volume 3: A Holy Vision for Raising Children</i>. Edited and Modernized by Scott Brown and Joel R. Beeke. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2014.</p>

Assignments:

Course Requirements & Evaluation:

- Class Participation-20%
- Research Paper- 40%
- Case Study Exam-40%

Class Participation

Class participation, both attendance and discussion, is a vital part of the course. Given that the nature of the course involves case studies, reading discussion as well as counseling exercises, classroom participation is vital to the learning of the material. Full participation and contribution is encouraged and required.

Research Paper

Students are to write a research paper including the following information:

*Provide A Detailed Analysis of one topic covered in the course. Choose one topic that was important or helpful for you and analyze it through proper research.

*Utilize multiple academic and/or pastorally appropriate sources in the paper. Proper use and citation of sources necessary.

(Approx 4-6,000 Words).

Case Study

The Student will be given a case study to complete as a final project or exam. The student will read a case study or questions provided by the Professor and answer particular questions while viewing oneself in the role of a Pastoral Counselor. This will include: what further information would need to be gathered, theological connections, diagnosis of the problem/situation, and plan moving forward. This assignment will also require discussion of the assigned readings in the course, and will focus on bringing the course together.

TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE (*Subject to change based on time*)

	THEME	CONTENT	Suggested Reading Pairing
May 28	*Overview & Theological Background	-Introduction -Review of Basic Counseling Princ. -The Issue of the Heart & Idols -Theology of Marriage & Family	Read: *Bavinck Text
	*Biblical Principles for Marital Counseling	-Specific Biblical Texts & Exegesis -Fruit of the Spirit -Biblical View of Conflict -Excursus: Historical Outlook	
May 30	*Practical Structures for Marriage Counseling	-Developing a Pastoral Coun Model -Counseling Techniques & Practice -Good Questions -Counseling Relationship & Ethics -Use of "Underlying Fears"	Read: *Holmes Text
	*Complex Issues for Marriage Counseling	-Sin & Restoration -Suffering, Grief & Loss -Abuse -Addiction -Practical Issues	Read: *Holmes Text
May 31	*Premarital Counseling *Counseling Involving Children	-Structures for Premarital Counseling -Family Counseling (aspects related to children and teenagers). -Misc. Family Issues -Evaluating Postmodern & Future Trajectories	Read: Gouge Text
	Assignment Completion Final Assignments Due By email		*Finish Reading & Research Paper *Case Study