

BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA 31909

SYLLABUS

- I. COURSE TITLE:** CHC 420 Marriage and Family Counseling
- II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A review and examination of the causes and effects of marital and familial conflict and the counseling methods used with couples and/or families experiencing such tensions. Biblical answers to these problems will be emphasized.
- III. COURSE RATIONALE:** The study of this course will enhance the students' assessment skills and treatment techniques in working with couples and families. The student's awareness of self in relation to God and others will be increased.
- IV. COURSE PREREQUISITE:** None
- V. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Cognitive Domain:

The student will be able to:

- A. Identify the key issues that confront the "pastoral" counselor in the area of ministry to couples and families. (Knowledge)
- B. Identify and develop strategies for developing strong relationships in his/her own family. (Knowledge, Comprehension and Application).
- C. Discuss and formulate a premarital counseling strategy for ministry to couples. (Comprehension, Application and Analysis)
- D. Demonstrate a level of competency in assessing levels of function and dysfunction in ministry to families. (Comprehension, Application, Analysis and Evaluation)
- E. Develop a personal theory of marriage and family ministry and counseling. (Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation)

Affective Domain:

- A. The student will be motivated to achieve a higher level of growth in his/her marriage. (Responding)

- B. The student will have an increased desire to implement God's love in practical ways through helping relationships. (Valuing)

VI. COURSE OUTLINE:

Video lectures:

1. Introductory Matters.
2. Marriage and Family: A Christian Perspective
3. A Biblical Perspective on Counseling Ministry
4. Psychotherapeutic Theories and Christian Counseling
5. Family Systems Theory
6. The Minister's/Counselor's Role in Working with Couples and Families
7. The Theology of Marriage and Family I
8. The Theology of Marriage and Family II
9. The Theology of Marriage and Family III
10. The Theology of Marriage and Family IV
11. Needs in the Marriage Relationship I
12. Needs in the Marriage Relationship II
13. Premarital Counseling
14. Ministering to Marriages in Crisis I
15. Ministering to Marriages in Crisis II
16. Assisting Parents in Parenting Skills I
17. Assisting Parents in Parenting Skills II
18. Sexual Matters in Ministerial Family Ministry Counseling I
19. Sexual Matters in Ministerial Family Ministry Counseling II
20. Issues Relating to Divorce and Remarriage

| Module | Dates | Assignments |
|----------|---------------------|---|
| Module 1 | Jan 12 – 25 | Video sessions 1-3, Discussion Forum 1 |
| Module 2 | Jan 26 – Feb 8 | Video sessions 4-6, Discussion Forum 2 |
| Module 3 | Feb 9 – 22 | Video sessions 7-8, Discussion Forum 3, <i>Harley</i> report |
| Module 4 | Feb 23 – March 8 | Video session 9-11, Discussion Forum 4, Mid-term exam |
| Module 5 | March 9 – 22 | Video sessions 12-13, Discussion Forum 5 |
| Module 6 | March 30 – April 12 | Video sessions 14-16, Discussion Forum 6, Research paper |
| Module 7 | April 13 – 26 | Video sessions 17-18, Discussion Forum 7, <i>Wright</i> paper |
| Module 8 | April 27 – May 8 | Video session 19-20, Discussion Forum 8, Final exam |

VII. COURSE METHOD:

- A. General Method: Class sessions will include the presentation of lecture material as video presentations. There will also be an opportunity to discuss relevant issues of marriage and family on the online discussion forums. Work outside of class will focus on reading assignments and brief written responses to those reading assignments.

- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

VIII. COURSE TEXTS:

- A. Harley, Willard F., Jr. *His Needs Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage*. 15th Edition. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1986, 1994, 2001.
- B. Wright, H. Norman. *The Premarital Counseling Handbook*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1977, 1981, 1992.

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Video Lectures & Outlines

- 1. All 20 video lectures by Dr. Koop are to be viewed, taking notes as you view.
- 2. A copy of Dr. Koop's lecture outlines will be available on the Moodle site.

B. Class Discussions

- 1. Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post a response to the questions and to respond to at least one other student response.
- 2. Forum participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage. A grade will be posted the week following the Module assignment.

C. Reading

- 1. Harley's *His Needs Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage*.
- 2. Wright's *The Premarital Counseling Handbook*.

D. Testing: Two exams will be given during the course.

- 1. Mid-Term Exam: Must be completed before the end of the fourth module. This will cover the lectures from the **Module One Lectures** and the **Harley** text.
- 2. Final Exam: Must be completed by the end of the eighth module. This will cover the lectures from the **Module Two Lectures** and the **Wright** text.

C. Book Reports

- 1. **Harley** text: Write a 1,000 word book report. This report is due by the end of the third module.
- 2. **Wright** text: Write a 1,000 word book report. This report is due by the end of the seventh module.

E. Research & Writing:

1. The student will research a relevant contemporary issue to marriage and family and write a report of the research.
2. The report must be a minimum of 2,500 words, citing a minimum of 7 sources in the paper.
3. The research paper will be due by the end of the sixth module.
4. All written assignments must be prepared according to Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th edition.

X. COURSE EVALUATION:

A. Grade:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Discussion Forums | 10% |
| Book Report (Harley) | 15 % |
| Book Report (Wright) | 15 % |
| Research Paper | 20% |
| Mid-Term Exam | 20 % |
| Final Exam | <u>20 %</u> |
| | 100 % |

- B. Attendance & Late Grades:** Regular, successful and punctual attendance is expected of all students enrolled. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for an absence will be given an opportunity to make up the work. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the grade for the assignment/exam may be reduced.

- C. Beacon University Plagiarism Policy:** According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using "as one's own the writings or ideas of another." Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student's written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

XI. COURSE PROFESSOR:

Name: Larry Asplund

Degrees:

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies
M.A., Biblical Literature

D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation
Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor
Office Phone: 706.323.5364. ex. 256
E-Mail: larry.asplund@beacon.edu; lkageorgia@gmail.com
Office Hours on Campus: 8-5, Monday through Friday

XIII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Books

- Adams, Jay. *Competent to Counsel*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.
- _____. *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- _____. *Solving Marriage Problems*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Alexander, Ralph H. "Marriage" In *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Edited by Walter A. Elwell. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- David G. Benner and Peter C. Hill, Editors. *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology and Counseling*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985, 1999.
- Berg-Cross, L. *Basic Concepts in Family Therapy*. Binghampton: The Haworth Press, 1988.
- Byrne, Richard Hill. *Becoming a Master Counselor: Introduction to the Profession*. Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, 1995.
- Carter, G. and M. McGoldreick. *The Changing Family Life Cycle*. Second Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1989.
- Collins, Gary R. *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*. Revised Edition. Nashville: W Publishing, 1988.
- Crabb, Lawrence J., Jr. *The Marriage Builder: A Blueprint for Couples and Counselors*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.
- Eppinger, Paul and Sybil Eppinger. *Every Minister Needs a Lover*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1990
- Grandberg L. I. and J. R. Root. "Theology of Marriage" in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Second Edition. Edited by Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001), 743-745).
- Guerin, P, L., Fay, S., Burden and J. Kaulto. *The evolution and Treatment of Marital Conflict*. New York: Basic Books, 1987.
- Harley, Willard F., Jr. *His Needs Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage*. 15th Edition. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1986, 1994, 2001.
- Hodges, William F. *Interventions for Children of Divorce: Custody, Access, and Psychotherapy*. New York: Wiley, 1986.
- Isaacs, Marla Beth, Braulio Montalvo, and David Abelsohn. *The Difficult Divorce: Therapy for Children and Families*. New York: Basic Books, 1986.
- Jones, Stanton L. and Richard E. Butman. *Modern Psychotherapies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal*. Downers Grove: Inver Varsity, 1991.
- Keener, Craig S. *And Marries Another: Divorce and Remarriage In the Teachings of the New Testament*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Lauer Jeanette and Robert Lauer. "Marriages Made to Last," *Psychology Today* 19 (June 1985), 22-26.
- McCubbin, Hamilton I. and Charles R. Figley. *Stress and the Family*. 2 Volumes. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1983.
- McMinn, M. *Psychology, Theology, and Spirituality in Christian Counseling*. Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 1996.

- Merrill, Dean. *Clergy Couples in Crisis*. Carol Stream: Leadership/Word Books, 1985.
- Nichols, M. and R. Schwartz. *Family Therapy Concepts and Methods*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1991.
- Nichols, W. *Marital Therapy: An Integrative Approach*. New York: The Guilford Press, 1996.
- Patterson, C. H. *Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy*. New York: Harper and Row, 1973.
- Piercy, F., D. Sprinkle., J. Wecher and Associates. *Family Therapy Sourcebook*. Second Edition. New York: The Guilford Press, 1996.
- Pittman, Frank S., III. *Turning Points: Treating Families in Transition and Crisis*. New York: Norton, 1987.
- Popenoe, David and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead. *The State of our Unions 2003: The Social Health of Marriage in America*. Piscataway: Rutgers, The State University of New York, 2003.
- Prince, Derek. *The Marriage Covenant*. Fort Lauderdale: Derek Prince Publications, 1978.
- _____. *Husbands and Fathers*. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 2000.
- Sell, Charles M. *Family Ministry: The enrichment of Family Life through the Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981.
- Sharf, Richard S. *Theories of Psychotherapy and Counseling: Concepts and Cases*. Second Edition. Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, 2000.
- Smalley, Gary. *Hidden Keys to a Loving, Lasting Marriage*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- _____. and Greg Smalley. *Bound by Honor: Fostering a Great Relationship with Your Teen*. Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 1998
- _____. and John Trent. *The Gift of the Blessing*. Updated and Expanded. Nashville: W Publishing, 1986, 1993.
- _____. *Love in a Decision*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.
- Smith, Harold Ivan. *Pastoral Care for Single Parents*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 1982.
- Stott, John R. W. *Divorce*. Downers Groves: Inter Varsity, 1978.
- Wieling, Elizabeth, Micjael A Negretti, and Sean Stokes.” Postmodernism in marriage and family therapy training: doctoral students’ understanding and experiences” in *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. 27:04 (Oct. 2001), 527-33.
- Williams, William C. “Family Life and Relations” in *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Edited by Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996), 243-245.
- Wright, H. Norman. *The Premarital Counseling Handbook*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1977, 1981, 1992.
- _____. *Marital Counseling: A Biblically Based Behavioral, Cognitive Approach*. Santa Ana: Christian Marriage enrichment, 1981.
- _____. *Marriage Counseling*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1995.
- _____. *Before You Say "I Do."* Revised Edition. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 1997.

Online Resources

The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. www.aamft.org

Family and Marriage Today. www.famtoday.com

Family Research Council. www.frc.org

Family Research Laboratory. <http://www.unh.edu/fri/> University of New Hampshire.

Harvard Family Research Project. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~hfrp/> Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

The Haworth Press. www.haworthpress.com

The National Marriage Project. <http://marriage.rutgers.edu>. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Werner-Wilson, Ronald J. Editor. *Research on Marriage and Family Therapy.* http://www.public.iastate.edu/~rwwilson/therapy_process.htm. Iowa State University.

White, Jeanne Bracker. Editor. *MFTSource.com: Resource for Marriage and Family Therapy.* www.mftsource.com. Santa Barbara, CA.