

**CNS 7744 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING
ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DETROIT COUNSELING PROGRAM**

Summer Semester, 2020

Mondays – 6:00-9:45 pm ~ May 18th-June 29th

1.5 credits

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to marriage counseling and special issues in family counseling will be discussed. Attention will be given to history-taking, problem assessment, and therapeutic interventions. The student will develop a basic understanding of Family Systems Theory and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy. Special emphasis is placed on the importance of a theology of marriage that is biblically sound and clinically practical. Between the required text and lectures, students will gain an appreciation for the complexity of marriage & family counseling.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLO)(with DLOs)

This course format consistently meets the same quality, assessment, learning outcomes and requirements of the traditional semester course format.

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the unique opportunity that skills in marital counseling can provide. (KO1)
2. Define marriage and the common problem areas in marriage and methods for managing them. (KO5)
3. Articulate why the family as a system may need to change for an individual to be helped. (PSO2)
4. Demonstrate skill in differentiating "the problem" into problems as they are experienced by different family members. (PSO5)

III. KNOWLEDGE BASE

This course meets the Michigan Administrative Code (SOAHR) requirement for Counseling Techniques—R 338.1753 Rule 3 (2)(c) and/or Counseling Theories—R 338.1753 Rule 3 (2)(d).

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Textbooks and Other Materials

Gilbert, Roberta M. (2011). *The Eight Concepts of Bowen Theory*. Leading Systems Press. ISBN: 978-0976345510.

Gottman, John M. (2011). *The Science of Trust*. W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-70595-9.

B. Attendance (*this course will employ a combination of Zoom and Blackboard*).

According to the student handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected, unless the professor has been notified in advance. Any student missing the equivalent of six class hours will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade or withdraw from the class; this is at the discretion of the professor. **This policy also includes tardiness.**

C. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning

PAPER #1:

DUE: June 8, 2020

Compare and contrast your family of origin with your current family organization. Include a discussion of the impact of your family of origin upon current choices/preferences in your current family situation, how situations experienced growing up continue to shape and mold you today. Include a genogram of your family back two generations. Include in your paper at least one issue experienced and share how systems counseling might have affected your family. In four (4) pages, explore the issue in APA style. (The cover page, abstract page (if used), and reference page are not included in counting pages for this paper.) (SLO's #1,2,3,4) **Worth 30 percent**

PAPER #2:

DUE: June 29, 2020

Write and submit a marriage covenant identifying vital elements necessary for a healthy marriage. Your theological view of marriage should drive the covenant. Scholarly materials are required to substantiate the document. The covenant must be no more than 2 pages (excluding cover and reference pages). (SLO's #2) **Worth 30 points**

- or -

Create a marriage resource. The intended use or purpose of the resource must be easily identifiable within the resource. (SLO's #2) **Worth 30 percent**

PAPER #3:

DUE: July 13, 2020

Interview a married couple that has been married at least 2 years. The interview questions should include but are not limited to: what are the areas of challenge, how does each partner's family of origin impact the marriage, views of marriage before marrying and current views after marrying, inquiry about unrealistic expectations of marriage that have possibly negatively impacted the marriage, ask each partner about their views regarding the covenant of marriage, finally provide a viable recommendation to the married couple to help facilitate growth in their marriage from the readings. You must include recommendations derived from within the recommended texts of this course. At the minimum you must include 6-8 citations from the course texts. This paper should be at least 4 pages in length (not including the cover and reference pages). Conclude the paper with a summary of how this interview has personally impacted you. (SLO's #1,2,3,4) **Worth 40 percent**

V. CALCULATION OF GRADE AND CONNECTION OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
Family of origin paper	1,2,3,4	30%
Marriage covenant	2	30%
Interview	1,2, 3, 4	40%

VI. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>Week #</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Lecture/Topic</i>	<i>Readings/Assignments</i>
1	5/18/20	Overview: Science of Trust	Gottman
2	6/1/20	Trust in Relationships/Marriage - Counseling Need and Importance/Marriage Covenant	Gottman
3	6/8/20	Marriage Counseling Skills and Techniques/Family of Origin Work	Gilbert <i>Family of Origin Paper Due</i>
4	6/15/20	Necessity for Family Counseling	Gilbert
5	6/22/20	Family Counseling Theories	Gilbert
6	6/29/20	Comprehensive Discussion/Role Play	<i>Marriage Covenant Or Resource due</i>

Final paper (Interview) due July 13, 2020 by midnight – submitted via Blackboard

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Read other books indicated in the Bibliography, as well as ones recommended in the resources listed next. Use the SmartMarriages.com web site, and join available groups. Join American Counseling Association (ACA) seek out the Marriage and Family Counselor divisions. Read professional journals in the field.

VII. SEMINARY GUIDELINES

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy

Ashland Theological Seminary seeks to model servant leadership derived from biblical standards of honesty and integrity. We desire to encourage, develop, and sustain men and women of character who will exemplify these biblical qualities in their ministry to the church and the world. As members of the seminary community, students are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity. All students, therefore, are expected to abide by the academic integrity standards outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

B. Seminary Writing Consultation Service

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters and doctoral qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person.

To schedule an appointment, visit [Writing Center Online](#) and select “Online and Graduate” from the schedule menu.

C. Accessibility Resources and Accommodations

It is Ashland University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Center at [419-289-5904](tel:419-289-5904), or send an email to dservices@ashland.edu. The Student Accessibility Center office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations and to meet your learning needs.

D. ATS Grading Scale

Grade	Quality	Percent	Description
A	4.0	97-100	Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.
A-	3.7	92-96	
B+	3.3	89-91	
B	3.0	86-88	Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.
B-	2.7	83-85	
C+	2.3	80-82	

C	2.0	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	1.7	74-76	
D+	1.3	71-73	
D	1.0	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	0.7	65-67	
F	0.0	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

E. Plagiarism Policy

Students found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and are subject to receive a failing grade in the course and dismissal from the Pastoral Counseling Program.

F. Late Work Policy

All written assignments are to be completed ON TIME. Late assignments will be accepted only when arrangements have been made with the instructor ahead of time.

IX. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

NOTE: See also the Bibliographies in the texts for sources in preparing your papers.

Chapman, Gary. (2015). *The 5 love languages hardcover special edition: The secret to love that lasts*. Chicago: Northfield Publishing. **ISBN-10:** 0802412718 **ISBN-13:** 978-0802412713

Chapman, Gary. (2009). *The marriage you've always wanted*. Chicago: Moody Publishers. **ISBN-10:** 0802473008 **ISBN-13:** 978-0802473004

Hardin, Jerry D. & Sloan, Dianne C. (2014). *Getting ready for marriage: Knowing the person you are going to marry*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson. **ASIN:** B01CXE9L32

Harley, Jr. Willard F. (2003). *Love busters: Protect your marriage by replacing love-busting patterns with love-building habits*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell. **ISBN:** 0800727711

Weiner-Davis, Michelle. (2001). *The Divorce Remedy*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks. ISBN 13:978-0-684-87354-1.

Wright, Norman H. & Roberts, Wes. (2019). *Before You Say "I Do"*. Oregon: Harvest House Publishers. ISBN: 0736975993.

Worthington, Jr. Everett L. (2009). *Marriage Counseling: A Christian Approach to Counseling Couples*. Illinois: Intervarsity Press. **ASIN:** B00EQV6O16

