

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **EDCO 801**

### **ASSESSMENT IN MARITAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An in-depth examination of the types of assessment used in marital counseling. Students will learn how to select the best instrument for a particular situation, how to administer these, and how to interpret the results.

#### **RATIONALE**

With the ever-changing definition of what “family” means, the counselor must increase his/her knowledge and skill-set for dealing with the variety of ways that families and couples will come to him/her for help. The counselor will learn how to gather as much information as possible early in the counseling sessions, and then how to take that information and use it for his/her treatment plan. This information can also be used to decide whether clients are making progress in treatment, and if they are ready for the end of treatment.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify and apply assessment principles and methods for selecting and administering appropriate instruments in marriage and family counseling.
- B. Differentiate and apply strategies for interpreting assessment data, and

the evaluation of the instruments used in marriage and family counseling.

- C. Identify and apply general principles and methods of case conceptualization, assessment, and/or diagnoses of mental and emotional status as it relates to marriage, couples, and family counseling.
- D. Appraise ethical and legal considerations in understanding the use of assessments in marriage and family counseling.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. A minimum of 2 references (except in the last Discussion Board) in current APA format are required and only journal articles and/or textbooks are permitted to be used. Additionally, the student is required to reply to 3 classmates' threads during the following module/week. Each reply must be 100–200 words, and must include at least 1 reference from journal articles and/or textbooks to back up his/her reply.

- D. Case Studies (3)

The student will write three 5–8-page Case Study papers in current APA format. The first Case Study covers a non-married couple, the second a married couple with no children, and the third a family. Each paper must include at least 4–5 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

- E. Quizzes (8)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week. All quizzes are open-book/open-notes, contain 20 multiple-choice questions, and have a 45-minute time limit.

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

- A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 75 pts ea)	300
Case Studies (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Quizzes (8 at 50 pts ea)	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859  
C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739  
D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the latest edition of the APA-style manual (*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport)



## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **EDCO 801**

Textbooks: Gottman, *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail* (1994).  
Williams et al., *Essential Assessment Skills for Couple and Family Therapists* (2011).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Gottman: ch. 1 Williams et al.: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Introduction DB Quiz 1	10 0 50
<b>2</b>	Gottman: ch. 2 Williams et al.: ch. 3 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Thread Quiz 2	50 50
<b>3</b>	Gottman: ch. 3 Williams et al.: chs. 4–6 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies Case Study 1 Quiz 3	30 100 50
<b>4</b>	Gottman: ch. 4 Williams et al.: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread Quiz 4	50 50
<b>5</b>	Gottman: ch. 5 Williams et al.: chs. 7–8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Replies Case Study 2 Quiz 5	30 100 50
<b>6</b>	Gottman: ch. 6 Williams et al.: ch. 9 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread Quiz 6	50 50
<b>7</b>	Gottman: ch. 7 Williams et al.: ch. 10 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Replies Case Study 3 Quiz 7	30 100 50
<b>8</b>	Gottman: ch. 8 Williams et al.: chs. 5, 13 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Initial Post and Reply Quiz 8	60 50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.