

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

DBMF 400 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SYSTEMS: FOUNDATIONS, MODELS AND TECHNIQUES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of marriage and family dynamics, specifically looking at various foundations and models for effective people helping. A wide range of marriage and family issues and definitions are examined. Ethical concerns and multicultural factors are also considered.

RATIONALE

There's never been a more dramatic attack on marriages and the family than we are currently experiencing today. In addition, there has never been a more difficult time to be a parent. The 21st century has brought with it a host of challenges fighting for the heart of the traditional family. Yet, research consistently shows the necessity of a stable family system to bring about healthy children and ultimately, healthy societies. It is important to present effective marriage and family models to help marriages and families lay a solid biblical foundation and navigate the difficult issues. This course is offered in an eight-week format and includes extensive readings, experiential observations, exams, a research paper, and interactions with other students via Discussion Board.

THEME SCRIPTURE

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.” *Genesis 2:24* (NASB)

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND CRITICAL COMPETENCIES

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

- A. Identify current trends, issues and threats to the family system in the 21st century.
- B. Define both “marriage” and “family” from a Judeo-Christian perspective rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- C. Describe the Judeo-Christian definition of marriage and family against the current cultural attempts to redefine it.
- D. Identify and describe to parents the necessary conditions for raising confident children.
- E. Identify issues that families face such as infertility/miscarriage, single parenting, family crises, postpartum depression, homosexuality, stepfamilies, technology and stress.
- F. Describe techniques for raising spiritually healthy and vibrant children.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook Readings and Lecture Presentations.
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)
Each forum will require the student to answer questions with a minimum of 250 words based on that particular module/week’s readings (Dr. Dobson’s works and/or the core text), as well as video/audio content. The student will then be required to post at least two (2) replies of 150 words each to other students’ threads in the same module/week. Instructions for the successful completion of this assignment can be found in Appendix A.
- D. Movie Reviews (2)
The student is to complete 2 movie reviews by watching a movie of his/her choosing that has a strong marital/family theme. The student must then complete a 2-3 page critique of the movie as it relates to the topic of marriage (the page count does not include the title page). The student must pay particular attention to how the ideas presented in this movie might be used to give helpful advice to couples/parents in a marital/family setting. These assignments must have a title page with the student’s name, the course number, the instructor’s name, the assignment number (Movie Review 1), and the date. The reviews must be written in current APA format. Instructions for the successful completion of this assignment can be found in Appendix B.
- E. 4MAT Book Critiques (2)
The student will complete two 4MAT papers during the course of his/her study. The reviews will be written using any two of the three assigned texts for this course. The critiques must be written in current APA format. Instructions for the successful completion of this assignment can be found in Appendix C.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 @ 50 pts. ea.)	200
Movie Reviews (2 @ 200 points each)	400
4MAT Book Critiques (2 @ 200 each)	400
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

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

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

D. Dual Relationships

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

E. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DBMF 400

Textbooks: Dobson, J. *Building Confidence in Your Child* (2015).
 Dobson, J. *Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide* (2000).
 Dobson, J. *Your Legacy: The Greatest Gift* (2014).

MODUL E/WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	MFHR: chs. 1-4, 6 Legacy: chs. 1-2	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
2	MFHR: chs. 7-10 Legacy: chs. 3-4	Movie Review # 1	200
3	MFHR: chs. 11, 14, 16-18 Legacy: chs. 5-6	DB Forum 2	50
4	Building Confidence: chs. 1-5 Legacy: chs. 7-8	4MAT # 1	200
5	Building Confidence: chs. 6-10 Legacy: chs. 9-10	DB Forum 3	50
6	MFHR: chs. 25 Legacy: chs. 11-12	Movie Review # 2	200
7	MFHR: chs. 15, 20, 22-23 Legacy: ch. 13	DB Forum 4	50
8	MFHR: chs. 12-13	4MAT Review # 2	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET), except for Module/Week 8, which ends on **Friday** at 11:59 p.m. (ET).