

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

EDCO 806

PREMARITAL AND REMARRIAGE COUNSELING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An in-depth examination of the dynamics of marriage and family relationships, with emphasis on the structure and function of marriage, various aspects of the marital relationship, family systems, and ways to conduct pre-marital, divorce care and remarriage counseling as a creative, preventative, and healing ministry.

RATIONALE

Counselors need to advocate and intentionally build marital relationships that are characterized by openness, intimacy, stability, safety, love, respect, and eroticism. This course provides the student with an introduction to theory, research, and the practice of premarital/remarital counseling. The student will develop the requisite skills and knowledge of using premarital inventories, assessing, and counseling couples to develop healthy, vibrant, and faith-grounded marriages.

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 Word and PowerPoint

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Assess and describe the contemporary issues addressed in marriage and remarriage contexts.
- B. Critique the major theoretical models in marital therapy in relationship to pastoral counseling.

- C. Appraise pastoral counseling and its applicability in the context of marriage and remarriage.
- D. Compare and contrast current church ministry programs intended to strengthen marriage and remarriage relationships.
- E. Analyze the difficulties endemic in a remarriage environment.
- F. Assess the impact a dysfunctional marriage or remarriage has on those directly and indirectly involved.

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 (9)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 800 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and be supported by biblical principles. In addition to the thread, the student will reply to at least 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 400 words and must be supported by biblical principles.

- D. PREPARE/ENRICH Certification or Paper

The student will complete the PREPARE/ENRICH certification online at a reduced rate. The student will need to register for the online training at the following address:

https://www.prepare-enrich.com/webapp/pe/on_demand_training/template/DisplaySecureContent.vm?pc=1448996433776?id=pe*on_demand_training*overview.html&xlat=Y&emb_or_g_id=0&emb_sch_id=0&emb_lng_code=ENGLISH&report_lang_code=ENGLISH&xlat=Y

The online training will provide a step-by-step process of completing the 12 comprehensive sections. Each section ends with a 5-item quiz based on the content covered. Once the course is completed, the student will post his/her certificate to Blackboard.

If the student has previously completed the PREPARE/ENRICH training, he/she will submit a copy of the certificate of completion. Then, the student will administer to 2 couples and submit a reflection and analysis paper of 5–7 pages in current APA format.

- E. Premarital Project

In 3 phases, the student will develop a marital education/therapy intervention for premarital or remarital couples by creating a curriculum or treatment manual (Word document) along with a visual medium (e.g., PowerPoint, Slate, etc.). The manual must be a detailed outline that would be used to provide the training and must include a biblical worldview regardless of the audience. The average premarital/remarital training will include approximately 7 sessions (2 hours each) of didactic material and interactive exercises; a therapeutic marital group will have approximately 6–10 weeks of sessions (1 hour per week). The student must use ideas from course textbooks, marital therapy theorists, scholarly research, Scripture, and other sources to complete the project. Citations for all sources must be in current APA format.

Topic Selection

The student will submit a 1–2-sentence statement describing the project’s specific topic.

Outline

The student will provide a session-by-session outline of his/her program. The outline must include the major points associated with the topic of each particular session as well as a short description of each point.

Final Submission

The student will develop a curriculum manual for use with premarital or remarital couples. The curriculum must include a visual element to augment the program. All citations must be in current APA format.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 40 pts ea; 2 at 145 pts ea; 2 at 20 pts ea)	530
PREPARE/ENRICH Certification or Paper	200
Premarital Project	
Topic Selection	20
Outline	50
Final Submission	200
Total	1010

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. Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited. See The Graduate Catalog for specific definitions, penalties, and processes concerning Honor Code and FN Policies for reporting.

D. Drop/Add Policies

The student is obliged to follow the drop/add policies identified in the graduate catalog.

E. Student Conduct Policy

The student is expected to conduct himself/herself in a godly and civil manner when addressing the instructor or other students. While good healthy discussion will be expected and encouraged, at no time will personal attacks be tolerated.

F. Communications

Students are expected to communicate in a professional manner at all times with classmates, faculty, or LU employees. Because writing is a limited form of communication, it is more easily misinterpreted than face-to-face. Therefore, written communications should be courteous and well thought out to avoid offense. If any offense is perceived, the offender should be alerted first and privately. Reconciliation is the goal, but if it does not happen, the offended may then involve the instructor. Personal messages are not appropriate for posting in Blackboard. The student's Liberty email account will be used for all email communications. Announcements from the instructor or University may be posted in Blackboard.

G. 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.

H. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally, or in writing, of either 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 distance learning dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

I. Disability Assistance

Residential students with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in Green Hall 2668 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. For all disability testing accommodation requests (i.e. quieter environment, extended time, oral testing, etc.) the Testing Center (Green Hall 2700) is the officially designated place for all tests administered outside of the regular classroom.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

EDCO 806

Textbooks: Deal, *Dating and the Single Parent* (2012).
 Olson, *PREPARE/ENRICH Certification Training*.
 Rosenau, *A Celebration of Sex for Newlyweds* (2005).
 Wright, *The Premarital Counseling Handbook* (1992).

MODULE /WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Wright: chs. 1, 13–14 3 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	20
		DB Forum 2	40
2	Olson: PREPARE/ENRICH Training Wright: ch. 12 2 presentations	DB Forum 3	40
		Premarital Project – Topic Selection	20
3	Deal: chs. 1–5 Olson: PREPARE/ENRICH Training Wright: ch. 4 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	40
		PREPARE/ENRICH Certification or Paper	200
4	Deal: chs. 6–10 Rosenau: chs. 1–5 2 presentations	DB Forum 5	40
		Premarital Project – Outline	50
5	Roseneau: chs. 6–10 Wright: ch. 3 2 presentations	DB Forum 6	145
6	Wright: chs. 2, 6–7 3 presentations	DB Forum 7	40
7	Wright: chs. 8–9 2 presentations	DB Forum 8	20
		Premarital Project – Final Submission	200
8	Wright: chs. 10–11 2 presentations	DB Forum 9	145
TOTAL			1010

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**.