

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

PACO 615

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the dynamics of marriage and family relationships. Emphasis is on understanding the structure and function of marriage, the various aspects of the marital relationship, family systems, and ways the counselor may approach marriage and family counseling as a creative, preventative, and healing ministry.

RATIONALE

Marriages in the United States are failing at a minimum rate of at least 50 percent, or one out of every two marriages. This fact is true both within Christianity as well as society as a whole. This course teaches the aspiring pastoral counselor how to meet the needs of hurting couples and to point them toward health and wholeness.

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 the basic foundations of marriage and family counseling history, philosophy, trends, ethics, theories, and role of the pastoral counselor.
- B. Demonstrate the ability to apply counseling models and techniques to appropriate situations related to couple and family counseling.
- C. Conceptualize issues in marriage, couple, and family counseling and implement treatment, planning, and intervention strategies.
- D. Demonstrate, through the use of intake information, family history, ethnic sensitivities, family of origin issues, genograms, and family life cycle issues as well as the ability to apply appropriate counseling models and strategies.
- E. Integrate biblical principles, secular marriage, and family counseling theories in a responsible, eclectic manner.
- F. Conceptualize ethical and legal standards such as confidentiality, legal responsibilities, and liabilities of pastoral practice.
- G. Apply relevant research findings to inform the practice of marriage, couple, 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 300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 150 words.
- D. Worksheet Assignments (4)
The student will review worksheets within the *Couples Therapy Homework Planner* in order to develop a plan of action for a couple's therapy session. The student will evaluate the worksheets' purpose and effectiveness (including personal insights).
- E. Movie Reviews (2)
The student is to complete 2 movie reviews by watching a movie of his/her choosing that has a strong marital theme. The student must then complete a 3–4-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 counsel couples in a marital 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.

F. 4MAT Book Critiques (2)

The student will complete two 4MAT papers during the course of his/her study. The first paper covers Dr. Everett Worthington's *Hope-focused Marriage Counseling: A Guide to Brief Therapy*. The second paper will cover a book of the student's choosing in the area of marriage and the family. The critiques must be written in current APA format.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Worksheet Assignments (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Movie Reviews (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
4MAT Book Critiques (2 at 100 pts ea)	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. Tests/Exams

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit a penalty of 1 point may be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module/week. Late submissions will be penalized at 5% per day, cumulative, with no test/exam being accepted seven (7) days after the original due date without written approval from the professor. Whenever possible, this approval must be sought prior to the test/exam due date.

D. Dual Relationship

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.

F. Disability Assistance

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

PACO 615

Textbooks: Gottman et al., *10 Lessons to Transform your Marriage* (2006).
 Worthington, *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling* (2005).
 Schultheis et al., *Couples Therapy Homework Planner* (2010).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Worthington: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Worksheet Assignment 1	10 0 100
2	Gottman et al.: ch. 7 Worthington: chs. 3–4 1 presentation	DB Forum 1	50
3	Gottman et al.: chs. 3, 8 Worthington: chs. 5–6 1 presentation	Movie Review 1	100
4	Gottman et al.: chs. 4–5 Worthington: chs. 7–8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 4MAT Book Critique 1	50 100
5	Gottman et al.: chs. 2, 6 Worthington: chs. 9–10 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Worksheet Assignment 2	50 100
6	Gottman et al.: ch. 1 Worthington: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	Worksheet Assignment 3 Movie Review 2	100 100
7	Gottman et al.: chs. 9–10 Worthington: chs. 13–14 1 presentation	Worksheet Assignment 4	100
8	Worthington: chs. 15–16 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 4MAT Book Critique 2	50 100
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**.