

**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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### **PACO 618**

#### **ADVANCED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an exploration of selected major treatment approaches utilized in marital and family counseling. Development of practical skills, interventions, and techniques constitute the primary focus. (Formerly PACO 602).

#### **RATIONALE**

This course covers advanced skills in marriage and family counseling. The purpose of the course is to present more in-depth concepts and philosophies of marriage and family counseling for pastoral counselors. This course will also teach advanced skills and techniques necessary when counseling marriages and families.

#### **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. Articulate a biblical foundation for marriage and family.
- B. Evaluate a counseling model to help marriages in conflict.
- C. Identify and apply skills, models, and techniques appropriate to address marital and family problems in the context of marriage and family counseling.
- D. Explore marriage and family issues and develop treatment plans and intervention strategies for various problems in marriage and family counseling.

- E. Demonstrate the ability to recognize his or her own limitations as a pastoral counselor when working with marriages and families and how to make appropriate referrals.
- F. Integrate biblical principles and secular theories in a responsible, eclectic manner.

**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 (5)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 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 at least 150 words.

- D. 4MAT Paper

The student will complete a 4MAT paper that covers the assigned chapters of the Köstenberger and Jones textbook. The paper must conform to the following length requirements for each section: 350 words (summary), 250 words (concrete responses), 250 words (reflection), and 400 words (application).

- E. Marriage Counseling Plan

The student will watch the movie *Fireproof* and will develop a 3–5-page Marriage Counseling Plan for the married couple in the movie. The plan must incorporate elements learned from both the textbook readings and course presentations and must reflect a solid integration of a Christian worldview.

- F. Book Critique

The student will write a 5-page Book Critique in current APA format that focuses on the counseling approach presented in the Sells and Yarhouse textbook. The paper must include references to the other course textbooks and the Bible as well as at least 3 scholarly references.

- G. Family Counseling Plan

The student will read the case study provided and will develop a 5-page Family Counseling Plan for the family in the case study. The plan must incorporate elements learned from both the textbook readings and course presentations and must reflect a solid integration of a Christian worldview.

- H. Exam

The exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. The exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 50 multiple-choice questions, and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 50 pts ea)		250
4MAT Paper		100
Marriage Counseling Plan		200
Book Critique		100
Family Counseling Plan		200
Exam	Modules 1–6	150
	<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. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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***

### **PACO 618**

Textbooks: Clinton & Trent, *The Quick-Reference Guide to Marriage & Family Counseling* (2009).  
 Datillio & Jongsma, *The Family Therapy Treatment Planner* (2014).  
 Köstenberger & Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family* (2010).  
 O’Leary, et al., *The Couples Psychotherapy Treatment Planner* (2014).  
 Sells & Yarhouse, *Counseling Couples in Conflict* (2011).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Köstenberger & Jones: chs. 1–3 1 presentation 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions	10 0
<b>2</b>	Köstenberger & Jones: chs. 4–6 2 presentations	DB Forum 1 4MAT Paper	50 100
<b>3</b>	Sells & Yarhouse: chs. 1–4 2 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
<b>4</b>	Sells & Yarhouse: chs. 5–9 1 presentation 1 DVD	Marriage Counseling Plan	200
<b>5</b>	Clinton & Trent: Selected Readings Sells & Yarhouse: chs. 10–15 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Book Critique	50 100
<b>6</b>	Clinton & Trent: Selected Readings Datillio & Jongsma: Selected Readings 2 presentations 1 lecture note	DB Forum 4 Exam	50 150
<b>7</b>	Clinton & Trent: Selected Readings 2 presentations	DB Forum 5	50
<b>8</b>	Clinton & Trent: Selected Readings Datillio & Jongsma: Selected Readings 1 presentation	Family Counseling Plan	200
<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**.