

**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 603**

#### **PREMARITAL AND MARITAL COUNSELING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the factors contributing to successful marital relationships. The course also teaches students a conceptual model for assessing relationship functionality and introduces them to short-term methods that can be used when problems develop. Students will be challenged to articulate a clinically informed biblical counseling approach to pre-marital counseling.

#### **RATIONALE**

Christian and secular experts agree that marriages are failing at a 50% or higher rate in the United States of America. This course provides the student with the requisite skills and knowledge to assist couples through crises and to develop healthy, vibrant marriages.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

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

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

- A. 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

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

- A. Integrate appropriate code of ethics (ACA, ASGW) to group Counseling.
- B. Examine all theories and topical issues presented in the course in accord with current scholarly standards and practices.
- C. Examine all theories and topical issues presented in the course through a biblical worldview.
- D. Identify and integrate multicultural factors into all relevant areas of group work.
- E. Identify group stages and appropriate theories/interventions for each stage.

## 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 create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 300 words and must 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. Premarital Curriculum Project

For this assignment, each student will develop a working premarital curriculum. It must be designed and presented as a PowerPoint presentation. This is an opportunity for the student to create a curriculum that will help couples accurately assess their compatibility for marriage as well as help them navigate their first three years of marriage successfully. The curriculum must cover 8–12 weeks and have a minimum of 35 slides. In addition, the student must use current statistics, Scripture, and at least 5 resources to support the curriculum. A reference slide at the end of the PowerPoint must be included. Specific guidelines are provided in the Assignment Instructions folder in Blackboard.

E. SYMBIS Assessment Certification

The student will complete the online SYMBIS Training Kit to obtain certification. Evidence of certification must be submitted via screenshot to show the instructor that the certification was successfully completed.

F. PREPARE/ENRICH Certification

Each quiz (12) will cover the online PREPARE/ENRICH material for the modules/weeks in which it is assigned. Each quiz allows multiple attempts and must be passed to obtain PREPARE/ENRICH certification. For each quiz, the student must submit a Word document with a screenshot showing that the quiz has been successfully completed.

## VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
PREPARE/ENRICH Certification	100
Premarital Curriculum Project	
Draft	50
Final	150
SYMBIS Assessment Certification	200
PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes	
Quizzes 1–3	75
Quizzes 4–6	75
Quizzes 7–9	75

**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***

### **PACO 603**

Textbooks: Deal, *Dating and the Single Parent* (2012).  
 Hawkins, *Strengthening Marital Intimacy: Elements in the Process* (1991).  
 Olson, *PREPARE/ENRICH On Demand Promo Code* (2009).  
 Parrott & Parrott, *SYMBIS Facilitator Certification* (2016).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Hawkins: entire text 3 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
<b>2</b>	Olson: Sessions 1–3	PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 1–3	75
<b>3</b>	Olson: Sessions 4–6	DB Forum 2 PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 4–6	50 75
<b>4</b>	Deal: chs. 1–3 Olson: Sessions 7–9	DB Forum 3 PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 7–9	50 75
<b>5</b>	Deal: chs. 4–7 Olson: Sessions 10–12	PREPARE/ENRICH Certification PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 10–12	100 75
<b>6</b>	Deal: chs. 8–10 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Premarital Curriculum Project – Draft	50 50
<b>7</b>	Deal: Blended Families Review 1 presentation	SYMBIS Assessment Certification	200
<b>8</b>	None	Premarital Curriculum Project – Final	150
<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**