

LSCM 3371 Marriage & Family Issues
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
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Spring Semester 2015

Mission Statement:

The Mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Values

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary highlights five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. While all five core values are emphasized, the primary focus for the 2015-2016 academic year is *spiritual vitality*. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the lens of spiritual vitality. Throughout this course students will be encouraged to consider how the core value of “spiritual vitality” impacts their development as Christian counselors being called to operate in the local church.

I. Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to explore the basic issues of the marriage relationship and the family. The emphasis of this course is on marriage and the family as social institutions with application to the student’s life and to the local church.

II. Course Objectives:

This course will emphasize the competency in the following areas: reading, writing, computer skills, interpersonal relationships, and life skills.

1. Comprehend marriage and family issues.
2. Value marriage, family, and ministry to families.
3. Enhance marriage and family relationships.

III. Required Textbook:

Smalley, Gary. Making Love Last Forever. Dallas: Word Publishing House, 1996. 2

IV. Course Methodology

This course will consist of lectures, group discussions, Power Point presentations, and group activities.

V. Course Requirements:

- A. **Exam I** (April 20th) 15%
- B. **Exam II** (May 4th) 15%
- C. **Development and Presentation of 15%**
Five Detailed Marriage Enrichment
Teaching Outlines (April 20th)
- D. **Devotional** Lesson from a Biblical Family – Students will 10% sign up for the date on which they will lead the class devotion. Devotions should be no longer than ONE page typed and should include the selected passage with reference and a truth drawn from the passage. Devotions should follow the specific format discussed in class and should be on a family in the Bible, not a verse about family. 75% of the grade is based on following directions & the typed outline submitted on blackboard **on or before the day of the presentation**. The other 25% is based on the class presentation.
- E. **Portfolio** (Due at the Final Exam) 10%
This portfolio will be collected at the final. It should contain four sections (1) class notes, (2) book reviews, (3) group work, (4) individual projects (including, but not limited to, an autobiography, genogram, and a budget).
- F. **Participation:** 10%
Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assigned for that class period. An essential part of learning the material in this course requires students participate in class activities and discussions.
- G. **Book Review:** 10%
In addition to the required textbook for this course, each student will be responsible for selecting an additional book to read, review and report on. Students must choose a book he/she has not previously read, which relates to material covered in this course. The book should be at least 100 pages in length. Grades will be based on a one page review submitted by the student and presented to the class. Students are responsible for bringing a copy of their review for each student in the class and submitting a

copy for grading on blackboard on the day they present their evaluation.

H. Final Exam (May 4th): 15%

VI. Attendance

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. According to seminary policy, students are allowed nine absences from a three-hour class. Three occasions of arriving late for a class or leaving early from class will count as one absence. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class the minimum number of hours. This policy will be strictly enforced.

VII. Blackboard

Students will find weekly lecture guides, announcements, grades, and other helpful information posted on blackboard. Students must set up their blackboard account by the end of week 1.

VII. Course Overview

I. Introduction of Course

II. The Family

- ❖ Definition
- ❖ Types
- ❖ The Modern Family
- ❖ What the Bible Says

III. Family Of Origin

- ❖ Genograms / Structural Mapping
- ❖ Influences

IV. Contemporary Issues in Families

- ❖ Expectations and Roles
- ❖ Priorities and Time Management
- ❖ Communication /
- ❖ Anger
- ❖ Finances
- ❖ Parenting and Discipline

V. Ministering to Families

NOTE: Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a four-point penalty for each class period the assignment is late. If an emergency prevents a student from taking a scheduled exam, it is that student's responsibility to reschedule with the instructor. Students have one week to reschedule the exam. After one week, the student will earn a grade of 0 for the exam. All make-up exams are assessed a 4 point penalty and are more difficult than the exam given in class. 4

VIII. Reading Schedule

MLLF = Making Love Last Forever Week #	Date	Assignment
1	3/23	Introduction / Syllabus Family Demographics MLLF = Chapter 1-5
1	3/23	Sacred Marriage Biblical Perspective MLLF = Chapter 6, 7
1	3/23	Family as a Social Institution Family Systems Model MLLF = Chapter 8, 9
2	4/6	Characteristics of Families Family Life Cycle
2	4/6	Circumplex Model MLLF = Chapter 10 Marriage Enrichment Groups
3	4/20	Genograms MLLF = Chapters 12, 13 Exam 1 Marriage Enrichment Worksheet Due
3	4/20	Family Ties That Bind Being Yourself & Knowing Who That Is MLLF = Chapter 14- 16
3	4/20	Family Lifecycle MLLF Group Prep Time
4	5/4	MLLF Presentations Portfolio Due

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5/4

Marriage Enrichment
Lessons Due
Final Exam
5 Love Languages
Communication
Finances
Roles in Marriage
Evaluation

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Balswick, Jack and Judith Balswick. *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989.
- Burkett, Larry. *Money Before Marriage: A Financial Workbook for Engaged Couples*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996.
- Campbell, Ross. *How to Really Love Your Child*. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1992.
- Deen, Edith. *Family Living in the Bible*. New York: Harper & Row, 1963.
- Dobson, James C. *Love Must Be Tough: New Hope for Families in Crisis*. Word Publishing, 1983.
- Garland, Diana S. R., and Diane L. Pancoast. *The Church's Ministry with Families*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1990.
- Maston, T. B. and William Tillman, Jr. *The Bible and Family Relations*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1983.
- McGodrick, M and R. Gerson. *Genograms in Family Assessment*. New York: Norton, 1985.
- Parrott, Les and Leslie Parrott. *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Richardson, Ronald W. *Family Ties That Bind: A Self-help Guide to Change Through Family of Origin Therapy*. Vancouver: Self-Counsel Press, 1987.
- Rosenau, Douglas E. *A Celebration of Sex: Enjoying God's Gift of Sexual Pleasures*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

Smalley, Gary. *For Better Or For Best: A Valuable Guide to Knowing, Understanding, And Loving Your Husband.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979.

Swindoll, Charles R. *Strike the Original Match.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1993.

Walsh, F. *Normal Family Processes.* New York: Guilford Press, 1982.

Wright, H. Norman. *Communication: Key to Your Marriage.* Ventura: Regal Book, 1974.