



**CCPS8302 PASTORAL COUNSELING FOR MARRIAGES
AND FAMILIES**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Professional Doctoral Program
Spring 2025
plus **NOLA2U Live**

Mon., 4/7 1:00-9:00 PM; Tues., 4/8 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Wed., 4/9 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to enable students to develop broad knowledge of the marriage relationship, to develop knowledge of current family life demographics, to study healthy and dysfunctional families, to guide students in an understanding of the characteristics of a healthy marital relationship and in the application of principles to provide lasting change in marriages and families in the church, as well as understand and apply basic helping techniques to families in crisis. Students study a variety of leading contemporary theories of marriage and pre-marriage therapy from a systematic approach. Emphasis is placed on mastery of the techniques used within marital and premarital pastoral counseling. Students will develop a personal model of marriage and pre-marriage pastoral counseling including assessment, treatment planning, interventions, and follow-up.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student who satisfactorily completes the course by fulfillment of the requirements should be able to:

- Identify the biblical foundation for the marriage relationship.
- Describe major challenges facing Christian homes in contemporary culture.
- Recognize how variables such as divorce, gender, ethnicity, chronic illness, death, alcoholism, and socio-economic background impact and change the family.
- Identify the basic theories, concepts, models, and techniques in the family systems approach to marriage and family therapy.

- Develop systems thinking in family assessment and intervention.
- Demonstrate skill in a systemic approach through group presentations, discussions, role-plays, case studies, reports and examinations.
- Assess satisfaction of married couples and goals of treatment for premarital couples utilizing various tests and measurement devices.
- Apply concepts of marriage and pre-marriage therapy to ministry in a local church.

Textbooks

- Carder, D. (2008) Torn Asunder: Recovering from an Extra-Marital Affair (3rd Ed) ISBN 978-0802471352
- Cloud and Townsend. (2001). Boundaries for kids. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN 978-0310243151
- Gottman, J. (2015). The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Practical Guide from the Country's Foremost Relationship Expert. NY: NY. Harmony Publishers ISBN 978-0553447712
- Johnson, S.M. (2008). Hold Me Tight: Seven Conversations for a Lifetime of Love. NY: Little, Brown and Company. ISBN 978-031611300
- Scazzero, P. (2015). The emotionally healthy leader; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN 978-0310494577
- Smalley, G. (2004). Winning your wife back before it is too late. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson. ISBN 978-0785260288
- Stanley, S., Trathen, D., McCain, S, & Bryan, M. (2014). A Lasting promise: A Christian guide to fighting for your marriage. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. ISBN 978-1118672921
- Thomas, Gary. (2017). Cherish. Grand Rapids, MI: Harpercollins Publishers. ISBN 978-0310347262
- Vernick, L. (2013). The emotionally destructive marriage. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press. ISBN 978-0307731180

Training materials-Prepare/Enrich (to be ordered by professors—\$85.00) or Couples Communication Training (to be ordered by professors \$50.00). We will be completing training for one of these two options. Please inform Dr. Steele (ksteele@nobts.edu) if you have already completed Prepare/Enrich Training, and if you have already been trained, what year you completed the training. If the majority have been trained in Prepare/Enrich, we will do the training for Couples Communication, a great system to use with couples and families.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

In person training in established Couples Counseling Assessment techniques.

Student Research and in person Presentations of developed Curriculum plans for Marriage and Family Counseling in current ministry setting.

Course Requirements

Course Requirement #1

Presentation of a Curriculum Plan (Power Point or comparable) (30%) Due: April 7, 2025

Each student will create a 50-minute PowerPoint presentation from the content contained in one of the textbooks (20%). Each presentation should be a plan ready for use in one of the following settings: a family enrichment seminar, marriage retreat, Sunday School class, or discipleship small group. Each presentation should include the entire plan, the schedule, and the complete introductory session. The Presentation should be detailed enough that it could be easily utilized in their desired settings. Presentations will be graded on content and creativity. The presentation will be presented to the class. (10%)

Course Requirement #2

Relational Autobiography

(20%) Due: May 5, 2025

Each student will prepare a relational autobiography, and will utilize the principles presented in the Emotionally Healthy Leader. The autobiography should cover relationship experiences throughout life, but focus specifically on marriage and relationships with children. Use the material in Chapter 3 of the Emotionally Healthy Leader to evaluate your marital relationship (or your attitude toward your singleness).

Course Requirement #3

Couples Resource Training and Assessment

(30%) Due: May 5, 2025

Students will participate in and complete training for Prepare/Enrich and/or Couples Communication Training and utilize technique with at least one couple. *Training will take place during the scheduled class meeting on Tuesday, April 8.* A one-page (single-spaced) assessment of the student's experience utilizing the technique will be submitted. If the student is in a setting that does not provide a couple to work with, the student should contact the professors for an alternate assignment.

Course Requirement #4

Class Participation

(20%)

Each student is expected to attend each seminar in its entirety, and to be fully prepared to discuss the texts assigned in the syllabus. As this is a doctoral seminar, scholarly and practical discussions will dominate class time. Students failing to participate in class or failing to be prepared for class discussions will see a reduction in their grade.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. These courses will require weekly attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Presentation of a Curriculum Plan	30%
Relational Autobiography	20%
Couples Resource Training and Assessment	30%
Class Participation	20%

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Selected Bibliography

- Chapman, Gary D. (2015). *The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts*. Chicago: Northfield Publishing.
- Christensen, Andrew & Jacobson, Neil S. (2000). *Reconcilable Differences*. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Cloud, Henry & Townsend, J. (2009). *Boundaries with Kids: When to Say Yes, How to Say No: Workbook*, Zondervan.
- Townsend, John. (2009). *Boundaries with Teens: When to Say Yes, How to Say No*, Zondervan.
- Hart, John A. & Hart, C. W. (2005). *Stressed or Depressed: A Practical Inspirational Guide for Parents of Hurting Teens*. Tennessee: Integrity Publishers
- Kantor, David & Lehr, William (1990). *Inside the Family*. San Francisco: The Jossey-Bass Publishers.
- Keller, Timothy (2013). *The Meaning of Marriage*. New York: Penguin Random House Company.
- Manthei, Robert (1997). *Counseling: The Skills of Finding Solutions to Problems*. New York: Addison Wesley Longman.
- Marsolini, Maxine (2000). *Blended Families: Creating Harmony As You Build a New Home Life*. Chicago: Moody Press.
- McDonald, Cleveland & McDonald, Philip M. (1994). *Creating a Successful Christian Marriage*. Michigan: Baker Books.
- Nelson, Tommy (2008). *Better Love Now!*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group.
- Rainer, Thom & Rainer, Jess W. (2011). *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*. Nashville, TN: B & H. Publishing Group.
- Weaver, Andrew (2002). *Counseling Families Across the Stages of Life: A Handbook for Pastors and Other Helping Professionals*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- Worthington, Everett (1999). *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling: A Guide to Brief Therapy*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press.
- Worthington, Everett. (1989). *Marriage Counseling: A Christian Approach to Counseling Couples*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press.