

**Houston Graduate School of Theology**

COU/PC 673 Marriage and Family Therapy

Spring 2014, Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

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*The mission of Houston Graduate School of Theology is empowering spiritual leadership through the intellectual, spiritual, and vocational development of men and women in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.*

**I. Course Description**

A study of the principles, methods, and techniques used in marriage, couples, and family therapy with attention to fostering healthy family dynamics, resolution of problematic issues and relational dysfunction, and personal growth within the context of couples, and family unit. Three hours.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course:

- A. The student will be able to assess couples, marriage, and family relational dynamics as presented by the clients in a marriage and family therapy session.
- B. The student will have knowledge of a kaleidoscope of individual, couple and family interventions used in the practice of marriage, couples, and family therapy.
- C. The student will be able to develop a treatment plan for the clients, as a couple/family, tailored to their specific needs, developing the strengths and resources designed to lead to a resolution of the presenting problem(s).
- D. The student will be able to develop, and comprehend the process in how to professionally manage a therapeutic caseload of client couples/families.
- E. The student will have knowledge of a comprehensive ethical decision making philosophy as applied to the practice of couples, marriage and family therapy.

**III. Texts**

**Required Textbooks:** Please download from required textbook list on the HGST website.

1. *A Model for Marriage: Covenant, Grace, Empowerment and Intimacy*  
By Jack O. Balswick, Judith K. Balswick

2. *Clinical Casebook of Couple Therapy* From The Guilford Press
3. *Essential Skills in Family Therapy*, Second Edition: From the First Interview to Termination (The Guilford Family Therapy Series)
4. *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Practical Guide from the Country's Foremost Relationship Expert* By John M. Gottman, Nan Silver
5. Ron Deal & David Olsen. *The Remarriage Checkup*. 2010 Bethany House Publishers, Bloomington, Minnesota. ISBN 978-0-7642-0853-9
6. Ron Deal. *The Smart Stepfamily*. 2002. 2006 Edition. Bethany House Publishers, Bloomington, Minnesota. ISBN 978-0-7642-0159-2

***Supplemental Resources:***

1. Ethics In Marriage and Family Therapy (2001) Jane DiVita Woody, Robert Henley Woody. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. ISBN: 1931846049
2. Herbert and Irene Goldenburg. Family Therapy: An Overview 7th ed. Thomson: Brooks & Cole: Pacific Grove, CA, 2008. ISBN: 053455669-8 or 053455691-4
3. Mark Yarhouse and Jonas Sells. Family Therapies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal. Intervarsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 2008.
4. The Family Crucible (1978) by Napier, A & Whitaker, C . Harper Row. ISBN 0-06-091489-0
5. TIP 39: Substance Abuse Treatment and Family Therapy (SMA08-4219) .  
**Available free @ <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/>**

**IV. Course Requirements**

- A. Take one's turn in leading a short meditation relevant to the spirituality of pastoral care givers and client needs at the beginning of class.
- B. Prepare weekly assignments, including critical thinking reflection exercises from each chapter and case studies.
- C. Periodic quizzes, and related items to give practice in dealing with the State Licensing Exam.
- D. Final Assignment: A five to seven (5-7) page research paper examining a major theory studied in this course. Do not give a summary of the textbook content. Demonstrate that you understand the various models by looking for common denominators among several therapy approaches. Show how you might use key concepts and techniques from the various approaches in working with diverse client groups.
  1. Include Scripture and Biblical references that reflect your integration of psychological theories and a Christian theological perspective.
  2. Include case examples that reflect your interest in the subject.
  3. Utilize at least ten sources of scholarly depth and proved appropriate citations.
  4. Double-spaced. APA format.
  5. **DUE on 07 May 2014.**

**E. Assignments:**

1. Each student will present three chapters from Gurmman and Patterson in class.
2. They will also develop a summary with key chapter elements for the class members.
3. Write a 3-5page critical book review of: “The Seven Principles for Making Marriages Work” by John Gottman
4. Write a 3-5 page critical book review of: “A Model for Marriage” by Balswick & Balswick.
5. Submit **15** test questions based on your class presentations.
6. Write a 3-5 p. critical book review by Deal & Olsen. The Remarriage Checkup.
7. Write a 3-5 p. critical book review by Deal. The Smart Stepfamily.

**F. Major Exams: Mid-Term (12 March 2014) and Final Exam (07 May 2014).**

**G. Final Grades are determined by the following:**

- 25% Weekly Assignments: Attendance/Participation/Quizzes
- 25% Mid-Term
- 25% Final Exam
- 25% Final Paper

**V. Grading Scale:**

A	98-100
A-	94-97
B+	92-93
B	89-91
B	86-88
C+	84-85
C	80-83
C-	75-78
D	74-70
F	0-69

**VI. Policies**

- A.** Regular attendance and submission of assignments on due dates in syllabus is expected. Each student must talk to the instructor about circumstances affecting his or her ability to attend class and complete assignments. Attendance is required at scheduled classes and at the scheduled start time. The student could lose as much as a letter grade for excessive tardiness.
- B.** This course is conducted as a professional seminar. Full attendance and informed participation, as well as leadership in areas of your own professional interest, are expected and required.

- C. If in the rare circumstance you must be absent for a session, please inform the professor. If you miss more than two classes, there will be a consequence of an automatic one letter grade lowering. Four tardies of more than 30 minutes will equal one absence.
- D. Work is expected on the due date. Students should expect a grade reduction of up to one letter grade on late papers.
- E. Electronic Equipment Usage in Class**  
It is expected that students will use technology (cell phones, laptop computers, iPads, etc.) during classes only for the purposes of class work. Therefore, students should turn off cell phones and refrain from texting and using laptop computers during classes except for the purposes of taking notes or doing research specifically authorized by the course instructor. Students who have emergency needs not covered by this policy must ask for an exception from the course instructor.
- F. Incompletes**  
In cases of extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor, a student may request and apply for an extension on all required assignments, which are not completed by the end of the semester or term, subject to a 5-point grade reduction on the final grade of each assignment. If an extension is granted, the instructor will record a grade of "I" (Incomplete) and set an extension of time, not to exceed thirty calendar days from the end of the class, within which to complete the work. Additional extensions may be granted only by the Academic Dean or Associate Dean and only after a student has petitioned the Dean in writing. If the course work is not completed within the extended time allotment, the grade of "I" will be converted to the grade earned by the student up to that point. The student is responsible to ensure that all necessary paperwork is submitted to the registrar's office by the deadline published in the school calendar.
- G. Plagiarism**  
Plagiarism is presenting the work of another person as one's own without giving proper credit for the use of the information. Students must not quote books, articles, essays, or Internet sites without giving proper credit to the author(s). Students should guard against plagiarism by crediting the original author through use of proper citations. Internet plagiarism is a particularly easy and tempting form of intellectual theft. Cutting and pasting sentences and paragraphs from the Internet without citations is plagiarism. Failure to cite Internet sources is plagiarism. Any student who is found guilty of plagiarism is subject to a range of consequences as outlined below.
1. If a faculty member suspects plagiarism, the instructor will investigate. If suspicions are confirmed, the faculty member will present the evidence to the appropriate Associate Dean as a record of the offense. If the Associate Dean

concur with the allegations, the following procedures should be implemented as applicable:

- The faculty member may discuss the offense with the student following consultation with the Associate Dean, but the student will meet with the Associate Dean.
  - For a first offense, the faculty member, in consultation with the Associate Dean, may give opportunity for a rewrite of the assignment or may assign a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment.
  - For a particularly egregious case of plagiarism on a major assignment, the consequences could result in automatic failure of the course.
2. The student may appeal the above-mentioned decisions of the faculty member in writing to the Academic Dean.
  3. The second confirmed offense will result in expulsion from school. The student will be notified by a letter from the Academic Dean. His or her only opportunity for appeal will be to the President in writing. The President's decision will be final.

#### **H. Library Usage**

A student's ability to get the most out of library resources will enhance the possibility of earning a high grade in this class. Therefore, students should consider using, in addition to the HGST library, one or more of the following libraries.

1. *Houston Public Library*— Any resident of Texas can obtain a free Houston Public Library card. Library cardholders have access to all of the books in the library system as well as the use of free interlibrary loans, meaning that HPL cardholders can borrow almost any book available. Cardholders can use the library's website, [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), to search the catalog and manage interlibrary loans. The website also contains links to WorldCat and other online databases that will enhance your research. The HPL location that is closest to HGST, the Collier Regional Branch (832-393-1740), is located at 6200 Pinemont, which is less than three miles from campus. A better option would be the newly expanded and renovated Central Library (832-393-1313), which is located downtown at 500 McKinney. In addition, HPL has many other locations. The HGST library can give you an application for an HPL library card, or you can print the application form from their website.
2. *Fondren Library at Rice University*— The Fondren Library (713-348-5113) is located at 6100 Main. Please visit [www.rice.edu/fondren](http://www.rice.edu/fondren) for more information. The procedure for borrowing books at the Fondren Library is, first, go to the online catalog [[www.rice.edu/fondren](http://www.rice.edu/fondren)] to search for available books; second, go to the HGST library and fill out a form, signed by HGST library personnel, to take with you to the Fondren Library for each book; third, retrieve the book(s) yourself; fourth, take the book(s) and the signed form to the circulation desk to complete checkout (return the yellow copy to the HGST library; when the book(s) are returned to the Fondren Library, they will indicate so on the pink and gold copies; return the pink copy to the HGST Library and keep the gold copy for your records).

3. Lanier Theological Library is a new resource for scholarly theological research in the Houston area. The library is open to the public, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The library is a research library with no circulation privileges. Nonetheless, students should consider Lanier Library to be a valuable research option. The catalog of Lanier Library is available online: <http://alexandria.lanierlibrary.net/#>.
4. *Cardinal Beran Library at St Mary's Seminary*—the home of an extensive theological library, St Mary's Seminary (713-686-4345) is located at 9845 Memorial Drive, only 4.6 miles from HGST. For more information, please visit <http://beran.stthom.edu>. The Doherty Library on the main campus of University of St Thomas is also an option.
5. *Library of the Presbytery of the New Covenant* – as an HGST student you have borrowing privileges at this library located at 1110 Lovett Blvd, Houston. To search their online catalog, go to <http://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/cgi-bin/rqm/rqm.cgi>.
6. Other options include Harris County Public Library ([www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net)) and the libraries at the University of Houston and Houston Baptist University.

## VII. Notes for Writing Assignments

- A. Writing assignments should conform to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, sixth edition. This includes matters of style and format. Counseling students should pay particular attention to the *Manual* guidelines on submission of academic papers.
- B. The student should utilize 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. The instructor prefers that the student **not** use presentation or report binders or folders and prefers submission of papers with staples or binder clips.
- C. Critical or formal writing differs from colloquial writing or spoken English at several points. The student should note the following guidelines for critical writing. The instructor expects students to follow these guidelines strictly. Failure to do so will be penalized.
  1. Avoid 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> person references (“I,” “we,” or “you”). Keep the written projects objective and professional. The student must remember that imperative forms are second person.
  2. Never use contractions.
  3. Avoid passive voice construction (i.e. The student should write “God chose Joshua” rather than “Joshua was chosen by God.”). Some exceptions are necessary, but limiting the use of passive voice is a good policy.
  4. Be sure that number and tense always agree (i.e., Do not write in one place that “Brueggemann argues . . .” and at another place “Brueggemann argued . . .”). Subject-verb agreement is imperative.
  5. Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Spellcheck! Dr. Terrill does not tolerate misspelled words. Failure to spellcheck will result in a substantive reduction on the grade for written assignments.
  6. Grammar check works as well!

7. All pronouns should have clear antecedents. Avoiding “it is” and “there is” in the paper removes much of the ambiguity of pronoun usage.
8. Sentence fragments are unacceptable. Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate.

### VIII. Class and Reading Schedule

*Selected readings should be completed prior to class discussion on the assigned date.*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Gurman Couples</b>	<b>Patterson Families</b>
January	22	1	0-1
January	29	2-3	4
February	05	1	0-1
	12	2-3	4
	19	4	5
	26	6	6
March Critical Book reviews due (2)	05	10	9
March	12	11	10
March	19	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
March	26	12	11
April	02	14	
April	09	15	
April	16	16	
April	23	18	
April Critical Book Review (2)	30		
May	07	Final Exam	Final Exam

*The professor of record reserves the right to adjust classroom topics as the course develops.*

### IX. Bibliography

Adler, A. (1931/1958) *What Life Should Mean to You*. New York: Caprican.

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- Freud, S. (1949) *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*. New York: Norton Press.
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- Jongsna, A. E. and Peterson, M. (2000) *The Complete Adolescent Psychotherapy Treatment Plan*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
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