

Birmingham Theological Seminary
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Premarital Counseling (BC7631)
Professor: Fred D. Moore
2 Semester Credit Hours
Fall 2019

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Course Purpose

The intention of this course is to prepare the student to both perform premarital counseling and to teach competent lay people to conduct premarital counseling.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce the student to the importance of premarital counseling and the role of the church in the process.
2. To challenge the student with the unique opportunity for discipleship through the ministry of premarital counseling.
3. To provide the student with the opportunity to apply the accumulated knowledge of family functioning to enhance the counselee understanding of family influences on their marital development.
4. To provide the student with the opportunity to create a premarital counseling program that he can use in his church to help prepare engaged couples for marriage.

Course Texts

Required Texts:

Eyrich,, Howard A. *Three to Get Ready*. Focus Publishing (2nd edition). 10-1886904169

Three To Get Ready Student Supplement
(Available in class)

Additional Texts depending upon the Elective Components the Student chooses.

Your Family God's Way, Wayne Mack

His Needs, Her Needs, Willard Harley

Intended for Pleasure, Ed Wheat

Communication: Key to Your Marriage, Norman Wright

Each for the Other, Bryan Chapell

Course Requirements

Required Components All students are required to complete these components:

1. Produce a seven week format for a two hour (weekly) group premarital counseling program based on what you have learned in this class and any other material you wish to use (remember to footnote materials).
2. Read one of the books that you do not utilize in the elective component assignments. Write a two page response paper to this book. Especially note material that you can incorporate into your premarital counseling program.

Elective Components All students are required to choose two Elective Components from the following and complete them.

EC1. Develop a Workbook Study Guide for *Your Family God's Way*.

EC2. Write a research paper of 10-12 pages on any aspect of premarital counseling discussed in *Three to Get Ready, Part One or Part Three*. Use at least ten references, two of which should be from professional journals and two from more popular magazines or Christian periodicals. The purpose of this paper is to think through some aspect of premarital counseling, e.g. your theology of marriage, your theology of remarriage, your idea of a perfect wedding ceremony, etc. The purpose is not to develop some aspect of your seven week premarital counseling program (see Required Components, 1)

EC3. Read *His Needs, Her Needs*. Construct a survey instrument that has two sections. Section One should be in a format which allows a person to rate him/herself as to the accuracy of Harley's categories for him or her. Section Two should give the person opportunity to rate the level at which his/her mate is meeting these needs (in premarital counseling sexual needs should be met through appropriate touching and emotional caring). Once you have constructed the instrument, take it yourself and ask you mate to take it (if married or engaged). Then discuss it together and write up your experience in a five page paper.

EC4. Read *Intended for Pleasure*. Keep a reading journal of date, time and pages read. Read another book on the subject of sex in marriage. Write a paper in which you appraise these books as you interact with them. Each paper should be 5-6 pages. Especially note ideas from the books that you can incorporate into your premarital counseling program.

EC5. Present a literature review on the subject of premarital counseling. References should be within the last ten years. Should have 15 to 20 entries. Give bibliographic data for each reference and write a one-paragraph abstract for each article.

EC6. Read *Communication: Key to Your Marriage*. Organize the information in this book into an instrument to evaluate the communication system of a couple in premarital counseling.

Course Grading

1. Component 1 – 7 week premarital counseling program	20%
2. Component 2 – Book response paper	20%
3. Component 3 – Elective	20%
4. Component 4 – Elective	20%
5. Final exam	20%

Class Schedule

Class 1: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 1-3	September 5
Class 2: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 4-5	September 12
Class 3: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 6-7	September 19
Class 4: Turn in one of the Components	September 26
Class 5: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 8-9	October 3
Class 6: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 10-12	October 10
Fall break	October 14
Class 7: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 13-15	October 24
No Class	October 31
Class 8 Turn in one of the Components	
Class 9: Read <i>Three To Get Ready</i> , Chapters 16-18	November 07
Class 10: Turn in one of the Components	November 14
Class 11:	November 21
Class 12: Turn in Component: 7 Week Premarital Program	December 5
Class 13: Final Exam	December 12

Final Instructions

BTS Format and Style Standards All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

Due Dates for Assignments All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.