

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650

Fall 2019

BC7632 Advanced Marriage & Family Counseling

Professor: Dr. Howard Eyrich, Th.M., DMin., (ABD) PhD

Class Hours: 2

Work Phone: 205-527-3444

E-mail address:

Howardeyrich76@gmail.com

*Note: This is a 26-hour course. You are expected to invest two hours out of class for every hour in class. That equates to 78 hours to finish this course. That calls for approximately six hours a week outside of class. Hopefully, this reminder will help you plan. Your assignments are not tagged to a due dates so you must manage your time. See the **NOTE** below. However, class topic and associated texts will keep you on track.*

COURSE PURPOSE:

To build upon the Marriage and Family Course with specific application to some of the more problematic issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will interact with contemporary theory and biblical methodology
2. The student will explore counseling approaches to critical issues
3. The student will compare other Christian approaches
4. The student will explore the role of the local church in these issues

TEXTBOOKS: [Approximately 1500 pages]

1. Catherine Clark Kroeger and Nancy Mason-Clark. *No Place for Abuse*. IVP. ISBN: 0-8308-2995
2. Edgette, Janet. *Stop Negotiating with Your Teen*. Perigee Books ISBN: 0-349-52789-3
- 2a. Priolo, Lou. *The Heart of Anger: Practical Help for the Prevention and Cure of Anger in Children*. ISBN-10: 1930133731; ISBN-13: 978-1930133730
3. Newheiser, James and Elyse Fitzpatrick and Laura Henderickson. *When Good Kids Make Bad Choices*.
4. Sande, Ken. *Peacemaking for Families*. Tyndal House. ISBN: 1-58997-006-3
5. Becvar, Dorothy Stroh and Raphael J. Becvar. *Systems Theory and Family Therapy* (avail in paper paperback). ASIN: B00HMVCA8A
[Note: Please get a used copy]
6. Holmes, Johnathan. *Counsel for Couples: A Biblical and Practical Guide for Marriage Counseling*. ISBN-10: 031057627X
7. Adams, Jay. *The Case of the Hopeless Marriage*. ISBN-10: 1889032522
8. Dowell, Teri. *The Be-Attitudes for Blending Families: Lessons on The Mountain*

NOTE: All assignments should be placed in a notebook with each assignment preceded by a tab and a title page that identifies the assignment. DO NOT hand in papers separately, but hand in the notebook containing all assignments on the due date.

Collateral Texts:

- Gottman, John., *Raising An Emotionally Intelligent Child: The Heart of Parenting*, Simon & Schuster.
- Sells, James N. *Counseling Couples in Conflict*, InterVarsity Press.
- Yarhouse, Mark A. *Family Therapies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal*, InterVarsity Press.

Articles and Blogs to help you prepare for class interaction:

- **Marriage Counseling with Only One Spouse.** Aaron Sironi and Lauren Whitman *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, August 2019
- https://blog.feedspot.com/christian_marriage_blogs/
- <https://www.the-generous-husband.com>
- <https://www.allprodad.com/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/marriage-isnt-meant-to-meet-your-needs/>
- <https://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/marriage/staying-married/growing-spiritually/what-makes-a-marriage-distinctively-christian/>
- <https://www.challies.com/christian-living/6-deadly-enemies-of-marriage/>

ASSIGNMENTS

INTERACTION WITH TEXTBOOKS—These four averaged for 50%

1. Critique of *No Place for Abuse* --three to four pages
2. Application of *When Good Kids Make Bad Choices*
Think of a family you know who would profit from some discussion in this book. Then write a three to five-page essay on how you would implement a strategy in counseling to address the issues in this family.
3. Write a one-page critique of two of the textbooks—numbers: two, four, or six--you choose which ones.
4. Read Adams *The Case for the Hopeless Marriage* and write a two-page essay expressing what you learned from this case study.
5. Find five articles from the *Journal of Biblical Counseling* that address marriage and family issues. Make copies of them and submit them with an abstract that could introduced them to the prospective reader.

PROJECTS—Choose one of the following for 25% of grade

1. Write an essay addressing the role of your church in family issues. You may want to interview SS adult leaders, children’s worker and the pastor. Five to seven pages.
2. Survey the literature on the impact of abuse and sexual abuse on marital adjustment. Write an essay on the impact of these experiences in marital adjustment that you could had to your lay counseling team to alert them regarding these issues. Five to seven pages.

CLASS PRESENTATIONS—25% of grade

Drawing on your project assignments above, you will be assigned, in class, an opportunity to teach a segment of the class.

Class Schedule

This is a tentative schedule; it is subject to change.

Dates	Topic	Assignments Due in Notebook last day of class
-------	-------	---

[Note: Textbooks associated with the class are to the right of class dates. You should have these books read in preparation for the class with which it is associated.]

September 09	Course Introduction	
September 16	Biblical Problem Solving in Marriages and Families	(Adams)
September 23	Special Issues in family ministry Have Tripp book read and be prepared to discuss; I recommend you have three questions to pose for discussion. Prof will facilitate, but class is responsible for the class dynamic.	<i>(What Did You Expect?)</i>
September 30	Dealing with difficult teens	(Edgette/Priolo)
October 07	Coaching parents of prodigals	(Newheiser)
October 14	Fall break	
October 21	Developing family ministry as crisis prevention Guest Lecturer—Dr. Dave Matthews	
October 28	Biblical coaching of emotional mates Class Presentations	Case Studies (Ken Sande)
November 04	Family abuse Class Presentations	(Kroeger/Clark)
November 11	Biblical models of marriage counseling	(Holmes)
November 18	Dealing with psychological pathologies and physical impermeant in marriages –case studies	(Dowell) Lupus Limes disease
November 26	Overview of Family Therapies	(Becvar/Becvar)
December 02	Reading Night—No class	