

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243

Advance Marriage and Family Counseling
(BC 7632)

Professor: Dr. Howard A. Eyrich

Class Hours: 2

COURSE PURPOSE

To build upon the Marriage and Family Course with specific application to critical issues in the context of the sociology of the family, public policy, critical issues and appropriate application of biblical principles in relationship to these topics.

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 and contrast other Christian approaches
4. The student will explore the role of the local church in these issue
5. The student will become familiar with the sociology and political policy issues regarding the family and biblical family counseling

TEXTBOOKS

Becvar, Dorothy Stroh and Raphael J. Becvar. *Systems Theory and Family Therapy* (avail in paper paperback). **[You do not need to buy this text. It will be on the reserve shelf in the BTS library. Of course, you may buy it. You can secure a used paperback copy through Amazon.]**

Bushee, David P. *Getting Marriage Right*. Baker Books. ISBN: 0-8010-1262-7

Catherine Clark Kroeger and Nancy Mason-Clark. *No Place for Abuse*. IVP. ISBN: 0-8308-2995

Edgette, Janet. *Stop Negotiating with Your Teen*. Perigee Books
ISBN: 0-349-52789-3

Kostenberger, Andreas J. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. Wheaton, IL, Crossway, 2004.

Sande, Ken. *Peacemaking For Families*. Tyndal House. ISBN: 1-58997-006-3

Collateral Reading

John Witte, Jr. From Sacrament to Contract: *Marriage, Religion, and Law in the Western Tradition*. IABN: 0-664-22543-4

Ken M. Campbell (Editor). *Marriage and Family in the Biblical World*. ISBN: 0-8308-2737-4

Carolyn Osik and David L. Balch. *Families in the New Testament World: Households and House Churches*. ISBN: 0-664-25546-9

JOURNAL READINGS

These will be distributed in class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- January 25 Sociology of the Contemporary Family
Family

Law and Social Policy—Housing, Health Care
Gushee pp. 12-56; 205-226; Kostenberger 25-30
Dr. Eyrich will interview a guest on these issues.
- February 1 The Creation Purposes of Marriage
Gushee pp. 87-104
- February 8 Primary Principles That Frame A Good Marriage
(One case form your experience due)
Kostenberger pp. 61-91
- February 15 Conceptualizing Marriage and Family Counseling
Systems and other approaches
Becvar pp. Scan this entire book before class on reserve shelf in
library

The Family as A System
Biblical Examples of Family Systems
Bushee pp. 105-146; Kostenberger 95-127
- February 22 Missions Conference—No class**

- March 1 The Church as Marriage Counterculture
Journal Article # 1
Bushee pp. 183-204
- March 8 Divorce and Kingdom Possibilities
Journal Article # 2
Bushee pp. 147-182; Kostenberger 45-46; 227-258
- March 15 Spring Break—No Class**
- March 22 Divorce Counseling
Peace Making for Families (Book to be read by tonight)
Bushee pp. 227-238
- March 29 Single Parent Family
Issues of Importance for Remarriage
- April 5 What Is Abuse?
No Place of Abuse (Read entire book and be prepared to discuss it.)
Handling Abuse
Counseling the Abuser
- April 12 Panel: The Role of the Church in Family Issues
Benny Parks, Eric Rebels, John Evans, Dr. Matthews, Dr. Eyrich
- April 19 *Stop Negotiating With Your Teen*
(Read entire book and be prepared to discuss it.)
Conflict Resolution (*Review Peacemaking...* for tonight)
- April 26 Case Studies—
Final Exam Due

ASSIGNMENTS

1. You will write up a case of marriage counseling that you have worked with or have observed in your experience. This is due on February 8.
2. Come to class with the reading assignment of the day completed.
3. Mid-Term. No exam—turn in a 5-7 page paper in which you critically interact with *No Place for Abuse*. (Simply page citations in parentheses will be sufficient)
4. Write a 12-15 page paper on in which you address a contemporary family counseling issue as a Biblical Counselor. You must draw upon the textbooks for this course and at least seven other sources. Paper must be turned in no

later than May 3 or else you will get an incomplete and the loss of one grade letter. Use Turabian format.

5. Final exam. Drawing upon the textbooks and the collateral reading books write a three page paper indicating how this class and texts enhanced your biblical counseling skill set. Be very specific. Use Turabian format.

GRADING

Class participation	25%
Mid-term	25%
Final Exam	25%
Paper	25%

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

NOTE: 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.