

Syllabus for
GCSL 675—Marriage & Family Therapy
3 Credit Hours
Spring, 2017

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overviews recent research findings regarding couple's relationships and examines contemporary developments in marriage and family therapy, with an emphasis on empirically supported models and treatments. Prevention and wellness are also emphasized along with treatment planning and intervention strategies.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Implement the essential components of an effective premarital counseling process. (PCI F.3.i, F.5.j; MCFC F.3.b)
- B. Expand awareness of recent research findings related to couple's relationships, with an emphasis on the characteristics of healthy relationships and the precursors of divorce. (MCFC F.2.1, F.3.b)
- C. Describe various approaches to marriage and family therapy, especially empirically supported models. (PCI F.5.a, F.5.j, F.8.b; MCFC F.1.c, F.3.c)
- D. Understand the issue of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in terms of description, assessment, and treatment. (PCI F.7.d; MCFC F.2.g)
- E. Discuss common sexual dysfunctions and their treatments. (MCFC F.2.e, F.2.i)
- F. Conceptualize a treatment plan based on empirically supported models and treatments. (PCI F.5.h; MCFC F.1.e)
- G. Reflect theologically of various controversial marital and family issues, and integrate spiritual resources into the therapeutic process in an ethical manner. (PCI F.2.g; MCFC F.2.o)

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Conduct an effective premarital counseling process. (exam)
- B. Explain the significance of recent research findings regarding couple relationships, especially the characteristics of healthy relationships and the precursors of divorce. (exam)

- C. Apply various approaches to marriage and family therapy, especially empirically supported models. (exam, assessment report)
- D. Address the cycle of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) along with approaches to assessment and treatment. (exam)
- E. Describe common sexual dysfunctions and their treatments. (book presentations)
- F. Create a treatment plan based on empirically supported models and treatments. (assessment report)
- G. Engage in theological reflection on controversial marital and family issues, and integrate spiritual resources into the therapeutic process in an ethical manner. (research paper)

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Gottman, J. M. (2011). *The science of trust: Emotional attunement for couples*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. ISBN: 9780393705959

Gurman, A. S. (ed.) (2008). *Clinical handbook of couple therapy*. 5th ed. New York, NY: Guilford. ISBN: 9781462513925

Ripley, J. S. & Worthington, E. L. (2014). *Couple therapy: A new hope-focused approach*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP. ISBN: 9780830828579

Walsh, F. (ed) (2010). *Spiritual resources in family therapy*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Guilford. ISBN: 9781606239087

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Stanley, S., D. Trathen, S. McCain, & M. Bryan. (2002). *A lasting promise: A Christian guide to fighting for your marriage*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. ISBN: 9780787939830

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

- 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
- 2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
- 3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism

is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
- b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
- c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
- d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
- e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
6. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

On rare occasions, the grade of "I" may be given for work that is incomplete at the end of the course semester due to a catastrophic event.

- a. The student must establish with the instructor and the academic dean that work is incomplete for good cause and submit a Petition for Incomplete Grade, with documentation.
- b. **The Petition must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or summer course session, not exam week.**
- c. **The submission of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an Incomplete.**
- d. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
- e. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition, make up any incomplete work, and submit a completed Request for Grade Change form (which has been signed by the course professor) to the academic office.
- f. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent semester, the incomplete will automatically convert to an “F,” unless an extension is formally granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean’s office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**

The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:

- a. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
- b. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
- c. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
- d. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
- e. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
- f. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.

4. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.

5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that

no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu

- C. Course Policies and Procedures
 - 1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grading:
 - Student Presentation
 - Midterm Exam
 - Book Critique
 - Final Exam
 - Total
 - b. Grading scale:
 - A = 360-400 points
 - B = 320-359 points
 - C = 280-319 points
 - D = 240-279 points
 - F = Below 240 points
 - 2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
 - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
 - b. WPA requirements for this course:
 - (1) None
 - 3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

<u>Week</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1	Introduction to Marriage Counseling—The Marriage Challenge	lecture/discussion
2	Video—7 Principles for Making Marriage Work Myths and Mistakes of Marital Therapy Repair and the Core Triad of Balance	Gottman (1999), ch. 1-2 Gottman (2011), ch. 1
3	Repair and the Core Triad of Balance, cont.	
4	The Sound Marital House	Gottman (1999), ch. 3 Gottman, (2011), ch. 1
5	The Science of Trust	Gottman (2011), ch. 2-7
6	Theology of Marriage Position Paper Due The Science of Trust, cont.	Gottman (2011), ch. 8-10
7	Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy	Handouts
8	Take-Home Midterm Exam Due Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy, cont.	
9	Classic Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling	Handout
10	New Hope-Focused Couple Counseling	Ripley, ch. 's 1-4
11	HOPE Interventions	Ripley, ch. 18 PREP, ch. 1-5
12	BOND Interventions	Ripley, ch. 19
13	HURT Interventions	Ripley, ch. 2 PREP, ch. 6-8
14	FREE Interventions	Ripley, ch. 21 PREP, ch. 9
15	TRUST Interventions	Ripley, ch. 22
16	Final Exam	

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

M. A. Christian Counseling

GCSL 675 Marriage & Family Therapy

Bill Buker, Instructor

Spring 2017

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the M.A. Christian Counseling degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
Theology/Philosophy of Counseling				
Develop a cohesive theology of counseling with theological reflection on the counseling process, emphasizing Spirit-directed change.	X			
Assessment Techniques				
Exhibit skill in selecting, administering, scoring, interpreting, and reporting the results from various assessment instruments.		X		
Clinical/Theoretical Diagnostic Appraisal				
Demonstrate the ability to interpret case specific information by translating it into accurate diagnostic appraisals.	X			
Treatment Plans in Response to Diagnosis				
Display the ability to develop relevant treatment plans in response to specific diagnoses, and the skill to implement them in the context of a therapeutic relationship.	X			
Research Skills and Methodologies				
Demonstrate basic research skills and methodologies through critiquing research findings and evaluating ESTs.		X		
Professional Code of Ethics				
Demonstrate knowledge of professional codes of ethics and the ability to apply those codes to ethical dilemmas.		X		