

BRIERCREST

CO 606 Marriage and Family Therapy Winter 2019

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Course Dates: March 4-8, 2019

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will provide a comprehensive survey and substantive understanding of the major models of couple, marriage, and family therapy.

Prerequisite: CO 603 Foundations of Marriage and Family Therapy

COURSE INTEGRATION

An examination of Biblically congruent and systemically oriented practices intended to aid individuals, couples and families in their preferred ways of relating. We will discuss husband/wife, parent/child and inter-generational relationships, from biblical, systemic and narrative perspectives. As well, we will consider family structures and cultural and societal influences on the family.

COURSE TEXTS AND REQUIRED READING

Balswick, Jack O., and Balswick, Judith K. (2014). *The family: A Christian perspective on the contemporary home, fourth edition*. Grand Rapids Michigan: Baker.

Berg, S. (1994). *Sexuality and Spirituality: An exploration of our sex-affirming Hebraic roots through a reconsideration of several biblical passages*.

Mate, G. (1999). *Scattered minds: A new look at the origins and healing of attention deficit disorder*. Toronto: Random House. (Parts 1-4).

Nichols, Michael P. and Davis, Sean (2017). *Family therapy: Concepts and methods, Eleventh Edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Schnarch, D.M. (1991) *Constructing the sexual crucible: An integration of sexual and marital therapy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. Ch. 17 - Sexuality and spirituality. (Reserve self).

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTCOMES**1. Thinking**

- A thorough acquaintance with family systems theory.
- A concrete biblical and systemic understanding of marriage, family and parenting.
- Some familiarity with an intervention model for working with couples.
- An exploration of issues related to parenting and family life.

2. Valuing and Feeling

- A sense of awe at the profundity of the marital union.
- Growing enthusiasm for working with marriage and family relationships.

3. Skill

- The development of an ability to think biblically, systemically and narratively about marriage and family issues.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

- I. Introduction to Marriage and Family
 - A. The concept of systems
 - B. Historical overview
- II. The Family
 - A. The significant Biblical texts
 1. Genesis 5 and the other genealogies
 2. Matthew 1:1-17
 - B. Survey of systemic approaches
- III. Marriage
 - A. The significant Biblical texts
 1. Genesis 1-3
 2. Song of Solomon
 3. I Corinthians 7:1-7
 4. Ephesians 5:21-33
 - B. The marital ideal: To be "naked and not ashamed."
 1. Intimacy
 2. Sexuality
 3. Communication
 - C. The marital task: Lifelong growth towards the ideal
 - D. Introduction to Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)
- IV. Parenting
 - A. The significant Biblical texts
 1. Ephesians 6:1-3
 2. Colossians 3:20,21
 - B. The parental task
- V. Doing marriage and family therapy

ASSIGNMENTS***Pre-Course Assignments:***

1. Pre-course Reading: Read the Balswick text, the assigned portions of the Mate text, and Nichols and Schnarch. Write a 1000-word reflection on significant ideas

in Balswick, and a 500-word reflection on the content from Mate, noting especially the integration of bio-systemic-psycho-cultural aspects of being human. Include a statement that you have read the other readings.

Value: 10%

Due: **March 4, 2019** (first day of class)

Post-Course Assignments:

2. An exegetical and practical treatment of Ephesians 5:18-32. (If you prefer to work on a different text, please consult with the instructor). An exegesis is a "reading out" of the text's meaning. The paper will examine the text in its literary, cultural, and canonical context, paying special attention to the meanings of the words used. It will conclude with an incisive discussion of the text's meaning for today in the form of a sermon or lesson outline.

Length: 2000 words

Value: 30%

Due Date: **May 3, 2019**

3. A major paper on the topic, "A Biblical and Systemic Understanding of Marriage and Family." The intent of this paper is to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of family systems theory, the biblical texts, and an integration of the ideas of these two areas. The paper should cover the following areas and follow the outline suggested below. This is only a suggested outline.

A. Systemic ideas

1. Historical antecedents of systems theory.
2. Systemic principles related to marriage and family. (A distillation and summary from the various approaches indicating the essence of systems theory, especially Bowen's thinking.)

B. Biblical ideas

1. Exegetical Survey of the biblical texts pertinent to marriage and family life, specifically the ones covered in the course, including family, marriage, and parenting.
2. Biblical principles related to marriage and family. (A distillation and summary of the teachings of the pertinent texts.)

C. Integration of Biblical and systemic ideas. (A description of the points of intersections of ideas in the two fields.)

The paper will build on class lectures and will demonstrate your thinking based on reading that will produce a bibliography of at least 15 references in addition to the recommended reading. Please include a comprehensive Table of Contents at the beginning of the paper.

Length: 2500 words on typed, double-spaced pages

Value: 60%

Due Date: **May 3, 2019**

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend 100% of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible, arrangements must be made with the course professor. A maximum of 1 full day of class can be foregone. Students should request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit if additional time is missed.

Course Schedules

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or illness who may need academic accommodations should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Student Success Centre in person (Room #215), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (studentsuccesscentre@briercrest.ca).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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