

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

**DF 951
Marriage Counseling
Toney C. Parks, D. Min**

Spring 2010, 9:00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Monday
February 15, March 15th, April 12th, May 10th , 2010
Due West, SC.

Office Hours: Please call to schedule appointments.
Office (864) 379-6693; Cell (864) 350-8409; Home (864)-268-2199 before 10
p.m.

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DF 951 MARRIAGE COUNSELING

This course examines marriage, divorce, and remarriage from a Biblical perspective, then explores the dynamics and common problems of the marital relationship. Current approaches to marital therapy as well as various assessment instruments are considered. Students develop and refine their own theology and practice of marriage counseling through participation in role-plays, the presentation of case studies, and assigned readings.
Elective. Three hours.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will be able to define and describe the biblical view of marriage.
2. The student will understand the major biblical passages dealing with marriage.
3. The student will be able to differentiate biblical counseling from secular counseling and a Christian integrationist perspective of marriage counseling.
4. The student will be able to articulate a biblical methodology enabling her/him to begin to conduct a responsible biblical helping relationship.

Course Textbooks Required:

Chapell, Bryan. *Each for the Other.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

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

Supplemental Reading:

Supplemental Journal readings from library.

Bibliography is available during first class session.

Course Requirements and Expectation:

Class assignment will be communicated through the use of the Seminary's Moodle online learning environment in several ways:

Course Requirements and Expectations

1. Attendance and participation in each class session is expected.
2. Watch the movie *Fireproof* and write a two page evaluation on the couple's marriage. **(Due on March 15th)**
3. Write a seven page paper using a marriage narrative or scripture principle found in the bible. You are to identify parallel passages that will support your theological position. After you have identified the biblical principle you plan to research, discuss the secular practices that support or violate the principle you have selected. Defend your position. **(Due April 12th)**
3. Write a five page paper demonstrating your theology of marriage from an New Testament perspective. Defend your position
4. Reading assignments: There needs to be a 1-2 page critique on each text. Critiques should include discussion of strengths, weaknesses, questions raised and application of the material to the student's own Biblical and Worldview. **Due (March 15th & April 12th)**
5. Write a 12-15 page research paper presenting and defending your theological position on the subject of marriage, divorce and remarriage. You are to defend your theological position for or against this cultural dilemma. You are expected to use scriptural passages from both old and New Testament. Paper should contain a title page, introduction, research question, discussion and conclusion, and bibliography. Due May 10.
6. Final Exam is the concluding statement/Position of your research paper. You are expected to present your findings and be evaluated by you peers. **(Due May 10th)**

ALL PAPERS ARE TO BE ATTACHED TO "EDEN HYBRID ONLINE COURSE"
ASSIGNED DF 951 "MARRIAGE COUNSELING" (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Course Schedule

Monthly lectures will be taken from Chappell and Rosenberger, You are expected to read and be prepared to discuss during class.

February 15th: Introduction to class and syllabus (Movie Fireproof)

March 15th : Discuss biblical passages related to marriage

April 12th : Discuss Biblical passages related to marriage and divorce

May 10th: Review secular marriage model (CCEF material) Journal of Biblical Counseling.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Drop/Add/Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **binding contract** and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

Incompletes

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Office Hours

My normal office hours are printed in this syllabus. However, due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you call or e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Students are required to attend **all** class sessions. Students wishing to take a course which meets four times over the semester **must** attend the first meeting of the course. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an "F" grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival

or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course.

Style and Bibliographical Formatting Requirements

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly unattributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community’s discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God’s larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from "Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities," 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.

End of Syllabus