
MARRIAGE AND PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

(Certificate BCO 0560)

Professor:

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SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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October 5-9, 2015

6:30 to 9:00 pm for seminar presentation *with attendees from the public*

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Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

Course Description (Catalog): *1 semester hours.*

A biblical model of marriage is developed, which serves as a foundation for understanding and counseling marriage problems and providing premarital counseling.

Course Objectives:

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission. This course supports our mission statement above by addressing our five core competencies in specific ways:

- **Spiritual Formation:** Understand and apply the gospel to your own relationships, not merely marriage.
- **Biblical Exposition:** Understand how to interpret and apply various biblical texts and theological themes to people amid their interpersonal struggles.
- **Theological Integration:** Understand and apply basic Christian doctrine in practical ways as married people.
- **Ministry Preparation:** Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for ministry to engaged and married couples.
- **Critical Thinking and Communication:** Discern the weakness in secular psychologies and common, ineffective Christian approaches to marriage /marriage counseling and reframe them from a biblical perspective.

Students are expected to satisfactorily fulfill all of the following listed requirements. Since this is a three hour course, the professor expects the students to complete 2250 minutes of work in class and 4500 minutes of work outside of class. Reading and writing assignments for this course have been calculated with these requirements in mind.

To achieve this, we desire that through this course each student would...

1. Grasp more fully what God's Word says about marriage.
2. Know more clearly and carry out more faithfully God's will for you in the specific family role(s) he has given you, or may give you, as a husband, wife, single person, parent, son, or daughter.
3. Understand how a biblical approach to marital and premarital counseling differs from other approaches.
4. Minister more effectively to your friends and family members in their specific God-given family situations to help them follow Christ and to help Christ's church build stronger marriages and families.

Textbooks: Required

Brad Hambrick, *Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage* (Printed Notes)

Brad Hambrick, (2014) *Chronically Self-Centered Spouse*. P&R

MARRIAGE AND PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING (BCO 0560) *with professor Brad Hambrick*

Textbooks: Recommended

Alexander Strauch (1999) *Men and Women: Equal Yet Different*. Lewis and Roth
 Steven R. Tracy (2005) *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse*. Zondervan
 Ron Deal (2002) *The Smart Step-Family*. Bethany House
 Ken Sande (2002) *The Peacemaker for Families*. Focus on the Family.
 Winston Smith, (2010) *Marriage Matters*. New Growth Press

Course Requirements

A. This course will adhere to the seminary grading system: 95-100 A, 87-94 B, 77-86 C, 70-76 D

B. Completing the **assigned reading** will account for 40% of your course grade. When you turn in your two appendices assignments (see letter C below) please indicate what percentage of the seminar notebooks you have read.

C. After listening to the five seminars, write two 2-3 page single-spaced **appendices proposal** for one of the five seminar manuals. Identify an area of marital or pre-marital counseling that you believe was neglected in these materials. Your appendices should be written with the counselee as its primary audience. The tone of its content should be practical. These two papers will account for 20% each (40% total) of your course grade. Key components of this assignment should include:

- A clear target audience (Who within the larger experience of this emotion will benefit from this appendix? But this should be a group of people and not an individual person or case study.)
- A clear objective for the appendix (How should these individuals expect to benefit from your writing?)
- A clear process by which to benefit (What will the reader need to do in order to benefit from your writing?)

F. **Class attendance** in class discussions is important in an intensive class format. If you must miss a class, you must send me a note regarding when and why, preferably before the event. **If you miss more than 1 class, you will fail the class.** Class attendance and participation will account for 20% of your course grade.

Schedule:

<i>Day of Class</i>	<i>Week Of</i>	<i>Tentative Agenda (subject to change)</i>	<i>Assignments, Reading Due</i>
1	Oct 5	Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage: Foundations Healthy Marital Expectation Marriage as Covenant Job Descriptions for a Christian Husband and Wife	Mentoring Notebook
2	Oct 6	Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage: Communication Listening Day-to-Day Communication Conflict Resolution, Repentance, and Forgiveness	Mentoring Notebook
3	Oct 7	Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage: Finances What is a Budget? Creating a Budget You Will Actually Use Approach to Debt and Savings	Mentoring Notebook
4	Oct 8	Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage: Decision Making Wise Personal Decision Making Marital Decision Making through Consensus A Process for Headship-Submission Decision Making	Mentoring Notebook
5	Oct 9	Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage: Intimacy Appreciating our Differences Marriage in the Larger Love Story of the Gospel Becoming Excellent Lovers	Mentoring Notebook

COURSE GRADING WEIGHT:

- Completing Assigned Reading – 40%
- Two Appendices Assignments – 40% (20% each)
- Attendance – 20%

Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an immediate failing grade on the assignment with no chance for resubmission. The professor does have the option either to allow the student to remain in and complete the course or to dismiss the student from the course completely. Regardless of the professor's ruling, all cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students Office and the appropriate Academic Dean(s) where further disciplinary action will be considered. At the very least, a permanent record of the infraction will be kept in the student's file. For further information regarding this policy, please refer to the 'Plagiarism & Cheating' section of the Student Handbook.