

WESTERN SEMINARY

Premarital Counseling

CNS 562K; 1 credit hours

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SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course will focus on the rationale, tools, and procedures for premarital education and counseling. The student will be credentialed in the use of Prepare/Enrich materials.

Course Goals

At the completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Use the Prepare/Enrich assessment in premarital counseling.
2. Create a premarital education program.
3. Plan a premarital counseling program.
4. Discuss the value and role of premarital counseling in marital success.

Course Objectives

Cognitive:

- To gain an introductory knowledge of premarital counseling.
- To learn the basic skills of premarital counseling
- To conceptualize a premarital treatment plan

Affective:

- To recognize one's own abilities and skills in premarital counseling
- To model emotional and relational health

Textbooks

Required:

- Wright, Norm. Handbook of Premarital Counseling
- Prepare/Enrich Training Manual

Course Requirements

Reading

1. Read Wright text for mastery level and write a 2 page personal reaction to the book.
2. Read 3 professional journal articles on premarital counseling. Write a 1-2 paper reaction to the article.

According to Western Seminary standards there are two levels

Familiarity level. This level assumes knowledge of the material assigned and leads to accountability in class. (45 pages per hour)

Mastery level. Reading at this level will average about 20 pages per hour and assumes careful reflective interaction with the ideas, note taking, and will lead to accountability in class, and papers at a mastery level (1000 pages = 50 hours).

These are intended to serve as flexible guidelines or rules of thumb; they are not thought to be rigid. It is certainly understood that books are printed with varying numbers of words per page and written to varying reading levels.

Library Research

- 1 Create an annotated bibliography of at least 3 books in each of the following areas: Romance/Sex, Finances, Communication, Spiritual Life, Family Life, Conflict/Problem Solving, and Marital Enrichment. Provide a short reason why this book is on your reading list.
- 2 Provide 20 internet sites that might be helpful to young couples. Give a reason for your choice of that site.

Written Work

- 1 Give a Prepare/Enrich assessment to a couple. Provide at least 1 session of feedback on their results. Write a 3 page paper about your “feedback/counseling” of the couple using the Prepare/Enrich.:
3. Write a 2 page paper critiquing your premarital preparation or counseling. Use materials from lectures and readings to inform your evaluation. If single write a 2 page paper on how you would like your premarital counseling to be conducted. Use material from lectures and readings to inform your expectations.

Papers must be written to a near-thesis standard. That is, minimum format standards must be met, as defined below. *English grammar, idiom and spelling must be up to graduate level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph-declare what you intend to show the reader-and conclusion paragraph.* Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

- 1" margins top, bottom and sides
- Double-space
- 12-point standard.
- Indent paragraphs .5 inch
- No extra line-feed between paragraphs (Format-Paragraph-Space After)
- Underline section headings
- **Staple; no paperclips, folders, or fanfold**
- **Page numbers**
- Title page is preferred. Any paper sent by email *must* include a title page.

All work must reflect Master's Level use of the English Language. Plagiarism will result in failure of the first assignment so discovered. A second instance will result in failure in the course.

Attendance

Students will be expected to attend and actively participate in class interactions.

Grading Scale:

A+	A	A-
99-100%	95-98%	94-93%
B+	B	B-
92-91%	90-88%	87-86%
C+	C	C-
85-84%	83-81%	80-79%
D+	D	D-
78-77%	76-74%	73-70%

Attendance	5 points per full day
Wright Text	15 points
Bibliography	10 points
Internet Sites	10 points
Journals	15 points
Prepare/Enrich	20 points
Premarital Eval	20 points

Points deducted for late assignments.

Tentative Course Outline

February 25	Introduction to course Prepare/Enrich instrument training
February 26	Premarital Counseling

Due Dates

April 1	Text, Journals
April 15	Bibliography, Internet
April 30	Prepare/Enrich, Evaluation