

WESTERN SEMINARY SACRAMENTO
Marriage & Contemporary Issues
CNS 511M; 3 Credit Hours

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Syllabus - Fall 2009
August 31 – December 19

Course Description

This course prepares the student in a broad range of issues including pre-marital, marital and couple counseling, spousal abuse, single families and other contemporary issues.

Course Schedule

Three Fridays: 6:00PM – 10:00PM: 9/11, 9/25, 10/23

Four Saturdays: 8:45AM – 5:00 PM: 9/12, 9/26, 10/24, 11/14

Breaks: Fridays: 1 break of 20 minutes; All day Sessions: 3 breaks totaling 100 minutes

Course Goals

This course will equip students with a body of knowledge and understanding of the current state of marriage from three perspectives: sociological, psychological and spiritual (Judeo-Christian tradition).

By the end of the course students will be able to do the following:

Cognitive Goals:

1. Describe the various stages and tasks of the family life cycle
2. Discuss a format for conducting premarital counseling sessions
3. Describe the goals of marital therapy
4. Discuss at least two models for conducting couples therapy

Affective Goals:

5. Understand how deep seated attachment styles affect both a person's personality structure and their marital relationship.
6. Understand the dynamics behind the cycle of violence

Textbooks

We are happy to announce that Western Sacramento is now an Amazon Associate. Any purchases (not just books) you make on Amazon using this link will mean that a minimum of 4% of the purchase price comes to Western. Please support your seminary by using this link for all your Amazon purchases.

Click [here](#) to order texts and other products.

Required

- Gottman, John M.; Gottman, Julie; & DeClaire, Joan *10 Lessons to Transform Your Marriage*. Crown Publishers. 2006. ISBN-10: 1400050185
- Bader, Ellyn & Pearson, Peter T. *In Quest of the Mythical Mate: A Developmental Approach To Diagnosis and Treatment in Couples Therapy*. Brunner/Mazel 1988. ISBN-10: 0876305168

- Clinton, Tim & Sibcy, Gary *Why You Do the Things You Do*. Integrity Publishers. 2006. ISBN-10: 1591454204
- Selected articles provided by Professor.

Course Requirements*

**Please note that this course is heavy on reading and light on written assignments.*

1. Reading - Complete all required reading

Assigned reading is listed in the course outline. 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).

Each reading assignment **must be completed before the class session** so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussions, as well as receive full credit.

2. Written Assignments

- Students will keep a **personal journal** in which to write reactions to assigned readings. The journal is not intended to be an intellectual synopsis of the readings, but rather a way for students to process both their ideas and feelings about the theories, methods and interventions shared in this course. Journal thoughts will be shared in class discussions. A minimum of four typewritten, double-spaced pages are due at the beginning of each of the three weekends. It is expected that journal entries will take 2 hours per week.
- Couple Analysis and Treatment Plan – More details will be given on the first day of class.

3. Participate in class discussions and role-plays

4. 4 Quizzes

Workload Standards

For this 3-unit class the in-class component is 45 hours. The ‘outside-of-class’ component comes to 90 hours for the semester, and is broken down as follows:

1. Reading of Texts – Mastery Level

Gottman text	16 hours
Clinton & Sibcy text	14 hours
Bader & Pearson text	18 hours
Selected articles provided by Professor	4 hours

2. Assignments

Journal writing	8 hours
Couples Analysis and Treatment Plan	25 hours

Grading

- 35% Readings - Students are required to complete all reading assignments. Each Friday, Students will record how much of the reading assignment for the week they have completed
- 15% Personal Journal – Three type-written, double-spaced pages are due each of the three Friday nights.
- 10% Participation in class discussions and roleplays
- 20% Couple Analysis and Treatment Plan
- 20% 4 Quizzes

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

Standards for written work (APA):

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.

This course employs the APA (American Psychological Association) publication manual style guide. You can find the APA 6th edition in the library reference section. You can also find a simple, straightforward presentation of the format at these online sites:

- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
- <http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/citation/>

A good website with footnote/bibliography entries is:
<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Documentation.html>

For assignments that require the use of non-course texts and include a bibliography, of the resources mentioned in the bibliography for your project/paper, two must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each book as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

All work must reflect master's level use of the English language. Plagiarism will result in failure of assignment.

Library and internet research- Sacramento:

All class assignments with a research element require library research annotated as such in the bibliography. A minimum of two resources must be from a physical library. Note the physical location of each resource as an addendum to each bibliographical entry.

For complete library information including: hours of operation, interlibrary loan, local library resources, etc., please:

- Visit www.westernseminary.edu/sacramento
- Click the link "Library Services" in the right navigation pane.

Reserve Collection

The library carries all required readings for this course.

Print Resources

Use the Western-Arcade Library catalog to find books and other materials. To search the library collection:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link "Search the Library Collection Online".

Periodical & Research Databases

As you complete your assignments for this course, don't forget about the resources in the Western research databases. Remember to evaluate and cite your information too. To access the Western research databases:

- Visit <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC> .
- Click the link "Research Databases" from the bottom menu.
- Click the link "Ebsco Host Research Databases".
- Log in. [**User ID:** westsem / **Password:** seminary]
- Click the link "EBSCOhost Web".
- Click the database(s) you wish to use. Start with *PsycARTICLES*.

To cite your information, consider the following APA composers:
<http://www.noodletools.com> and <http://www.citationmachine.net>

Course Packs (if applicable)

To access the course pack(s) for this course:

1. Go to the library homepage: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/Library/SAC>
2. Click the link 'Course Packs'.

Reference and Research Contact Information

David Holifield, M.A., M.L.S. / (916) 488-3720, ext. 7 / dholifield@westernseminary.edu

Class Policies:

- Cover Page: To safeguard confidentiality, provide a Title Page as a cover for assignments. Always put your box number in the upper right hand corner of the cover page.
- Absences and Late Assignments: Please note that since this course consists of only four weekend sessions, attendance is particularly important. Students are expected to adjust schedules in order to attend all sessions for the entire period. When an absence is anticipated, a student is to contact the professor in advance. Missing more than 4 hours of class will affect the student's grade unless other arrangements are made with the Professor to do additional work to compensate for the missed class time. Students will not pass the course if more than one weekend is missed. Assignments submitted after the due date and time constitutes a drop in the student's letter grade for that assignment.

- Enrichment Students: Enrichment Students are encouraged to participate in assignments although there is no obligation to participate at any level, nor is the professor obligated to grade or keep record of the student's participation. Based on class size, the professor will consider work submitted by enrichment students
- Incompletes: Faculty members determine their own procedures and due dates for the completion of course assignments. The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the Sacramento class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the instructor may, **if it is initiated by the student**, grant an extension. A 1-3 week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and in all cases the standard decrease of a full letter grade for late work applies. Extensions desired by the student beyond 3 weeks, with prof support, must be approved by the Sacramento Academic Coordinator, with 5 weeks after the end of the course being the longest possible extension for work being due to the prof; for this semester that date is **Saturday, 1/23/10**. (This allows a 6th week for the grading of work and a grade change request to be filed). A temporary notation of "I" (incomplete) is assigned until a final grade can be determined. Under no circumstances may the six-week period (allots 1 week to the prof for grading and grade change petition) be extended except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee in Portland.
- The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary: Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULE:

Date(s)	Session	Chapters to be read before Friday class begins	Journal Pages completed	Additional Assignments
Sept 11 - 12	1	Clinton & Sibcy Text	yes	In-class Quiz
Sept 25 - 26	2	Bader & Pearson	yes	In-class Quiz
Oct 23 - 24	3	Gottman Text	yes	In-class Quiz
Nov 14	4	-----	no	In-class Quiz
Nov 30 th , 11:00 pm	-----	-----		Couple Analysis & Treatment Plan Due To Linda via e-mail today by 11:00 pm <u>at the latest</u> (OK to send earlier)