



15800 Calvary Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

**Course: SS248DDN Family Living**

Credit: 3 hours

Semester: Fall 2023

Dates: Cycle 2: August 21 – October 13

Time: 8:00 - 9:20 a.m., Wednesdays & Fridays

Location: CABRE 100

Instructor: Shaun LePage, ThM, [shaun.lepage@calvary.edu](mailto:shaun.lepage@calvary.edu), (office) 816-768-6971, (mobile) 785-840-8568

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A biblical study of human family relationships with an accompanying examination of contemporary viewpoints toward the same family-related subjects. The subjects studied in the course will include but not be limited to the following: gender (masculinity and femininity), singleness, marriage, family, family planning, parenting, sexual intimacy, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, and the relationship of family to church, school, and society.

*This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Articulate a biblical understanding of human family relationships. (PLO\* - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A\*\* - A, B, C, & D)

Our Mission: Prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and the world according to the Biblical worldview.

2. Critically evaluate unbiblical viewpoints concerning human family relationships. (PLO - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A - A, B, & C)
3. Demonstrate greater confidence in the biblical worldview as the proper foundation of human family relationships. (PLO - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A - A, B, C, & D)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Articulate and defend the biblical understanding of gender (masculinity & femininity), singleness, sexuality, marriage, family, and other family related issues. (PLO - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A - A, B, C, & D)
2. Critically evaluate current cultural understanding of gender (masculinity & femininity), singleness, sexuality, marriage, family, and other family related issues. (PLO - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A - A, B, & C)
3. Research and biblically evaluate current trends in practical issues concerning human family relationships. (PLO - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A - A, B, & C)

### III. TEXTBOOKS FOR THE COURSE

A. English Bible (NAS, NASB-U, NKJV, NET, ESV, or other by approval).

1. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University.
2. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources.
3. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. Kostenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *Marriage and the Family: Biblical Essentials*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2012.

ISBN-13: 978-1433528569, Retail Price: \$14.99.

#### IV. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

##### A. **Reading** (300 points)

1. Students will read the textbook (Kostenberger/Jones) and complete a reading summary of each week's assigned chapters.
2. Students will also read articles and blog posts chosen by the instructor and complete a reading summary of each article.

##### B. **Lecture Quizzes** (280 points). Students will document principles from the lectures and respond personally to key ideas discussed in class.

##### C. **Critical Analysis Presentation** (200 points). Write a critical analysis of a contemporary family-related issue and present conclusions to the class.

1. Part 1: Choose a contemporary family-related issue and write a one-page explanation for why the issue is important (e.g., same-sex marriage).
2. Part 2: Identify the Biblical foundation behind the family-related issue and write a five (5) page paper establishing the Biblical teaching on the subject (e.g., Biblical doctrine of marriage).
3. Part 3: Develop a response to the contemporary family-related issue chosen and write a five (5) page paper explaining the various contemporary responses with specific examples, including the most Biblical response (e.g., affirmation, judgmentalism, tolerance).
4. Part 4:
  - a) In-class students: During the final class period, each student will make a ten (10) minute presentation of the topic, sharing their conclusions from each part, and responding to questions.
  - b) Online students: Before the final class period, each student must record a presentation via video (see #4). In addition, the student must solicit at least two questions from friends and/or family members about the topic and respond to those as well at the end of the presentation.

Then, the student will upload the video according to instructions provided.

- D. **Local Church Leader Interviews** (220 points). Students will interview two local church leaders (i.e., pastor, elder, deacon, leading woman, youth pastor, children's pastor, etc.) to gain insight into the most important issues facing "the family" today, as well as some of the most helpful resources these leaders recommend for strengthening families. The interviews will be documented using an assignment provided in Canvas.
- E. **Extra Credit:** The student may also receive 1 extra credit point for every verse (up to 20) recited from memory from the Book of Ephesians.
- F. **Extra Credit:** The student may also receive 20 extra credit points for having or creating a complete profile in Canvas including a 300+ word personal testimony of how s/he became a believer and how they have been disciplined since that time.

## V. GRADING FOR THE COURSE

- A. Assignment A = 300 points
- B. Assignment B = 280 points
- C. Assignment C = 200 points
- D. Assignment D = 220 points
- E. **TOTAL:** 1000 points

## VI. POINTS AND FINAL GRADE

- A. 930-1000 points = A
- B. 900-929 points = A-
- C. 870-899 points = B+
- D. 830-869 points = B
- E. 800-829 points = B-
- F. 770-799 points = C+
- G. 730-769 points = C

H. 700-729 points = C-

I. 670-699 points = D+

J. 630-669 points = D

K. 600-629 points = D-

L. 0-559 points = F

## **VII. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

- A. Week 1: Introduction to Family Living; Biblical Foundations for the Family
- B. Week 2: Biblical Theology of Family in the Old Testament
- C. Week 3: Biblical Theology of Family in the New Testament
- D. Week 4: Biblical Marriage; Singleness, Divorce and Remarriage
- E. Week 5: Biblical Sexuality, Manhood and Womanhood, Homosexuality and Gender Dysphoria
- F. Week 6: Reproduction and Parenting
- G. Week 7: The Family and the Household of God
- H. Week 8: Conclusions and Student Presentations

## **VIII. NOTES**

- A. \* PLO = Program Learning Objectives (see Calvary University Catalog)
- B. \*\* A = Assignments; showing how the assignments for this course are directly linked to the objectives.
- C. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update. See the “Clark Academic Center” page on the CU website for a “Turabian Help” (<https://www.calvary.edu/clark-academic-center/>).
- D. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person’s ideas and presenting them as your own.

- E. Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- F. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- G. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in- class announcement and Canvas announcement.
- H. Assignments are due when posted on Canvas. After that time, late assignment grades will be lowered 5% for each day it is late.