

Course: CO633MC & MNC: Diagnosis and Treatment of Family Systems  
Credit: 3 credit hours  
Semester: Summer 2026, Session 1 (May 12<sup>th</sup> - June 26<sup>th</sup> )  
Time: May 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> (Thurs 8am-9pm, Friday 8am-9pm)  
Instructor: Dr. Jeff Cox, (Jeffrey.cox@calvary.edu)

## I. DESCRIPTION

This course examines the components needed for effective premarital, marital, and family counseling. Issues will be communication systems, conflict management, family systems, role concepts, parenting, etc.

***Note: The State of Missouri requires that classes for licensure be taken synchronously (either in class or Livestream). If you are taking courses for Licensure for the state of Missouri you must be present either in class or Livestream for every class. Failure to do so may result in not meeting requirements for State Licensure in Missouri.***

## II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved.

1. The student will be able to articulate how the Bible defines marriage and the family. (PLO 1)
2. The student will become familiar with a variety of counseling methods and competencies that are grounded in Scripture and best practices. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
3. The student will understand potential opportunities and challenges that occur when counseling families (PLO 1, 2).
4. The student will understand how to practice self-care (PLO 4).

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

1. The student will be able to diagnose a variety of problems that occur in marriages and families. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
2. The student will be able to develop and implement treatment plans for marriage and family counseling. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
3. The student will be able to teach conflict resolution skills. (PLO 1, 2, 4).
4. The student will learn how to complete a genogram (PLO 1, 2, 4).

### III. REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS

Keller, Timothy. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2013. 352 pages. ISBN: 1594631875 (Price: \$10.33)

Instone-Brewer, David. *Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social and Literary Context*. Eerdmans, 2002. 367 pages. ISBN-10:9780802849434 (Price \$24.75)

Yarhouse, Mark A. & James N. Sells. *Family Therapies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal (Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books)*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2017. 512 pages. ISBN: 978-08308-2854-8 (Price: \$40.50)

#### **Recommended reading:**

Goldenberg, Herbert & Irene. *Family Therapy 9<sup>th</sup> edition: An Overview*. Cengage Learning, 2016. 608 pages. ISBN-10:1305092961 (Price \$86.94)

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### **A. Class Participation (10%)**

Students are expected to attend class lectures as scheduled as well as to engage in discussion of presented topics. Personal involvement during class time is an essential element of active learning, and students will be graded accordingly. (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4,)

#### **B. Reading Assignments (10%)**

Read the three required texts (*Meaning of Marriage; Family Therapies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal; Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social Literary Context*) by assigned dates. Students will report completion of reading in writing. (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4)

Meaning of Marriage: **Due #####**

Family Therapies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal: **Due #####**

Divorce and Remarriage: **Due #####**

**C. Written Assignments (50%)**

*Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.*

*All class papers must follow APA 7 edition format.*

- 1)** Write an 8-page interaction paper on one of the chapters from Part II of the 2017 edition of *Family Therapies* by Yarhouse and Sells (choose one chapter between chapters 3 and 12). Include: summary of the tenets of the family therapy model presented and summarize greatest strengths and weaknesses of that model based on Scripture. **Due ##### (15%)** (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3, 4)
- 2)** Write an 8-page reaction paper on one of the chapters from Part III of the 2017 edition of *Family Therapies* by Yarhouse and Sells (choose one chapter between chapters 13 and 20). Include: summary of chapter; your personal reaction to the authors' suggestions/perspectives; Theological reasons for points of agreement and points of disagreement (think critically beyond merely citing biblical verses). **Due ##### (15%)** (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3)
- 3)** Write a 10-page summary paper on *Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social and Literary Context*. (15%). Include: summary of how Jesus and Paul understood the Torah; how the Torah related to and differed from other contemporary written codes of ethics; the historical context of Jesus' teaching on divorce and remarriage; how Paul was consistent with the teaching of both Jesus and the Torah. **Due ##### (20%)** (GC 1, 3; SC 1)

**D. Experiential Assignment (20%)**

Complete a couple/intake assessment and feedback session with a volunteer couple using assessment model that will be provided in class. Summarize the couple's feedback to you regarding: (a) The usefulness of the assessment; (b) The implications for them as a couple; (c) Your strength and growth areas in the process of assessing them and giving them feedback and coaching; (d) Assist the couple in completion of a Genogram. Summarize the couple's feedback in three (3) pages. Identify the volunteer couple early in the semester. **Due #####** (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3, 4)

**E. Observational Assignment (10%)**

Watch three family and/or couple counseling sessions online (youtube.com) and write a one-page reaction paper on each video (include one aspect you found helpful and

one you found unhelpful, along with reasons why). We will watch these videos together in class. **Due #####** (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3, 4)

## V. METHODS

- A. Structured class lectures and discussion.
- B. Grading Scale according to student handbook
- C. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Class attendance and participation: 10%  
Reading assignments: 10%  
Written assignments: 50%  
Experiential assignment: 20%  
Observational assignment: 10%

- D. Late Assignments

Papers turned in one week late will result in a reduction of one letter grade. Papers turned in two weeks late will result in a reduction of two letter grades. No later papers will be accepted.

## VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. 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. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the DSS Director ([dss@calvary.edu](mailto:dss@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all 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.

See attendance policy and grading scale in the university catalog.

