



15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Syllabus

COURSE: SS248 D/ND Family Living
CREDIT: 3hrs
SEMESTER: Fall 2026 Session 1
TIME: Monday/Wednesday 8:00am-9:20am
LOCATION: E. Ed. 118
INSTRUCTOR: Tressa Barnes
CONTACT INFO: Tressa.barnes@calvary.edu

I. 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. OBJECTIVES

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)
2. Critically evaluate unbiblical viewpoints concerning human family relationships. (PLO - #1, 2, 3, 4) (A - A, B, C, & D)
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)

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

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. REQUIREMENTS

A. READING: Read each chapter completely and thoroughly.

B. DISCUSSION POSTS: Write a 500 word essay on a topic in the reading each week and compare it to a biblical worldview.

- a. Your report should contain an analysis and evaluation of the topic.
- b. You will then read two other classmates essays and write a peer review.

C. ASSESSING A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC ON FAMILY

1. Choose an area of Family Living from the topic list provided that you would like to investigate and would be applicable to your field of study.
2. Research the topic through written sources (secondary sources) and interviews (primary sources) from a variety of perspectives (i.e., popular press, Christian perspectives, scholarly reports, professional journals, etc.).
3. Summarize the arguments for each perspective, evaluate all perspectives from a biblical worldview, and present your personal perspective.
4. At least **5 sources** must be consulted, footnoted, and included in the bibliography of the paper. This research paper should be **5 pages in length**.

D. Abstract on the book of your choice:

Select a topic from the list of books that is not familiar to you and that you want to learn more about. The purpose of this assignment is to learn about a group of people in their season of life.

1. **Singleness:** Thornton, Grace. 2016. I Don't Wait Anymore. Zondervan Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-310-35020-0.
2. **Homosexuality:** Hill, Wesley. 2016. Washed and Waiting. Zondervan. ISBN: 978-0-310-53419-8
3. **Marriage Conflict:** Lynch, Chuck. 2022. Reconciliation is Possible. ISBN: 9798447924812.

4. **Blended Stepfamily:** Deal, Ron. 2014. The Smart Stepfamily. ISBN: 978-0764212062.
5. **Sexual Addiction:** Stringer, Jay. 2018. Unwanted: How sexual brokenness reveals our way to healing. 978-1631466724

E. EXAMINATIONS: There will be two exams over the content discussed in class.

IV. METHODS

Lectures, discussions, reports, reading

Students missing more than 4 class sessions automatically receive an “EA” (excessive absence) or failing grade for the course. Online students will be marked present for each class after they watch the class session video and answer the questions that were discussed in class.

Grading: Late assignments will be *penalized 1% of the grade on that assignment per calendar day.*

Reading	25%
Book Abstract	25%
Controversial Paper	25%
Discussions/Attendance	25%

See grading scale in the university catalog

V. MATERIALS

Evans, Jimmy & Kelsey, Allan. 2016. *Strengths Based Marriage: Build a Stronger Relationship by Understanding Each Other's Gifts*. Nelson Books. ISBN: 978-0718083625. Retail: \$9.45

Hopper, Phil. 2025. *Living Your Love Story: Timeless Wisdom for Dating, Marriage, and Intimacy*. ISBN: 978-0768483529

VI. ACADEMIC STATEMENTS

PERSONAL DEVICES: The use of cell phones, laptops, tablets, and related devices is permissible for educational purposes only (i.e note-taking or researching information pertinent to

discussion), with prior approval from the instructor. **Use of electronic devices outside of educational purposes is expressly prohibited.** When not being used according to the guidelines established, electronic devices should be stored in students' belongings and out of sight. If a student has an emergency and are awaiting for an urgent phone call, they should inform the instructor ahead of time.

Failure to adhere to these policies may result in the student being asked to leave class, and marked as absent for the first offense. A second offense may result in withdrawal from the course.

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 Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

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. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content 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. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

All class papers must follow the APA style according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th edition.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, 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.

Subject to change. Homework assignments are in Canvas