

Course: CO345-D Marriage & Family Counseling
Credit: 3 semester hours
Semester: Spring 2026 (Session #2) (March 16th-May 8th)
Time: Tuesday & Thursday (9:30am-10:50am)
Room: East Education Building #120
Instructor: Dr. Luther Smith, Psy.D.
luther.smith@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

An in-depth consideration of premarital and marital counseling. Attention is given to the preparation for and the experience of family life and the possible impediments to family life within the biblical perspective. (**Prerequisite: CO244 Introduction to Biblical Counseling**).

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

1. Be exposed to a variety of marriage and family issues and how to counsel biblically those areas (PLO 1, 3, 4, 5).
2. Be exposed to a variety of marriage and family material useful for counseling (PLO 3, 4).
3. Prepare the student for master's level coursework (PLO 6).

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

1. Become acquainted with various tools available in helping with premarital and marital counseling (PLO 3).
2. Scripturally evaluate role definitions and how they function in our present-day society (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).
3. Practice reviewing and analyzing marital issues through weekly case studies (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6)
4. Cover topics such as finances, romance, domestic violence, communication, sexuality, blended and extended families, birth control, children, and family counseling issues (PLO 3, 4, 5, 6).

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to serve in the church and the world according to the biblical worldview.

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Assignments

1. **Reading Journals:**

The student will write an initial **three (3) page journal** reflecting on the reading from the textbook assigned. Each journal will include the following details:

- ii. Personal reflection – not just a summary; what did you learn?
- iii. Personal application – how can you apply what you learned to your counseling?
- iv. Any concerns or questions regarding the material?

There will be a **total of 6 Journals**. Each journal will be worth 50 points (GC 1, 3; SC 2).

2. **Marriage Vignette Video Discussion Posts:**

Note: You must have a webcam to complete this assignment. Student will present on the discussion board a 5–10-minute response video (or audio recording) on Canvas covering the following information below based on the provided weekly case study:

- a. Identify the marital problem
 - i. what are the presenting issues (stated).
 - ii. what may be some underlying issues (not stated).
- b. What are some questions you would want answered to better understand their situation? For example,
 - i. Definition of specific words counselee(s) used.
 - ii. Emotional responses seen or heard from the counselee(s).
 - iii. Further explanations of ideas, words, or expressions.
- c. Provide where you would want to begin would attempt to address the problem.
- d. Is there a Scripture passage (descriptive or prescriptive) that helps explain their presenting problem?

There is a total of 6 vignette reviews. Each discussion will be worth 50 points. (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 3, 4).

B. Marriage & Family Project:

Students will complete a *Prepare/Enrich* assessment to where they will have to find a married couple to complete this assessment and guide for four weeks as if they were a counselor. The students will write four observations detailing their counseling experience which will be turned last week of the course. Topic the student may detail are some of the topics they covered, and exercises/interventions they prescribed for them. They will also bring this assessment to class each week to discuss them in detail.

These assessments cost \$25.00, and they should be purchased no later than the third week of class. This project is worth 200 points (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3).

C. Marriage Counseling Final Exam:

The student will be given a final exam. The final will be timed and will be given approximately 1.5 hours to complete. The final exam will consist of 50 true/false and multiple-choice questions for a total of 100 possible points. (GC 1, 2, 3; SC 1, 2, 3).

D. Class Participation & Behavior:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, prompt and excellent attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Students are to refrain from using cell phones and handheld devices during class. Playing games, browsing the internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging, etc. are considered unacceptable when class is in session. In addition, the student will be expected to contribute to class discussions in a positive manner which shows respect for the views of others. Failure to maintain this standard may result in a **full letter grade deduction from their overall grade.**

IV. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. Lectures by the instructor
2. Large group discussion
3. Research and writing
4. Video vignettes
5. Quizzes on the lectures

B. Grading

1. Weight given to course assignments

5 Reading Journals <i>40pts each</i>	200 pts	20%
6 Case Study Discussion Posts <i>50pts each</i>	300 pts	30%
Final Exam	100 pts	10%
Marriage & Family Project	200 pts	20%
Participation Points	200 pts	20%
Total possible points:	1000 pts	100%

2. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

Grading Scale
Grade Point Value
Per Semester Hour

A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.3
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.3
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.3
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	0.7
F	59-0	0.0

VI. MATERIALS

A. Bible

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.

B. Required Textbooks

Gottman, J. *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. Harmony, 1999.
ISBN: 978-0609805794. Retail Price \$24.20. No kindle version available.

Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks *before* class begins so that you can complete all the readings assigned. Please make sure that you have all your assigned textbooks prior to the start of class. Failure to have your assigned textbooks at the start of the class will result in a zero in every assignment that is not completed.

VII. CLASS POLICIES

Attendance

Campus Students: Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered (as this also counts for class participation). If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight-week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 25 points.**

Online Students: The online student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor (as these questions count for class participation). They are to be completed and uploaded on Canvas before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight-week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 25 points.**

Academic Dishonesty

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.

A Secondary Statement Regarding Using AI For All Reports/Projects

Artificial intelligence (AI) in academic use could be beneficial for you as the student. However, when misused it may limit your ability to think critically. As the professor *I cannot catch nor stop you in the act of using AI for your papers and research*. However, it is my expectation that you as the student will do your best by your ability and skill as a human being in the subject(s) that you desire to study. Below is the percentage threshold concerning the effort you place in your paper and the presence of AI within your paper.

0-10 percent of AI*	No points deducted from your paper/project.
11-20 percent of AI*	A third of your overall points are deducted from your paper/project.
21-30 percent of AI*	75% of your overall points will be deducted from your paper/project.
30+ Percent of AI	You will receive no points for the paper/project.

*Keep in mind this deduction is *added* to the points that you would lose due to other things (Improper writing style, grammar, etc.).

Writing Style

All class papers/journals must follow the APA style according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition*. You can find APA resources under the ***Getting Started Checklist*** located in the Marriage and Family home page on Canvas.

Late Work

All assignments, readings, and quizzes must be completed by the end of each week. Unless under extreme circumstances, which are determined at the discretion of the instructor, **no late work will be accepted.**

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Learning Center

The Clark Academic Center provides 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.