



**DIVISION OF ADULT LEARNING**

**SYLLABUS**

**PSYC-220: Marriage and Family Counseling**

Date: 08/13/2018

<b>Table of Contents:</b>	
<b>UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>REQUIRED TEXT(S) AND/OR SUPPORTING RESOURCES:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PREREQUISITE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MAJOR TOPICS:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENTS:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>EVALUATION:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>GRADING SCALE:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENCIES:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>UNIT AND TIME DISTRIBUTION:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>POLICIES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE POLICY:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY/INFORMATION:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>LATE POLICY:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EXPECTATIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FACULTY EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>STUDENTS' EXPECTATIONS OF FACULTY:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SPECIAL NEEDS:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>KNOWLEDGE BASE/WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY (READING LIST):</b>	<b>9</b>

**University Mission Statement:**

Lee University is a Christian institution which offers liberal arts and professional education on both the baccalaureate and graduate levels through residential and distance programs. It seeks to provide education that integrates biblical truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures with truth discovered through the study of arts and sciences and in the practice of various professions. A personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior is the controlling perspective from which the educational enterprise is carried out. The foundational purpose of all educational programs is to develop within the students knowledge, appreciation, understanding, ability and skills which will prepare them for responsible Christian living in a complex world.

**Catalog Description:**

This course is an introductory study of dating, courtship and marriage, preparation for marriage, the selection of a marriage partner, the roles of members of the family, family rituals, and patterns of interaction.

**Required Text(s) and/or Supporting Resources:****Required Texts:**

Gottman, J. M., and Silver, N. (2015). *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Practical Guide from the Country's Foremost Relationship Expert*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Harmony Books. ISBN: 9780553447712.

Keller, T., and Keller, K. (2013). *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* (Reprint edition). New York: Penguin Books. ISBN: 9781594631870.

Stone, H. Lynn, and Mary Ruth Stone. *What God Has Joined Together: The Lord's Definition of Marriage*. Sterling Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780982129043.

**Additional Supporting Resources:**

Resources provided in the Learning Management System (LMS).

Alexander, Kimberly Ervin, and R. Hollis Gause, 2006. *Women in Leadership: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Cleveland, Tennessee: Center for Pentecostal Leadership and Care.

**Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge:**

None

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the seven principles of marriage as defined by Jesus—personhood, paradise, equality, help meet, leaving, cleaving, and sexuality—while exploring the practical meaning of these concepts in the context of marriage and family in the world today.

**General Learning Objectives (Course Goals):**

*This course seeks to:*

1. Define marriage and family in the context of creation, sin, and redemption.
2. Demonstrate that much of the modern day concept of marriage and the “nuclear family” is based on the traditions of society rather than on the biblical principles of marriage and the family as defined by the Creator.

3. Instill in each student a sense of self-worth, personhood, and equality which will enable him/her to become a “helping companion” in a covenant relationship which is patterned after the Godhead.
4. Enable the student to distinguish between disengagement, enmeshment, and differentiation.
5. Provide a biblical model of healthy differentiated oneness which is built on the principles of healthy leaving, cleaving, and sexuality.

**Specific Behavioral Objectives (Learning Outcomes):**

*As a result of the activities and study in this course, the student should be able to:*

1. Distinguish myths from realities in marriage and parenting for the average American family.
2. Evaluate the realistic expectations for happiness and intimacy and reformulate goals in keeping with research findings which are consistent with a Scriptural interpretation of a healthy marriage.
3. Develop a model of marriage and family counseling which is based on the seven principles of the biblical definition of marriage as restated by Jesus over 4,000 years after the first marriage at creation.
4. Interweave with the seven principles of marriage the general subjects of theological and social perspectives on family life, marriage as the foundation of family life, gender and sexuality identity in family life, and communication as the heart of family life.
5. Identify the major sources of divorce, including issues such as communication, compatibility, parenting, adult changes, conflict resolution, and how to effectively meet these challenges to preserve and renew marriage—all within the context of Scripture.

**Major Topics:**

- A. “When Things Are Wrong at Home” and “Personhood: God Creates Every Person as a Unique Individual;” along with, “Through the Stress and Strain of Family Life;” and “What’s the Difference? We Need to See I to I.”
- B. “Paradise: The Biblical Marriage Covenant Is Founded on the Beginning;” along with, “Expressing Love—Achieving Intimacy;” and, “Waffles and Spaghetti Relaxing: Remote Places and Remote Controls.”
- C. “Equality: God Creates Man and Woman as Equals;” along with, “Changing Gender Roles: The Impact on Family Life;” and, “Waffles and Spaghetti at Home: Who Does What When and Why.”
- D. “Help Meet: Biblical Marriage Is Based on a Helping Companionship;” along with, “Mate Selection: Romance and Reality;” and, “Waffles and Spaghetti Meeting Each Other’s Key Needs: Sauce or Syrup?”
- E. “Leaving: Biblical Marriage Is Based on the Leaving of Father and Mother;” along with, “Establishing a Strong Marriage;” and, “Waffles and Spaghetti as Parents: Belgian Basics and Pasta Principles.”
- F. “Cleaving: Biblical Marriage Is Based on the Cleaving of Male and Female;” along with, “A Differentiated Unity;” and, “Waffles and Spaghetti in Love: Preparing for the Main Course.”
- G. “Sexuality: Biblical Marriage Is Based on Oneness of Flesh;” along with, “Becoming an Authentic Sexual Self;” and, “Waffles and Spaghetti in the Bedroom: Sugar and Spice.”

**Course Assessments:**

- A. **Text/Media.** All text/media is evaluated in the threaded discussions and assignments.
- B. **Threaded Discussions.** The threaded discussions are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course material and interact with fellow students. Just doing an initial post and/or response will not guarantee any point value. Discussions will be evaluated as follows: a) on the depth of engagement with the discussion topic and/or issue; b) on the depth of understanding of the topic and/or issue; and c) on the depth of interaction with the other students. An initial post is required (evaluation of “a” and “b” above) and then response posts interacting to other students’ initial posts (evaluation of “c” above). Once the discussion deadline is reached, there will be no further opportunity to attain points for that discussion. If you have further questions on how these are evaluated, please contact your instructor.
- C. **Unit Assignment (Reflection).** A reflection/summary paper is to be written for each unit on an assigned reading from one of the three textbooks or the handout. Each paper should be from 300 to 500 words and must show a level of critical analysis that reflects the student’s understanding of the material and written in a Word document with one-inch margins and double spaced.
- D. **Unit Assignment (Quizzes).** There will be six quizzes. The quizzes are “open book” and are taken directly from the Stone textbook. After the graded and corrected quiz is received back from the instructor, it should be printed out in order to serve as a study guide for the Final exam.
- E. **Exam.** Even though the questions will be in a different format, the Final Exam is taken from the six quizzes, Unit 7 Handout “Sexuality” and Section 7 of the text *What God Has Joined Together*. The Final Exam is designed to provide a review of important issues in each unit of study.

**Evaluation:**

A. Threaded Discussions	300
B. Unit Assignments	360
C. Exam	340

**Grading Scale:**

The standardized grading scale provides a uniform foundation from which to assess your performance.

Grade	Quality Points per Credit	Score
A	4.0	930 - 1000
A-	3.7	900 - 929
B+	3.3	870 - 899
B	3.0	830 – 869
B-	2.7	800 – 829
C+	2.3	770 – 799
C	2.0	730 – 769

C-	1.7	700 – 729
D+	1.3	670 – 699
D	1.0	600 – 669
F	.0	0 - 599

**Letter Grade Equivalencies:**

**A** = Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.

**B** = Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for a cohort member. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.

**C** = Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has average comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.

**D** = Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.

**F** = Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

**Unit and Time Distribution:**

The time to complete each unit is approximately 17 hours per week on average for a three hour course. Actual assignment completion times will vary. A more detailed breakdown of each assignment can be found within the course.

**POLICIES**

**Attendance Policy:**

At Lee University student success is directly related to the student actively attending and engaging in the course. Online courses are no different from classroom courses in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner.

Online courses will have weekly mechanisms for student participation, which can be documented by submission/completion of assignments, participation in threaded discussions, and/or specific communication with the instructor as outlined within the syllabus.

**Academic Honesty Policy/Information:**

Cheating is defined as the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials or receiving unauthorized assistance or communication during any academic exercise.

Examples of cheating include:

- Submitting work for academic evaluation that is not the your own.
- Receiving assistance from another person during an examination.
- Using prepared notes or materials during an examination.
- Permitting another student to copy your work.
- Plagiarism.
- Falsification.
- Other misrepresentations of academic achievement submitted for evaluation or a grade.

As stated in the LEE UNIVERSITY Catalog, plagiarism is presenting as your own work the words, ideas, opinions, theories, or thoughts which are not common knowledge. Students who present others' words or ideas as their own without fair attribution (documentation) are guilty of plagiarizing. Unfair attribution includes, but is not limited to, a direct quotation of all or part of another's words without appropriately identifying the source. It is also unfair attribution to have included a source within a Works Cited page without having carefully cited the source within the text of the document.

Plagiarism also includes, but is not limited to, the following acts when performed without fair attribution:

- a. directly quoting all or part of another person's words without quotation marks, as appropriate to the discipline.
- b. paraphrasing all or part of another person's words without documentation.
- c. stating an idea, theory, or formula as your own when it actually originated with another person.
- d. purchasing (or receiving in any other manner) a term paper or other assignment, which is the work of another person, and submitting that work as if it were one's own.

**Late Policy:**

- No credit is available for postings of any kind made in the **Threaded Discussions** after a given Unit ends.
- If your faculty approves your submission of late assignments, each assignment score will be penalized 10% per day up to five days late. After the fifth day, late assignments will not be accepted. (Note: An assignment is a paper, a project, a team presentation, etc., **not** a discussion)
- No late assignments will be accepted after the close of the final Unit.

**EXPECTATIONS****Faculty Expectations of Students:**

- Have consistent access to a computer and possess baseline computer and information skills prior to taking online courses.

- Log into their courses within 24 hours of the beginning of the session to confirm their participation. (Students who register after the session has begun will be responsible for any assignments or material already covered.)
- Take an active role in each unit, participating fully in discussions, assignments and other activities throughout the entire session. If some event interferes with that participation, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor in advance.
- Review the course syllabus and other preliminary course materials thoroughly as early as possible during the first few days of the course.
- Be responsible for raising any questions or seeking clarification about these materials, if necessary, within the first week of the session.
- Frequently check the course calendar for due dates.
- Submit assignments and papers on time, and take tests by the posted dates. Acceptance of late work and any penalties for late submissions are up to the discretion of the instructor, based on the expectations outlined in the course syllabus.
- Contribute meaningful, timely comments to online discussions according to guidelines provided.
- Contribute substantively to group assignments (if required in course).
- Check for University announcements each time you log onto the LMS. These postings are critical.
- Use Lee email address.
- Complete the "Student Survey of Instruction" for each course to evaluate the instructor and the course.

#### Students' Expectations of Faculty:

- The opportunity to be active participants in a stimulating and challenging education that is global in scope, interactive in process and diverse in content and approach.
- A friendly, respectful, open, and encouraging learning environment.
- A course outline or syllabus that clearly provides information regarding course content, teaching methods, course objectives, grading, attendance/participation policies, due dates, and student assessment guidelines.
- Instructors who are responsive and available to discuss within 48 hours students' progress, course content, assignments, etc. at mutually convenient times from the first day of the session through the last day of the session. (Check the faculty contact information regarding weekends and holidays.)
- Individual instructor's contact information, schedules, availability, and procedural details are located within the course.
- To have access to instructor feedback and grading on projects, exams, papers, quizzes, etc., within ten (10) days of assignment due date so students are able to determine where they have made errors or need additional work.
- Final grade/feedback provided within ten (10) days after the last date of course.

## IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION

### Special Needs:

Lee University, in conjunction with the Academic Support Office, works to ensure students with documented disabilities have access to educational opportunities. Students who need accommodations based on a disability should visit the Academic Support Office, call (423) 614-8181, or email [academicsupport@leeuniversity.edu](mailto:academicsupport@leeuniversity.edu). It is the student's responsibility to share the Accommodations Form with the instructor in order to initiate the accommodations.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Knowledge Base/Working Bibliography (Reading List):

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- Bolton, Robert, 1979. Print. *People Skills: How to Assert Yourself, Listen to Others, and Resolve Conflict*. New York: Simon and Schuster.
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- Kersdy, David, and Marilyn Bates, 1984. Print. *Please Understand Me: Character and Temperament Types*. Del Mar, California: Prometheus Nemesis Book Company.
- Guernsey, Dennis, B., 1982. Print. *A New Design for Family Ministry*. Elgin, Illinois: David C. Cook Publishing Co.
- McMahan, Oliver, 1995. Print. *Scriptural Counseling: A God-Centered Method*. Cleveland, Tennessee: Pathway Press.
- Minirth, Frank B., and Paul D. Meier, 1991. Print. *Ask the Doctors*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House.
- Penner, Joyce J., and Clifford L. Penner, 1990. Print. *Counseling for Sexual Disorders*. Dallas: Word Publishing.
- Stoops, David and Jan, eds., 2002. Print. *The Complete Marriage Book: Practical Help from Leading Experts*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Revell.
- Sussman, Marvin B. and Suzanne K. Steinmetz, eds., 1987. Print. *Handbook of Marriage and the Family*. New York and London: Plenum Press.
- Tannen, Deborah, 1990. Print. *You Just Don't Understand*. New York: Ballantine Books.