

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

COUN 603

PREMARITAL AND MARITAL COUNSELING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to a variety of approaches that have been developed for thorough premarital counseling. The course also teaches students a conceptual model for understanding the variety of ways marriages can become dysfunctional, and introduces them to short-term methods that can be used when those kinds of problems develop.

RATIONALE

Christian and secular experts agree that marriages are failing at a 50% or higher rate in the United States of America. This course provides the student with the requisite skills and knowledge to assist couples through crises and to develop healthy, vibrant marriages.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the scriptural foundation for God's plan for marriage and while determining the implications of sin in marriage.
- B. Formulate an applied program of conjoint therapeutic interventions for use in premarital and marital counseling.
- C. Analyze current practices and programming in the field of premarital and marital therapy.
- D. Evaluate historical and current approaches to premarital and marital counseling.

- E. Evaluate the effectiveness of hope-focused marriage counseling when addressing problems in marriage.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 300 words and must demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to respond to the threads as outlined in the course. Where appropriate, each reply must be at least 150 words.

- D. PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes (12)

Each quiz will cover the PREPARE/ENRICH material for the modules/weeks in which it is assigned. Each quiz allows multiple attempts, and must be passed to obtain PREPARE/ENRICH certification. The student must submit a screenshot of the screen showing that each quiz has been successfully completed.

- E. PREPARE/ENRICH Certification

The student will complete sessions utilizing the online PREPARE/ENRICH Training Kit to obtain certification. Evidence of certification must be submitted to the instructor in Blackboard.

- F. Book Critique

The student will write a 5–7-page book critique in current APA format that focuses on dating and single parenting as presented in the Deal textbook. The paper must include at least 1 reference in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

- G. Case Study

- 1. Draft

The student will submit a draft of the Case Study in order to receive instructor feedback prior to the final submission. The Case Study must be 9–12 pages, incorporate 8 references, and detail a ministry plan to support a conflicted couple.

- 2. Final

The student will write a 9–12-page paper in current APA format that details a clinical analysis to support a conflicted couple. The paper must include at least 8 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes (12 at 10 pts ea)	120
PREPARE/ENRICH Certification	130
Book Critique	150
Case Study	
Draft	50
Final	150
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Tests/Exams

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit a penalty of 1 point may be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module/week. Late submissions will be penalized at 5% per day, cumulative, with no test/exam being accepted seven (7) days after the original due date without written approval from the professor. Whenever possible, this approval must be sought prior to the test/exam due date.

E. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

F. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

G. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

COUN 603

Textbooks: Deal, *Dating and the Single Parent* (2012).
 Hawkins, *Strengthening Marital Intimacy* (1991).
 Olson, *PREPARE/ENRICH Certification Training Kit* (2009).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Hawkins: entire text 3 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1a	10 0 50
2	Olson et al.: chs. 1–6 PREPARE/ENRICH: Facilitator Manual PREPARE/ENRICH Training Kit: Sessions 1–3	DB Forum 1b PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 1–3	50 30
3	Olson et al.: chs. 7–12 PREPARE/ENRICH: Facilitator Manual PREPARE/ENRICH Training Kit: Sessions 4–6	DB Forum 2a PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 4–6	50 30
4	Deal: chs. 1–3 PREPARE/ENRICH Training Kit: Sessions 7–9	DB Forum 2b PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 7–9	50 30
5	Deal: chs. 4–7 PREPARE/ENRICH Training Kit: Sessions 10–12	DB Forum 3 PREPARE/ENRICH Quizzes 10–12 PREPARE/ENRICH Certification	100 30 130
6	Review previous readings 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Case Study: Draft	100 50
7	Deal: chs. 8–10 1 presentation	Book Critique	150
8	PREPARE/ENRICH: Facilitator Manual	Case Study: Final	150
TOTAL			101101 0

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.