

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 develop healthy, vibrant marriages.

I. PREREQUISITES

COUN 501, 502

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

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. RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Gottman, J. & Silver, N. (2000). *The seven principles for making marriage work: A practical guide from the country's foremost relationship expert*. New York, NY: Three Rivers Press. ISBN: 978-0609805794.

Parrott, L., & Parrott, L. (1995). *Saving your marriage before it starts: Seven questions to ask before (and after) you marry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. ISBN: 0310492408.

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Apply the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for effective professional service in premarital and marital counseling as evidenced through the premarital/marital counseling skills exercises.
- B. Evaluate premarital and marital curriculums and integrate Christian faith and values with premarital and marital counseling theories and practice in an ethical and appropriate manner.
- C. Apply premarital and marital counseling interventions and assessment tools in appropriate ways and at appropriate times.
- D. Analyze personal responses and personal issues that might impact their counseling practice.
- E. Apply and explain both their approach to premarital counseling and the specific intervention being implemented and the appropriate context for application.
- F. Synthesize the ability to identify risk factors for dysfunctional patterns that may emerge in premarital and marital relationships and intervene using short-term methods.
- G. Evaluate one's own counseling work/personal development through appropriate and insightful self-reflection.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Group Discussion Board forums (3)

There will be 3 Group Discussion Board forums throughout the course to generate interaction among students in regard to the counseling readings and activities. Groups will be assigned based on instructor's discretion. The student is required to post 1 thread of 400 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Wednesday of the assigned modules/weeks, then post 2 replies of 200 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned modules/weeks. Module/Week 8 is the exception, in which the replies are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday. Thread and reply assertions must be supported with at least 2 citations. Acceptable sources include peer reviewed journal articles, course textbooks, the Bible, and appropriate, relevant books.

- C. Finding a Couple and Informed Consent

The student must find and receive consent from a couple willing to receive counseling. The student must obtain the couple's informed consent using a consent form provided (or one developed by the student). The student must also schedule 2 sessions and provide the date, time, and location where these sessions will take place. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 2.

D. Practicum Part 1:

Verbatim:

A counseling session is to be scheduled and should last approximately 1 hour. The student will integrate the PAIR2 Test into the session by assigning it to the chosen couple as homework. The first counseling session must include a completed verbatim template. The student should record sessions on audio or video tape and then transcribe a verbatim of a 5–8 minute section of the session. The verbatim should include a word for word transcription of the dialogue between the couple and the counselor. It should also include a revised response column and a self-awareness column. The audio or video of the session should be destroyed after the grade for the verbatim has been issued. This portion of the assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 3.

Report:

The student must summarize their first counseling session in a 2–3 page APA formatted paper. The paper must provide a narrative summary of the session and include the couple's background, assignments given, and personal thoughts and reactions as the counselor. This portion of the assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 4.

E. Practicum Part 2:

Verbatim:

A counseling session is to be scheduled and should last approximately 90 minutes. The student will integrate the PAIR2 Test into the session by providing feedback to the couple's results. After providing feedback, the student must incorporate a termination discussion. A completed verbatim template must be included. The student should record sessions on audio or video tape and then transcribe a verbatim of a 5–8 minute section of the session. The verbatim should include a word for word transcription of the dialogue between the couple and the counselor. It should also include a revised response column and a self-awareness column. The audio or video of the session should be destroyed after the grade for the verbatim has been issued. This portion of the assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 5.

Report:

The student is required to complete the counselor portion of the PAIR2 test prior to the second counseling session, to provide the couple quality feedback. The student must also provide a narrative summary of the session in a maximum of 7 pages. The student should write up the report before reviewing the results with the couple as a preparation for the session. The paper must be formatted in APA style and include the couple's dynamics, reactions to the PAIR2 test results, assignments given, and personal thoughts and reactions as the counselor. This portion of the assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 6.

Termination Report:

The student is required to incorporate a termination session with the couple during their second session. The purpose is to summarize the counseling experience, consolidate gains, develop a plan for continued growth, and provide referrals to licensed professional counselors. The student must complete a 2–3 page termination report. This portion of the assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of Module/Week 7.

F. Quizzes (7)

The quizzes will provide students opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned from the presentations and required reading throughout the course. Quizzes will be open-book/open-notes and will consist of 9 multiple-choice and true-false questions with one essay question as well. The student will have 45 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes should be completed by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Sunday of the assigned modules/weeks. Module/Week 8 is the exception, in which the quiz is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Group Discussion Board forums (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Finding a Couple and Informed Consent	20
Practicum Part 1:	
Verbatim	75
Report	125
Practicum Part 2:	
Verbatim	75
Report	125
Termination Report	150
Quizzes (7 at 40 pts ea)	280
Total	1000

B. Scale

A = 940–1000 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 = 679 and below

C. Policies

Papers/projects:

1. 5% deduction per day.
2. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the instructor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.

3. Discussion Boards:

No Discussion Board posts will be accepted after the Discussion Board has closed without prior permission of instructor. Late posts will not be factored into Discussion Board grades.

If the instructor grants students permission to submit posts after the Discussion Board has closed, the following requirements apply:

- a. 5% deduction per day.
- b. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the instructor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
- c. The Instructor may require alternate assignment if Discussion Board has closed. These assignments must be completed within terms of late policy. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date.

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 five (5) points will be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module/week. A 5% deduction from the tests final grade will be assigned for each day the test is late.
3. No test will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the instructor. This approval must be sought prior to tests due date.

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 his/her community.

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.

D. 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

COUN 603

Textbooks: Hawkins, *Strengthening Marital Intimacy* (1991).
 Mastin, *The PAIR2 test*. www.pairtest.com (2006).
 Miller & Perlman, *Intimate Relationships* (2009).
 Worthington, *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling: A Guide To Brief Therapy* (2005).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Hawkins: ch. 1 Worthington: chs. 1, 3–4 2 presentations 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist	0
		Class Introductions	0
		Group DB Forum 1	50
		Quiz 1	40
2	Hawkins: ch. 2 Miller: chs. 1, 3–5, 10, 12 Worthington: chs. 2, 5, 10–11 2 presentations	Group DB Forum 2	50
		Finding a Couple and Informed Consent	20
		Quiz 2	40
3	Hawkins: ch. 3 Miller: chs. 6–8 Worthington: chs. 6–9 (Read before Practicum Part 1) 4 presentations	Practicum Part 1: Verbatim	75
		Quiz 3	40
4	Hawkins: ch. 4 Mastin: Entire PAIR2 manual Miller: ch. 11 Worthington: ch. 13 3 presentations	Practicum Part 1: Report	125
		Quiz 4	40
5	Hawkins: ch. 5 Miller: ch. 14 Worthington: chs. 14–16 1 presentation	Practicum Part 2: Verbatim	75
		Quiz 5	40
6	Hawkins: ch. 7 Miller: chs. 7–14 2 presentations	Practicum Part 2: Report	125
		Quiz 6	40
7	Hawkins: chs. 8–9 1 presentation	Practicum Part 2: Termination Report	150
8	Review Module/Week 7 Reading 1 presentation	Group DB Forum 3	50
		Quiz 7	40
TOTAL			1000

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.