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

MAAC 601
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING I

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course considers the dynamics of marriage and family relationships from a systems perspective. The emphasis is on understanding family and other systems theories, the structure and function of marriage, various aspects of the marital relationship and family systems, and models of family and systemic interventions. Considerations from a historical perspective are presented along with current developments within marriage and family systemic models.

RATIONALE
This course is designed to cover the numerous and varied marriage and family theories as well as the history of marriage and family therapy.

MAAC 601 is intended to introduce the student to the concept and philosophy of marriage and family therapy. The student will be required to understand the systems philosophy and six major theoretical frameworks within the marriage and family therapy field. The student will understand such core content areas as: marriage and family history, key theoretical figures, ethics and legal matters, counseling issues, some techniques, current trends, and future themes.

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 equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office
D. GenoPro Software
   The student will need this software to complete his/her Family Genogram Project. A university license for free downloads has been purchased for the MAAC 601 student. The student will use the address below to download the software to his/her laptop or desktop computer: GenoPro Software.
   GenoPro is a Windows platform software, but the student can run GenoPro on his/her Macintosh. However, the student will need special software. The minimal
software requirements are Windows for Mac and Parallels or VMwareFusion. If the student has an old Mac, he/she can run GenoPro on Virtual PC. For complete directions on how to accomplish this, see the link below: GenoPro Software for Mac.

E. The Holy Bible

IV. **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

A. Examine and critique the historical development of marriage and family counseling.
B. Attribute and demonstrate appropriate ethical and legal consideration related to marriage, couple, and/or family counseling.
C. Articulate aspects of various professional organizations, standards of practice, credentialing, and licensure in the field of marriage and family counseling.
D. Differentiate and apply a variety of marriage and family models and theories related to the many counseling orientations.
E. Discuss and integrate knowledge of family life cycles/stages, various family systems, contemporary families, family health and wellness, cultural variances in families, and family phenomenology.
F. Critique and hypothesize how crises, trauma, abuse, divorce, and disasters affect the family system.
G. Demonstrate the ability to apply and adhere to ethical and legal standards established by ACA, AACC, AAMFT, and the IAMFC codes of ethics.
H. Integrate biblical principles and secular theories in a responsible, eclectic manner.
I. Select and apply techniques from various counseling orientations/models to case studies and family situations.
J. Design an interview with a family member and generate a family genogram tracing multigenerational patterns of behavior, attitudes, and/or pathology.
K. Analyze and hypothesize various family dynamics that have shaped the family system over the life span using the genogram interview and data.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

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. Group Discussion Board Forums (6)

For this collaborative discussion board, the instructor will place the student into a group at the beginning of the course. Each group will be assigned based on
alphabetically listed last names. The student will complete 6 Group Discussion Board Forums throughout this course. The student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 classmate’s thread. Each reply must be at least 400 words. Each reply must cite at least 1 source. These discussion board activities are designed to allow the student to discuss, articulate, analyze, and integrate the various aspects of marriage and family counseling as well as learn how faith can be integrated within counseling. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K)

D. Family Genogram Project

The student will use the GenoPro software and the McGoldrick et al. textbook to prepare a family genogram of at least 3 generations of his/her family system. The student will also write a 5-page paper in current APA format analyzing his/her genogram. (MLO: H, J, K)

E. Family Counseling Approach Research Paper

The student will write a research paper/formal literature review on 1 of the specific approaches to family counseling. The research portion of the paper must be at least 6 pages in current APA format and must use a minimum of 12 scholarly references. This assignment must also include a personal integration section in which the student will integrate his/her own faith and family counseling approach. The personal integration section must be at least 4 pages and must maintain the same formatting as the research section. (MLO: A, D, E, H)

F. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. These exams will require the student to synthesize, compare and contrast, and demonstrate graduate-level integration of the materials covered in the course. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, and have a 1-hour and 30-minute time limit. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Discussion Board Forums (6 at 50 pts ea)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Genogram Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Counseling Approach Research Paper</td>
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<td>Exam 1 (Modules 1–2)</td>
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<td>Exam 2 (Modules 3–4)</td>
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<td>Exam 4 (Modules 7–8)</td>
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B. Scale

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 course 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 the Liberty University Online 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.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY


# COURSE SCHEDULE

**MAAC 601**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/ WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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| 1            | Goldenberg & Goldenberg: chs. 1–2  
McGoldrick et al.: chs. 1–2  
Ripley & Worthington: chs. 1–4  
2 presentations | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
Group DB Forum 1 | 10  
0  
50 |
| 2            | Goldenberg & Goldenberg: chs. 3–4  
McGoldrick et al.: chs 3–4  
Ripley & Worthington: chs. 5–7  
1 presentation  
1 study guide | Group DB Forum 2  
Exam 1 | 50  
100 |
| 3            | Goldenberg & Goldenberg: chs. 5, 7  
McGoldrick et al.: chs 5–6  
Ripley & Worthington: chs. 8–16  
2 presentations  
4 websites | Group DB Forum 3 | 50 |
| 4            | Goldenberg & Goldenberg: chs. 8–9  
McGoldrick et al.: chs. 7, 9  
Ripley & Worthington: chs. 17–22  
2 presentations  
1 study guide | Group DB Forum 4  
Exam 2 | 50  
100 |
| 5            | Goldenberg & Goldenberg: chs. 10–11 (pp. 302–321)  
Ripley & Worthington: chs. 23–27  
1 presentation  
4 websites | Group DB Forum 5 | 50 |
Ripley & Worthington: chs. 28–30  
1 presentation  
1 study guide | Family Genogram Project  
Exam 3 | 150  
100 |
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<td>Family Counseling Approach</td>
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Group DB = Group 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**.