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
LIBERTY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PACO 610
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
None.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES


III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)
IV. **Course Objectives**

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

A. Discover the author and creator of the institution of marriage and explore God’s plan for marriage and the way in which sin has corrupted this design.

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. Investigate hope-focused marriage counseling as a new paradigm for addressing and resolving problems in marriage.

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

   Regular readings will be assigned to allow you to complete all three texts required for the course within the eight weeks allotted for the course.

B. Discussion Board forums (6)

   Students are expected to make regular postings to the Discussion Board topics provided. There will be 6 graded forums that represent 30% of the final grade. Initial postings (threads) are to be at least 250 words in length and must be posted by Thursday evening 11:59 p.m. (ET) in the week assigned. Additionally, students will post a reply (no less than 150 words in length) to at least one other student’s thread by Sunday evening 11:59 p.m. (ET) of the same week.

C. 4Mat Papers (2)

   Students are expected to complete two 4Mat papers during the course of their study. The first paper covers Dr. Ron Hawkins’, *Strengthening Marital Intimacy* and the second paper will cover Dr. Everett Worthington’s *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling*. Instructions for completion of these papers will be found in the Essential Elements folder located in the About Your Course area of the course.

D. Movie Reviews (2)

   Students are expected to complete two movie reviews. Each student will watch two movies of their choice with a strong marital theme and then complete a three to four page (not including title page) critique of each movie as it relates to the topic of marriage. Give particular attention to how the ideas presented in each movie may be used to counsel couples in either a premarital or marital setting. Each movie review/critique should have a title page which will have the student’s name, course number and name, course instructor’s name, the assignment number (e.g. movie review #1) and the date. Please adhere to Turabian formatting when writing the reviews. Further instructions for completion of these reviews will be found in the Essential Elements folder.
E. Premarital Curriculum Project

For this assignment, each student will develop a working premarital curriculum. It should be designed and presented as a PowerPoint presentation. This is an opportunity for students to create a curriculum that will help couples to accurately assess their compatibility for marriage and then to navigate successfully their first year of marriage. The presentation should be at least eight weeks in length but no more than 12 weeks. Be sure to use current statistics to undergird the curriculum. Further guidelines are provided in the Essential Elements folder of the course.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board forums (6 at 5% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Mat Papers (2 at 10% each)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Reviews (2 at 10% each)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premarital Curriculum Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

A = 94–100   B = 86–93   C = 75–85   74 and below = no credit

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact the DLP Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at dlpodas@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.
## COURSE CHART

### Textbooks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/MODULE</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>LEARNING ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Entire Hawkins text Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 1 2 PPs</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introductions DB</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 2  Worthington Chs. 1 &amp; 2 1 Ppt</td>
<td>DB Forum 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 3  Worthington Chs. 3 &amp; 4 2 PPs</td>
<td>DB Forum 2 4Mat Paper 1</td>
<td>5 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 4  Worthington Chs. 5 &amp; 6 1 Ppt</td>
<td>DB Forum 3  Movie Review 1</td>
<td>5 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 5  Worthington Chs. 7–9 1 Ppt</td>
<td>DB Forum 4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 6  Worthington Chs. 10–12 1 Ppt</td>
<td>DB Forum 5 4Mat Paper 2</td>
<td>5 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Parrott &amp; Parrott Ch. 7  Worthington Chs. 13 &amp; 14 1 Ppt</td>
<td>DB Forum 6  Movie Review 2</td>
<td>5 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Worthington Chs. 15 &amp; 16 1 Ppt</td>
<td>Premarital Curriculum Project</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 100

DB = Discussion Board
PPt = PowerPoint presentation