

**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***

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### **LIFC 602**

### **MARRIAGE COACHING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Marriage Coaching is a rapidly growing practice that involves mentoring or guiding a couple as they explore the requisite skills, knowledge, confidence, and goals that they will need to become proficient and successful in the area(s) in which they are being coached. This course will address some of the more advanced skills with which the Marriage Coach should become adept.

#### **RATIONALE**

As a basis for their work, marriage coaches should have a thorough understanding of coaching models, theory, and application. This knowledge serves to heighten the coaches' effectiveness in formulating effective coaching strategies an efficient and timely manner.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

None

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Gottman, J., & Silver, N. (2015). *The seven principles for making marriage work: A practical guide from the world's foremost relationship expert* (2nd rev. ed.). New York, NY: Harmony Books. ISBN: 9780553447712.

Liberty University Custom: Parrott, Les and Parrott, Leslie. *SYMBIS Facilitator Certification*. Seattle, WA: SYMBIS Assessment, 2016. (can be purchased at a discount through MBS Direct)

Williams, J. & Williams, J. (2011). *Marriage coaching. Heart, hope, and skills for a great relationship*. Springfield, OH: Grace and Truth Relationship Education. ISBN: 978-14680000801.

*Disclaimer: The above resources provide information consistent with that required by state licensing boards in the class subject area. Liberty University does not necessarily endorse specific religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.*

#### **III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE**

American Psychological Association. *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (Current ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

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

- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- A. Microsoft Office

**V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Examine and explain the contemporary issues addressed within the field of marriage coaching.
- B. Analyze the major theoretical models in marriage coaching and how they relate to the actual practice of coaching.
- C. Appraise marriage coaching and its applicability in the context of couples' lives.
- D. Compare and contrast marriage coaching with counseling and social work.
- E. Construct a framework from which marriage coaching services can be delivered.
- F. Analyze the difference between secular and Christian models of marriage coaching.

**VI. 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 (5)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 other classmate's thread. The reply must be at least 150 words. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

- D. 4MAT Reviews (2)

The student is expected to complete two 4-MAT reviews of 4-5 pages each during the course of his/her study. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

- E. SYMBIS Assessment Certification

The student will complete the online SYMBIS Training Kit to obtain certification. Evidence of certification must be submitted via screenshot to show the instructor that the certification was successfully completed.

- F. Coaching Sessions

The student is expected to conduct two 50 to 60- minute coaching sessions to explain the SYMBIS assessment report and to help the couple reach their goals. After each session, the student will complete a questionnaire about the information gathered during the coaching session. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

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

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 50 points each)	250
Coaching Sessions (2 at 150 points each)	300
4MAT Reviews (2 at 150 points each)	300
SYMBIS Certification	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**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**

Course Assignments, including discussion boards, exams, and other graded assignments, should be submitted on time.

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 after the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week and less than 2 weeks 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. Group projects, including group discussion board threads and/or replies, and assignments will not be accepted after the due date.

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

**D. Dual Relationship**

The faculty is responsible to interact with coaching students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students with 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 do 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.

E. 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.

F. Disability Assistance

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

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty's [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

***COURSE SCHEDULE***

**LIFC 602**

Textbooks: Gottman & Silver, *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work* (2015).

Williams & Williams, *Marriage Coaching* (2011).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Gottman & Silver: chs. 1–3 Williams & Williams: chs. 1–2 1 presentation 1 lecture notes	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB	10 0
<b>2</b>	Gottman & Silver: chs. 4–7 Williams & Williams: chs. 3–4 1 presentation 1 lecture note	DB Forum 1 SYMBIS Certification	50 150
<b>3</b>	Gottman & Silver: chs. 8–10 1 presentation 1 lecture note	DB Forum 2	50
<b>4</b>	Gottman & Silver: chs. 11–12 1 presentation 1 lecture note	4MAT Review 1	150
<b>5</b>	Williams & Williams: chs. 5–7 2 presentations 2 lecture notes	DB Forum 3 Coaching Session 1	50 150
<b>6</b>	Williams & Williams: chs. 8–9 2 presentations 2 lecture notes	DB Forum 4 Coaching Session 2	50 150

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>7</b>	Williams & Williams: chs.10–end of book 1 presentation 1 lecture note	4MAT Review 2	150
<b>8</b>	2 presentations 2 lecture notes	DB Forum 5	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

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