

Marriage & Family Counseling

COUN-6314

22/FR Section Temporary 08/22/2022 to 12/15/2022 Modified 06/13/2024

Meeting Times

Contact Information

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the field of family therapy. The concepts of marriage and family therapy are examined. Students will view films of family therapy sessions, explore their own family dynamics, and participate in learning experiences that will help them develop a theory of doing marriage and family. Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, alternating Long Winters, Online periodically.

Requisites

None.

Learner-Centered Outcomes

Learner-Centered Outcomes and Objectives:

During this course, the learner will:

- Become acquainted with the history and development of marriage and family counseling.
- Develop an understanding of established and evolving theoretical perspectives and intervention techniques in the practice of marriage and family counseling.
- Understand the professional and ethical issues related to the practice of marriage and family counseling.
- Consider the theory and practice of marriage and family counseling in the context of the Biblical world-view.
- Explore his/her own family experiences in view of theoretical perspectives covered in the required textbook.

Materials

The Essentials of Family Therapy, 7th Edition, Pearson Publishers, Michael P. Nichols

Assignments

Requirements for Credit Breakdown

Textbook Assignments, Quizzes:

Assigned chapters in the textbook are to be read by the dates indicated in the class schedule. Quizzes will be given over some chapters. Chapter quizzes will help students prepare for exams.

Video Reviews:

We will view several videos in this class. Frank Pittman works with a couple dealing with infidelity; Salvador Minuchin works with a blended family using his structural model; Carl Whitaker, using his experiential model, consoles a single parent family after the death of a father and spouse; and Michael White works with a very chaotic and difficult family, effectively using his narrative model. These are all great pioneers in the field of Family Therapy.

On the Discussion Board, there will be questions about each **video**. After viewing the video, answer the questions by the date indicated in the class schedule.

Discussion Board:

There will be questions about the topics presented in the lectures each week. On the discussion board you will answer the questions and also respond to peers so as to create dialogue/discussion. Each student is expected to participate in these discussions.

Exams:

Two exams will be given on the dates indicated in the class schedule. Each exam will cover only the material presented or assigned since the previous exam. Exam questions will be taken from the textbook reading assignments, and class notes and discussions. The exams will be objective, essay, and short answer.

Book Report:

You may select the option of completing a book report. After reading *Take Back Your Marriage, 2nd edition, 2013*, by William J. Doherty you will complete a paper with a one-page summary of each chapter (not more than one page). The last two pages are dedicated to your critique of the book: strengths, weaknesses, what you liked, what you didn't like, and how it would be helpful in working with couples and families.

GRADING:

In order to receive the grade of "A," you must complete all the assignments described above and maintain an average score of 90 or above. You may choose the option to contract for a "B" by omitting the research project/book report and maintaining an average score of 80 or above on all other work. Your final grade may include a "+" or "-" depending on your final numerical average.

You do not have to ask if you can hand in work late. The answer is "yes" you can. Work handed in late will be counted off one letter grade for each class period it is late. It is considered late at the end of the class period in which it is due.

Requirements for Credit

Requirements for Credit

Exams	25%
Video Reviews/Blackboard Discussion Topics/Participation	25%
Book Report	25%
Chapter Quizzes	25%
Total	100%

Institutional Policies

Requirements for Undergraduate and Graduate Credit

When a 5000-level Graduate course is cross-listed with a 4000-level Undergraduate course or a 7000-level course is cross-listed with a 6000-level course, the syllabus clearly defines specific graduate requirements which reflect appropriate deeper learning experiences and rigor in the higher-level course.

Attention Education Certification Students: Go to [dbu.edu/education/requirements](http://www.dbu.edu/education/requirements) (<http://www.dbu.edu/education/requirements>) for essential program requirements.

Attendance Policy

According to DBU academic policy, attendance in class is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. Therefore, students are expected to attend and participate in classes, and absences for all reasons must be kept to a minimum and should not exceed 25 percent of the total class time. Students are held responsible for all academic work required or performed during their absence regardless of the reasons for those absences. Students who register late are responsible for work missed. The policy concerning class attendance for individual courses, seminars, or other guided learning experiences will be determined by the faculty members in charge of such course, seminar, or learning experience.

NOTE: Students verified by the professor(s) as never attending, for each of the classes in which they are enrolled, will be subject to an automatic drop from these classes, which will result in the cancellation and return of any financial aid received.

GPA Scale

The GPA grading scale adopted by DBU for courses is:

A+	A	A-
4.00	4.00	3.67
B+	B	B-
3.33	3.00	2.67
C+	C	C-
2.33	2.00	1.67
D+	D	D-
1.33 F	1.00	0.67
0.00		

** No grades of D are awarded for graduate courses

Service-Learning

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy which integrates academic instruction, community service, and guided reflection from a Christ-centered, faith-based perspective in order to enhance student learning, to foster global civic responsibility, and to develop servant leaders. All courses play an important role in providing the student with an appropriate curricular foundation for service-learning. Designated service-learning courses incorporate a field-based component to provide the student with a curricular service-learning experience

Financial Aid

Students who are receiving federal, state, or institutional financial aid who withdraw or add hours during the semester may have their financial aid adjusted because of the withdraw or addition. This change in schedule may affect the aid they are receiving during the current semester, and could affect their eligibility for aid in future semesters.

Disabilities

The student has the responsibility of informing the **Dean of Students, at (214) 333-5340**, of any disabling condition for which the student will request course modifications and/or accommodation. Dallas Baptist University provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aid to individuals with disabilities, as defined under law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the institution's academic requirements. It is the student's choice and responsibility to initiate any request for accommodations. Required documentation must be provided before the university can make accommodations.

University Honor Code/Academic Appeal and Academic Misconduct Procedure

The faculty member endorses the **University Honor Code** and abides by the **University's Academic Appeal and Academic Misconduct Procedure** as stated in the Student Handbook and the Schedule of Classes.

Cheating and/or plagiarism, including the unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence such as image generators, code generators, audio/video generators or large language models, is not tolerated at Dallas Baptist University and may result in academic discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Final Course Grades

Official final course grades are available only online through Self-Service. The Registrar's Office will only mail grades to a student upon request. The Dallas Baptist University undergraduate and graduate catalogs state that "All accounts must be paid in full before a student can...receive transcripts..." According to FERPA, faculty may not provide final grade information to students via telephone, email, posting or any other source which might compromise student confidentiality.

Children in Classes and Unaccompanied Children

Minors who are not DBU students are not permitted to attend class. Furthermore, minor children may not be unaccompanied on any property owned or operated by Dallas Baptist University. For their safety and welfare, unaccompanied children on any property owned or operated by Dallas Baptist University will be escorted to the Campus Security Office or other duly authorized location and the parents or guardians will be summoned to pick them up immediately.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices shall only be used for course specific work. The professor reserves the right to ban their use at any time. The policy concerning electronic devices for individual courses, seminars, or other guided learning experiences will be determined by the faculty members in charge of such course, seminar, or learning experience.

Electronic Communication Policy

The DBU campus e-mail system, or any other form of DBU electronic communication (i.e. Blackboard, class discussion, Collaborate) may not be utilized as an avenue to advertise the selling of goods or soliciting of donations from students, faculty, staff or members of the university community.

Graduating Students Grades

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if graduating this semester. Final exams for graduating students will be given earlier. Final grades for graduates are due in the Registrar's Office by noon on the Monday before Commencement ([see Academic Calendar \(https://www.dbu.edu/academics/calendar\)](https://www.dbu.edu/academics/calendar)). These grades are final. The instructor will not submit late grades for graduates nor change grades once they are submitted.

Unauthorized Recordings on Campus

Students are not permitted to make or attempt to make an audio or video recording of any academic class, lab, course discussion or other academic instructional meeting without the explicit permission of the professor. Recordings that receive approval from the professor or are designated accommodations for a documented disability are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published. Recording of class without permission is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct as listed in the Student Handbook.

Schedule

All courses taught in a classroom include at least one online session.

(May change during the semester)

When	Topic	Notes
Session 1	Introduction to Marriage and Family Counseling HOW THERAPISTS HARM MARRIAGES AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT*by William Doherty https://dohertyrelationshipinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/howtherapists.pdf	Discussion Board
Session 2	Systemic Thinking Part 1	Discussion Board Topic

When	Topic	Notes
Session 3	Systemic Thinking Part 2	Discussion Board Topic
Session 4	Dysfunctional Roles	Discussion Board Topic
Session 5	The Rules of Healthy and Unhealthy Families	Start reading Intro through chapter 3 or 4 depending on text edition. Focus on vocabulary in each chapter. Discussion Board Topic
Session 6	Frank Pittman Video	Start reading Intro through chapter 3 or 4 depending on text edition. Focus on vocabulary in each chapter. Discussion Board Topic
	Break	
Session 7	Basic Techniques and Fundamental Concepts of Family Therapy Quiz 1 (Intro- chap 3 or 4 depending on text edition)	Reading Discussion Board Topic Take Quiz 1
Session 8	First Exam	
Session 9	Bowen Family Systems- Quiz 2 (Bowen Chapter)	Read the chapter on Bowen Take quiz 2 Discussion Board Topic
Session 10	Strategic Family Therapy- Quiz 3 (Strategic Chapter)	Read the chapter on Strategic Family Therapy and take quiz 3 Discussion Board Topic

When	Topic	Notes
Session 11	Structural Family Therapy- Quiz 4 (Structural Chapter) Minuchin video	<p>Read the chapter on Structural Family Therapy (Minuchin) and take quiz 4</p> <p>Watch the video on Minuchin and answer the questions on blackboard</p>
Session 12	Experiential Family Therapy- Quiz 5 (Experiential Chapter) Whitaker video	<p>Read the chapter on Experiential Family Therapy (Whitaker) and take quiz 5</p> <p>Watch the video on Whitaker and answer the questions on blackboard</p>
Session 13	Family Therapy in the Twenty-First Century- Solution Focused Therapy- "Walk Away Wife Syndrome" by Michelle Wiener-Davis- video	<p>Read the two chapters and watch the "Walk Away Wife Syndrome" video by Michelle Wiener-Davis.</p> <p>Discussion Board Topic</p> <p>Book report is due.</p>
Session 14	Narrative Family Therapy- Michael White video	<p>Read the chapter on Narrative Family Therapy.</p> <p>Watch the video and answer the questions on the discussion board.</p>
Session 15	Comparative Analysis- Integrative Models- and Final Exam Review	<p>Read the chapter on Comparative Analysis and Integrative Models</p> <p>Discussion Board Topic</p>
Session 16	Final Exam	Final Exam