

PCC 800: Premarital, Marital, and Family Counseling

Professor: Rev. Trina A. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Semester: Fall 2017

Day and Time: Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM

Room: TBD

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Families, spouses, intimate partners, and significant others are our most formative and influential relationships because they present us with joys and challenges at every stage of life. In this course, you will be introduced to multiple marriage, family, and relationship theories and concepts. You will learn assessment, intervention, and crisis management skills and techniques to provide effective counseling and pastoral care to a diverse and broad range of marriages, families and relationships. We will also consider how society, culture and religion shape expectations in relationships. This includes gathering the necessary information to help you understand how your race, class, sexual orientation, culture, family origin, and theology informs your understanding of marriage, family, and relationships.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the basics of systems thinking, marriage and family theory, and the historical development and traditional and postmodern views and approaches in marriage and family therapy.
- Discuss the basics of family process, family development, and life-cycle perspectives that contribute to family functioning from multiple perspectives.
- Use pre-marital inventories to conduct pre-marital preparation for couples, addressing the sensitive issues that typically arise as people prepare for marriage and as they adjust to the early years of marriage.
- Increase awareness of the impact of diversity in working with families, particularly race, class, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, aging, and disabilities.
- Articulate a pastoral theology of marriages, families, and relationships, and how spirituality can be integrated into the clinical practice and pastoral care and counseling with couples and families.
- Use the genogram and narrative to understand family of origin and issues pertinent to one's development as a pastoral care giver or counselor.
- Apply key marriage and family theories, concepts, and tools in assessment and intervention of relationship crises.

Required Texts

The prices are from Amazon but books can be purchased new or used or rented from any book store of your choice.

Balswick, Jack O., and Judith K. Balswick. *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*.

Fourth ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

978-0801049347 Paperback: \$16.40 Kindle: \$15.58 Used: Used: starting at \$10.66

Nichols, Michael P., and Sean D. Davis. *Family Therapy: Concepts and Methods*. **Eleventh ed.** 2017. 978-

0133826609 Rent: 39.53 By New: 113.50 Used starting at: 93.99

Richardson, Ronald W. *Couples in Conflict: A Family Systems Approach to Marriage Counseling*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

978-0800696283 Kindle: \$16.50 Paperback: 27.35 Used: starting at \$14.67

Stahmann, Robert F., and William J. Hiebert. *Pre-marital and Re-marital Counseling: The Professional's Handbook*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997.

978-0787908454 Paperback: 44.82 Kindle: 42.58 Used: starting at \$5.69

Townsend, Loren L. *Pastoral Care with Stepfamilies: Mapping the Wilderness*. St Louis Mo: Chalice Press, 2000.

978-0827229662 Paperback: \$9.89 Used: starting at \$1.85

Wimberly, Edward P. *Counseling African American Marriages and Families*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

978-0664256562 Paperback: \$19.48 Used: starting at \$2.99