

MARRIAGE COUNSELING

6PSY567

Fall, 2010

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Course Description

This course is designed to help pastors, lay counselors and those in ministry who work with couples. We will examine the Biblical and theological principles which guide marriage and how God uses His Word to help people grow. Practical skills will be emphasized as we look at basic counseling abilities, how to assess what problems need to be addressed, how to resolve conflict, building positive communication patterns, and principles of forgiveness. We will study potential underlying psychological issues and try to answer the question “When is it time to refer?”

Class Schedule

August 30 Biblical Principles and Theological Commitments

September 6 No class—Labor Day

September 13 Counseling Skills/Marriage Assessment

September 20 Conflict Styles/Principles of Forgiveness

September 27 Communication Patterns

October 4 Male and Female Roles/Biblical Patterns for Family and Parenting

Oct. 11 Divorce and Remarriage (Guest Lecturer—Dr. Howard Griffith)

Oct. 18 Sexual Intimacy/Spiritual Commitments

Oct. 25 Underlying Clinical Problems

Course Requirements

a. Lectures and attendance: A number of class sessions will include counseling practice in the form of role-playing, in order to give practical experience. Attendance therefore is an absolute requirement.

Class Participation: 20%

b. Reading Assignments: 20%

What Did You Expect? Paul David Tripp 2010

Hope Focused Marriage Counseling Everett L. Worthington, Jr. 1999, with 2005 Introduction

Fighting For Your Marriage Howard J. Markman, Scott M. Stanley, Susan L. Blumberg 2001

Tim Keller, redeemer.com sermons: 9 Marriage Sermons on Ephesians

1 Marriage as Ministry Power

Keller

8/18/91 Ephesians 5:22-33

This is the title of the first of Tim Keller's 9 sermons. You will have to buy them either to download to an MP3 player or as a cd.

c. Case Studies: 20 %

Each student will write up three of the case studies/role plays presented in class. Describe what your group did in class today, and give a plan for what you would do in future sessions, including: which marital issues need to be addressed?; how would you address them in the next few sessions?; what homework assignments would you give?

d. Project: 40%

Prepare a six to eight week course that you could use to teach either Pre-Marriage Preparation or Marriage Enrichment. This should be detailed enough for you to use as is. Include what topics you would cover, what you would say under each of these topics (outline form), what reading you would have them do, what exercises and homework you would assign. There are many programs available for each of these topics—you may use them to aid you, but do not replicate any one. Please include material from your readings, lectures and sermons, and make a note of that for my benefit.

Incorporating material from lectures and readings will enhance your grade.

12-16 pages