Course Description
This class is a general introduction to the Biblical foundations of marriage, parenting, and family dysfunction issues involved in marriage and family counseling for pastors, ministry staff, and ministry leaders. Topics to be included in this study are: premarital counseling, infidelity, divorce and remarriage, sexual issues, and contemporary issues on sexuality.

Course Requirements
- Reading: Students will read completely the required texts and will write a two-page book review of each.
- Students will write a two-page paper on how they have been shaped by their family, including negative and positive influences.
- Students will write a seven-page paper on one of the following topics: How does the gospel shape a marriage? Divorce and remarriage. Biblical grounds for divorce. Christianity and sexuality. Can a marriage survive adultery? What about singleness?
- During the class, students will participate in group case studies and role play.

Exams
- No Exams

Class Participation
- It is required that students be present for all class sessions. If a student is “providentially hindered” from attending class, if possible, please notify the instructor. It is expected that students will keep current in their reading and complete assignments on time. Failure to comply with these standards will result in grade reduction, unless other arrangements have been made.

Grading
- Book reports 35%
- Papers 65%

Assignments Due August 3, 2015
- All papers and book reports are due in compliance with RTS-Atlanta policy on summer term courses; and to comply with RTS-A writing standards.
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**Paper and Book Reports Due**
- How I Have Been Shaped By My Family
- Meaning of Marriage, Keller
- The Divorce Culture, Whitehead
- PCA Position Paper on Marriage and Divorce
- Sex and Money, Tripp
- Seven Page Topic Paper
Required Book List

1. PCA Position Paper on Marriage and Divorce: Online
   b. http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/2-188.doc
      http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/2-289.doc

2. Meaning of Marriage, Tim Keller

3. The Divorce Culture, Barbara Dafoe Whitehead

4. Sex and Money, Paul Tripp

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)