



STUDY LEVEL **DEGREE**

UNIT CODE: **CO704**
UNIT TITLE: **Marriage and family**

TRMESTER: **23, 2023**
MOODLE KEY:

LECTURER: **Dr. David Michie**

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UNIT OVERVIEW:	<p>This unit deals with human sexuality, marriage and family life. Human sexuality, marriage and family sets us apart from the animals. It is exactly in the domain of sexuality and relationships that the dignity of humanity is the most clearly expressed. Our sexuality calls us beyond ourselves to a whole, secure, healthy and intimate relationship with another human being who is 'other' than us.</p> <p>Marriage and family issues present an ideal opportunity for us to show how the gospel can affect lives for the good. Our marriages and family relationships can become showcases of the grace of God. It does not mean that we have to present ourselves as 'getting it right' in our marriages and families. But we can meet the world as people who have tasted something very good and thus cannot settle for anything less. The hope that we can offer people in the light of our understanding of God's vision for our marriages and families can transform lives and relationships.</p>
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ACADEMIC DETAILS

Location in course:	This unit is a level 700 unit. This is a ministry elective unit.
Workload	The unit carries 3 semester-hours of credit. The contact hours for this unit are 2hr30min.per week for 13 weeks. Students are expected to study a further 7.5 hours/week for Degree Level
Pre-Requisites	Nil
Delivery	Delivery will be via lectures, practicum, critical reflections on the lectures, tutorial, research assignments and extra content supplied on Moodle.
Summary of Content	This unit will cover a) a Christian perspective on marriage and family, b) counselling approaches to marriage and parenting c) educational material for marriage and family counselling
Learning outcomes	By the completion of this unit, the students will be able to: a) Utilise a theological, sociological and psychological framework for understanding human identity and sexuality; b) Teach others to understand marriage/family in the light of a theological, sociological and psychological perspective c) Develop a marital pre-marital counselling course d) Conduct basic marriage and family pastoral counselling from an informed theological, sociological and psychological perspective.
Requirements to complete	To successfully complete this unit students must: a) attend at least 85% of all classes, excluding approved absences, b) obtain at least 40% of the marks allocated in each of the above assessment items, and c) obtain a total grade of at least 50% in the unit.

Assessment Summary

Assessment Type (e.g. 2000 word Essay on...or 3hr Unsighted Paper exam)	When assessed (e.g. Week 7; Exam week)	Weighting (item % of 100% of unit total)	Learning outcomes Assessed (link to outcomes above: a) & b), etc.
1. Essay	Week 4	15%	a,b
2. Pre-marital course outline	Week 8	30%	a,b,c
3. Parenting course outline	Week 11	30%	b, d
4. Case Studies	Week 12	25%	a, c, d

LECTURE SYLLABUS

Week	Content	Pre-reading
1	Human sexuality and intimacy – a developmental perspective	A Model for Marriage Ch 1-4
2	Human sexuality and intimacy – a theological perspective	Ch 5-7
3	Marriage – the beginning	Ch 8,9
4	Marriage - communication	Ch 10,11
5	Marriage - conflict	Ch 12,13
6	A growth model for marriage	The Family Ch 1-4
7	Pre-marital and marital counselling	Ch 5 -8
8	Marriage – foundation for family	Ch 9-11
9	The art of being a parent	Ch 12-14
10	The goals of bringing up children	Ch 15,16
11	Family life - the impact of the family on children	Ch 17,18
12	EXAM	

ASSESSMENT ITEMS

1. Essay (Carries 15% of total grade)	Write a summary of class content regarding sexuality and marriage, a. interacting with Balwick & Balwick, and b. your own perspective regarding marriage Word count – 1000 Due: WEEK 4. Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.
2. Pre-marital course outline (Carries 30% of the total grade)	Students will develop a 6 week pre-marital counselling plan based on lecture and reading material. The course is to include material that helps a couple understand, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relational and attachment patterns and how these effect marriage 2. A developmental and theological perspective on sexuality and marriage 3. The elements of healthy adult-adult communication including the place of values and aspirations 4. Particular tension areas such as finances, extended family, communication, physical intimacy, children, spirituality and values WORD COUNT – 2000 words plus hand-outs and addendum Due: WEEK 8. Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.

3. Parenting Course Outline (Carries 30% of the total grade).	Students will develop a 6 week parenting course plan based on lecture and reading material. The course is to include material that helps a couple understand, <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relational and attachment patterns and how these effect parenting 2. A developmental and theological perspective on parenting 3. The elements of healthy adult-child communication 4. Discipline and consequences 5. Particular tension areas such as friendships, church, chores, media, schooling <p>WORD COUNT – 2000 words plus hand-outs and addendum</p> <p>Due: WEEK 11. Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.</p>
4. Case Studies (Carries 25% of the total grade).	Case studies will be given to students in week 10. The questions asked in the case studies are to be completed and submitted in week 12.

Students should also refer to PBC Policies and Guidelines to assist in completing this unit. Students should be familiar with the following Policies and Guidelines (Policies and Guidelines are available for download from www.pbc.wa.edu.au or by request at the PBC office):

LATE ASSESSMENT ITEM POLICY
DEFERRAL OF ASSESSMENT ITEMS POLICY
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY
EXAMINATIONS POLICY
AVOIDING PLAGIARISM GUIDELINES
REPORTS AND ESSAYS GRADING GUIDELINES
PRESENTATIONS GRADING GUIDELINES
REFERENCING CONVENTIONS GUIDELINES

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TEXT BOOKS

Balwick, J.O. Balwick, J.K (1999). *The family*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker

This book has received excellent reviews:

“An excellent text . . . from a distinctively Christian perspective, integrating the very best of theology, ethics, and biblical studies with the social sciences and clinical perspectives. Pastors will find this text a superb update on Christian family life.” -- --first edition--Guy

Greenfield, *Southwestern Journal of Theology*

No other book has been written [on family living] from a Christian perspective with as much care as this one by the Balswicks. Christian workers anxious to update their libraries with one readable, yet pertinent, book on family concerns will want to add this book and will refer to it frequently. -- --first edition--Joyce Carroll, *Reformed Review*

This Christian perspective on the contemporary home, based upon social science research, clinical insight, and biblical truths, is skillfully written and extremely insightful. Almost everything a person would like to know about the family and its many stages, functions, and problems is included.

Covering every issue that affects family life--marriage, parenting, sexuality, communication, social dynamics, and family life in modern society--*The Family* is a proven comprehensive resource for studying this most established of human institutions. This important study is already well known among college and seminary faculty, pastors, and Christian counselors. It is widely used in sociology, marriage, and family classes around the country. The third edition has been revised and updated throughout to include the results of current research and contemporary trends.

The authors encourage readers to dig deep into Scripture, ever mindful of context, in order to develop a theological basis for family relationships. In considering the meaning of human relationships and family life, the Balswicks are concerned to integrate a biblically based perspective with insights gained from psychological and sociological studies. When dealing with the scriptural texts, however, they avoid the common tendency to gather unconnected passages in order to prove a point. Instead, they explore the implications of four central themes found throughout the Bible: covenant, grace, empowering, and intimacy.

Balswick, J.O. & Balswick, J.K (2006). *A model for marriage*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker

Jack and Judith Balswick bring together their years of teaching, writing and being married to coauthor this book. Their presentation is founded on the Christian doctrine of trinitarian relationships and draws on social science research. Rich in Christian insight, the Balswicks offer a vision of marriage that is both profoundly spiritual and thoroughly practical. For readers, pastors and counselors who want a book to deepen their vision in order to nourish and sustain the marriages of others.

This book:

- Provides a model for the integration of social science into a profoundly Christian vision of God's gift of marriage.
- Offers practical help for hurting or growing relationships that doesn't dissolve the mystery of marriage into mere pragmatics.

SUGGESTED LEARNING RESOURCES

Allender, D., Longman III, T. (2014), *God loves sex*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI.
 Allender, D., Longman III, T. (1995), *Intimate Allies*, Tyndale, Wheaton, Ill.
 Bagarozzi, D.A. & Anderson, S.A., (1989), *Personal, Marital, and Family Myths*, W.W.

- Norton & Company, New York.
- Clark, C., (1990), *Coping alone. A handbook for single parents*, Poolbeg, Dublin.
- Craig, J., (1994), *What Happened at School Today. Helping Your Child Handle Everyday School Problems*, Hearst Books, New York.
- DeFranza, M.K., Hill, W., Holmes, S.R., & Loader, W., (2016), *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI.
- Dumont, L., (1991), *Surviving Adolescence*, Villard Books, New York.
- Fay, J. & Kline, F., (1990), *Parenting with Love and Logic*, Pinon Press, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Fay, J., & Kline, F., (1990), *Parenting Your Teenager with Love and Logic*, Pinon Press, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Gilbert, M., & Shmukler, D., (1996), *Brief therapy with couples*, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, UK.
- Girgis, S., Anderson, R.T., & George, R.P., (2012), *What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A defense*. Encounter Books, New York.
- Gottman, J., (1994), *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail*, Simon & Schuster, New York.
- Huggins, K., (1990) *Parenting Adolescence*, Navpress, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Leman, K., (1994), *Living in a step-family without getting stepped on*, Nelson, Nashville.
- McDowell, J., Hostetler, B., (1996), *Handbook on counselling youth*, Word Publishing, Dallas.
- Miller, D.R., (1994), *Counselling families after divorce*, Word, Waco, Texas.
- Minirth, F., et.al., (1991), *Passages of Marriage*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville.
- Minuchin, S., (1996), *Mastering Family Therapy*, John Wiley & Sons, New York.
- Petrie, P. (1990), *The Adolescent Years. A Guide for Parents*, Michael Joseph, London.
- Roberts, J., (1994), *Tales and Transformations. Stories in Families and Family Therapy*, W.W. Norton & Company, New York.
- Taffel, R., (1991), *Parenting by Heart*, Addison Wesley, Reading, MA.
- Varipatis, C., (1995), *Marriage and the Freedom of the Human Person*, ANZSTS, Brisbane.
- Webber, R., (1994), *Living in a step family*, Acer, Melbourne.