



STUDY LEVEL

DEGREE

UNIT CODE:

CO904

UNIT TITLE:

Marriage and Family

TRMESTER:

23, 2023

MOODLE KEY:

LECTURER:

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UNIT OVERVIEW:

This unit equips students to develop an integrated theological, sociological, and psychological framework for understanding human identity and sexuality within the context of marriage and family relationships.

ACADEMIC DETAILS

Location in course:	This unit is a level 900 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 12 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	<p>A. Employ new theological knowledge to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an integrated theological, sociological, and psychological framework for understanding human identity and sexuality. 2. Construct Biblically founded responses to critical issues in marriages and family relationships. 3. Construct an ideal theory for growth in marriage. 4. Set “singleness” within a theological framework. <p>B. Conduct a critical analysis of a practical context to:</p> <p>Ascertain and critically evaluate what local churches are doing to develop healthy marriages and families.</p> <p>C. Develop and employ practical methods and actions to:</p> <p>Develop course material for pre-marital and marital counselling.</p> <p>D. Engage in critical personal reflection to:</p> <p>Identify personal presuppositions on marriage and family life and critically evaluate how this may affect counselling others.</p>

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	Family life	

Assessments

Assessment Type	When assessed	Weighting	Learning outcomes Assessed
Critical Theological Responses 2500 words total Each submission is to be 1250 words Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.	Week 5,12	25% Students are required to critically respond to the lecture contents through their personal voice, insights gleaned from two other students, the prescribed reading and five other reputable sources (including those on the recommended reading list). Students must take up a critical theological position and show knowledge of a variety of differing views on the topic.	A1, 2, 3, 4, D1
2. Pre-marital course outline 2500 words Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.	Week 8	25% 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 	A1-2, C1

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>The resource should have a proper introduction setting out the need for the resource and foundational theological perspectives which have influenced the development of the resource. It should discuss how it is different from other resources relating to the same topic or issue.</p>	
<p>Ideal Theory Report on required actions to promote healthy marriages and families in local churches.</p> <p>2,500 words</p> <p>Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.</p>	Week 10	<p>25%</p> <p>The following categories are to be included in an ideal praxis theory for the ideal praxis that you hope to construct, using the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry Actions – the actual ministry actions that will be implemented 2. Operational Fields – where and with whom this will operate 3. Structural Considerations – what it will look like and how it will operate 4. Theological Considerations – what theological categories inform the ideal structure. <p>Also include suggested changes that are required to achieve this. Please</p>	A3, B1

		<p>refer to Heyns & Pieterse – <i>Practical Theology</i>.</p> <p>The report should contain a proper introduction and conclusion and should develop critical arguments with scholars representing a range of different views.</p> <p>Students must reference at least twelve sources (including three journal articles).</p>	
<p>4. Case Studies</p> <p>2,500 words</p> <p>Assignments are to be submitted by Moodle by 11.55pm on due date.</p>	<p>Week 12</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>25%</p> <p>Students will be required to apply theological and Social Science perspectives to marriage and parenting counselling scenarios and Identify personal presuppositions on marriage and family life and critically evaluate how this may affect counselling others.</p>	A1, A2, C, D

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

Balswick, J.O. Balswick, 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.