P-520

*Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy*

Christian Theological Seminary  
Spring 2005  
Monday 6-8:45pm  
Room 168

Instructor: Suzanne M. Coyle, Ph.D.  
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Office hours—Tuesday 3-5pm and by appointment

**Catalogue Course Description**  
Application of family systems concepts from several family therapy theoretical models. Intervention strategies and skills applied to individuals, couples, families.

**Class Focus and Method**  
This class will explore the historical and theoretical foundations that have evolved into family therapy. Major family therapy models will be discussed with attention to theory, practice, and life application. The professor will begin each class with the theory of themes and models that make up marriage and family therapy. Students will be encouraged to interact with the professor and colleagues through comments and questions. Assigned readings will support students' ability to effectively participate.

The second focus of the class will emphasize the practice of marriage and family therapy. A master therapist training tape and/or demonstration by the professor will be utilized. Students will be expected to participate in role plays. In addition, students will gain experience through completing treatment plans in *Theory-Based Treatment Planning* when specific theories are discussed. M.Div. students are given an option to substitute ministry focused assignments after two treatment plans have been completed. This optional assignment requires consultation with the professor.

The third focus of the class called “slice of life” will lift up parts of everyday family life that impact how marriage and family therapy is practiced. The impact of the therapist upon clients is an important part of this focus. The self of the therapist, racial/ethnic/cultural issues, and the role of spirituality will be discussed. Small group discussion, film clips, plays, and experiential exercises will support this learning.

Written assignments will include a family of origin paper, two semester exams, treatment planning assignments/optional ministry focus assignments for M.Div. students and a final exam.
Class Expectations
Class attendance is mandatory. Students need to contact the professor before the class if they are unable to attend due to illness. In emergency students need to contact the professor within 24 hours of the absence. Extensions of deadline, if granted, must be negotiated with the professor prior to the due date. Late written assignments will otherwise be deducted a plus or minus on the letter grade.

Class participation is expected in this class. Students are to schedule a conference with the professor during the semester. The professor will be available for additional conferences.

Description of Written Assignments
Family of Origin Paper
This paper will only be read by the professor. Students will complete a three generation genogram with a 10-15 page description of what you have learned about your family and yourself from completing the genogram. In addition, include a few paragraphs speculating about how your family of origin may help and hinder you in your work with clients.

Semester Exams
Two objective exams will be given on the reading assignments covered up to that point.

Treatment Planning Assignments
Students will be assigned case vignettes to complete in Gehart and Tuttle for the specific marriage and family model being studied M.Div. students after consultation with the professor may substitute ministry focused assignments after completing two treatment plans.

Final Exam
The final exam will have an objective section, essay questions, and a treatment plan to complete for a case vignette.

Grading
Grades will be assigned as follows:

- Class participation and attendance: 20%
- Family of origin paper: 20%
- Two semester exams: 20%
- Treatment planning assignments: 20%
- Final exam: 20%
**Texts**

**Required**


**Recommended**

Schedule

January 24 Overview of Course and Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy

January 31 Development of Family Therapy
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 1, 2, and 11; Practice, Chap. 1 and 2; Ethnicity, Chap. 1; Spirituality, Chap. 1 and 2

February 7 Foundations of Family Therapy
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 4; Ethnicity, Chap. 2; Spirituality, Chap. 3 and 4

February 14 Basics of MFT Treatment
Practice, Chap. 4 and 5; Ethnicity, Chap. 4 and 5; Spirituality, Chap. 5

February 21 Basics (cont.)
Essentials, Chap. 3; Practice, Chap. 7 and 8; Treatment, Chap. 1; Ethnicity, Chap. 8 and 10; Spirituality, Chap. 5

February 28 Psychoanalytic Family Therapy
Due: Exam, Treatment Plan
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 9; Treatment, Chap. 1; Ethnicity, Chap. 16; Spirituality, Chap. 7

March 7 Intergenerational Family Therapy
Due: Treatment Plan
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 5; Theory, Chap. 8; Ethnicity, Chap. 29 and 41; Spirituality, Chap. 8 and 9

March 14 Structural and Strategic Family Therapy
Due: Treatment Plan
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 6 and 7; Theory, Chap. 2,3,4, and 5; Ethnicity, Chap. 24; Spirituality, Chap. 10 and 11

March 21 Easter Recess—No Class

March 28 Experiential and Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy
Due: Family of Origin Paper, Treatment Plan
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 8 and 10; Theory, Chap. 6, 7, and 9; Ethnicity, Chap. 28; Spirituality, Chap. 12 and 13
April 4 Postmodern Family Therapy
Due: Treatment Plan
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 12 and 13; Theory, Chap 10, 11, and 12; Ethnicity, Chap. 44; Spirituality, Chap. 14

April 18 Integrative Family Therapy Models
Due: Exam, Treatment Plan
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 14; Practice, Chap. 3 and 4; Ethnicity, Chap. 8; Spirituality, Chap. 15

April 25 Future of Family Therapy
Readings: Essentials, Chap. 15 and 16; Practice, Chap. 3 and 4; Ethnicity, (Students will be assigned remaining chapters); Spirituality, Chap. 16

May 2 FINAL EXAM