Instructor:

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Office hours – as posted

RJohnson@bmats.edu – Note: If you are E-mailing assignments, I will send a reply that the assignment has been received and the file successfully opened. Do not assume the assignment has been received until you get my reply.

Required Texts:


Course Description:

This course is designed to help in counseling relationships with persons who are contemplating marriage and married couples. Such problems as courtship, choosing a life companion, engagement, and marital, social, and emotional adjustment are studies.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course you should be able:
1. to discuss current and relevant sociological data which has impact upon the institution of marriage.
2. to demonstrate basic knowledge of concepts, terminology, and theories of marital/premarital counseling.
3. to implement/improve your own premarital counseling procedures.
4. to develop/enhance your own orientation toward the process of marriage counseling.
Course Assignments: % of final grade

Attendance and participation in class activities 10%

Sermon/Devotional - Prepare an annotated outline (not a manuscript) on the subject of preparation for marriage. This message should relate to premarital counseling. Topic areas such as dating, choosing a life companion, or the importance of marriage are appropriate. You will be allowed 20 -30 minutes to address to the class. Make a copy of your outline for everyone in the class. 10%

Sermon/Devotional - Same as above, however, this time the message should relate to marriage enrichment. The importance of communication, intimacy, or love may be stressed. 10%

Resource List - Develop a list of resources (all you can find) for use in premarital and/or marital counseling. There exists a plethora of books, workbooks, tapes, and tests available for couples to use before marriage or after years together. Comment on any that you have used or read. (1 sentence) Remember; do not include counseling books or other resources for counselor use. 2-5 pages 20%

Premarital Counseling Plan - Develop/enhance your own premarital counseling plan. Make it as detailed as possible. Include everything covered during the course. Which resources you would use and when to use them, the number of sessions you will have with the couple, what you will do in each session, the goals you have for premarital counseling, the criteria you have for marrying or not marrying the couple (if you are a minister), and any other details should be included. (This is your mid-term exam.) 15-20 pages 25%

Marriage Counseling Model - This assignment is similar to above. State the model you would follow in counseling married couples. This can be the one in the text, one from a major school of therapy, or one of your own. Explain what you would do, techniques you would feel comfortable using, which cases you would refer, referral resources, and any other detail needed to describe your counseling procedures. (This is your final exam.) 15-20 pages 25%

All assignments will be discussed in detail. A schedule of activities will be distributed with due dates indicated. Every person is expected to be pro-active in meeting all class responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Thompson, David A. **Counseling and Divorce.** Dallas: Word, 1989.


ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

Family History Analysis for Premarital Counseling (H. Norman Wright)

Instruments Listed Below Require Training

Taylor Johnson Temperament Analysis

Premarital Personal and Relationship Evaluation (PREPARE II)

MULTIMEDIA

Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts - video kit
  - includes eight-part video, workbook for men and women,
    The Marriage Mentor Manual, and leaders guide.

Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts - audio pages
  - two cassettes of excerpts of the book.

Mentoring Engaged and Newlywed Couples - video kit (Les Parrott)

How to Do Pre-Marital Counseling - video training program (H. Norman Wright)

Marriage Counseling - video training (H. Norman Wright)