

## **COURSE SYLLABUS SPRING 2010**

- TITLE:** *PSY453: Marriage and Family Studies*
- SUBJECT AREA:** Psychology, Family Studies, Social Work
- GUIDING PRINCIPLE:** The Permanence of Marriage and Purposeful Parenting
- PROFESSORS:** **Dr. Chris & Becca Leland**  
Marriage & Family Studies Instructors  
**Dr. Juli Slattery**  
Marriage & Family Studies Adjunct Instructor
- CREDITS:** 3.0 semester hours; 4.5 quarter hours

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This course will discuss practical and biblical steps toward building a strong, pleasurable, safe and lasting marriage and healthy, functional and enjoyable family. The purpose of this course is to provide academic instruction on the “pillar principles” of the Permanence of Marriage and the Value of Children. Our goal: each student will recognize the enormous value of a godly marriage and positive parenting.

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES:**

1. Understand God’s design for marriage and parenting.
2. Reflect upon the role of family of origin in shaping current understanding of truth and love.
3. Develop life skills vital to building strong connection in marriage.
4. Recognize the difficulties all couples must overcome to build a lasting marriage.
5. Develop a strategy for conveying truth and love as a parent by healthy discipline and building self-esteem.
6. Enhance understanding of the value of children and the sanctity of life.

**TOPICS:****MARRIAGE:**

1. **Life & Family Foundations**
2. **Understanding needs, power, roles**
3. **Communication**
4. **Conflict Resolution**
5. **Sexual Intimacy in Marriage**
6. **Financial Principles**
7. **Dating and Singleness**

**PARENTING:**

1. **Family of Origin**
2. **Parental Affirmation & Discipline**
3. **Children and Divorce**
4. **Parenting Teens**
5. **The Launching Pad**

**READINGS:**

The materials in **bold** print below must be purchased by the student; the others are available in student apartments or on apartment computers.

**BOOKS:**

Barna, George (2007), *Revolutionary Parenting*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishing.

Clark, Jerusha. (2009), *When I Get Married*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

Cloud, H. & Townsend, J. (1992). *Boundaries*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing.

Dobson, J. (1992). *The New Dare to Discipline*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishing.

Dobson, J. (1999). *The New Hide and Seek*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming Revell Company.

Dobson, J. (2007). *The New Love Must be Tough*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishing.

**Eggerichs, E. (2004). *Love and Respect*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.**

Hart, A. & Morris, S. (2003). *Safe Haven*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

McIlhaney, J.S. & McKissic Bush, F. (2008). *Hooked: New science on how casual sex is affecting our children*. Chicago, IL: Northfield Publishing.

Slattery, J.H. (2001). *Finding The Hero in Your Husband*. Deerfield Beach, FL: Faith Communications, Inc.

Slattery, J.H. (2004). *Guilt-Free Motherhood*. Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, Inc.

**Swihart, P.J. & Wooten, W. (2006). *Complete Guide to the First Five Years of Marriage*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale.**

**Thomas, G. (2002). *Sacred Marriage*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.**

Thomas, G. (2004). *Sacred Parenting*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

**Trent, J. & Smalley, G. (2004). *The Blessing: Giving the gift of unconditional love and acceptance*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.**

Waite & Gallagher. (2001). *The Case for Marriage*. New York, NY: Random House, Inc.

### **READER (Marriage and Family Studies)**

“Family Portrait,” Family Research Council – Chapters 1-2

Flanagan, Caitlin. “Is There Hope for the American Marriage?” *Time*, July 2009.

McGee, R. (2001). *Breaking the Cycle of Hurtful Family Experiences*. Houston, TX: Rapha Publishing. (Sections 4-1 through 4-4)

Regnerus, Mark. “The Case for Early Marriage.” *Christianity Today*, August 2009.

Stanton, Glen, Focus on the Family – *Family Insight Research Series* – Articles.

Stephenson, Frank. “For the Love of Me.” *Florida State University Research in Review*, Summer 2004.

### **ARTICLES ONLINE:**

Boundless Booklet: *A Guy’s Guide to Marrying Well*

### **AUDIO ONLINE:**

Edwards. “Getting Yourself Ready for Marriage, I and II”

Lehman. “Surviving the Adolescent Years.”

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Because so much of the course benefit comes from in-class lecture and discussion, class attendance is mandatory. Students may miss *one* class in this course *with* professor approval and only for genuine personal emergency (e.g., illness or family crisis). Each unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction from your overall course grade.

### **CLASS CONDUCT:**

Students are expected to actively participate in class dialog. As well, the use of cell phones, text messaging or computers for anything other than class note taking is prohibited. Violation of this courtesy will result in an absence from that class recorded against the student.

**DUE DATES:**

Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all assignments are due at the beginning of the class session for which they are assigned. Exceptions must be approved by the professor in advance of the assignment's due date. *Late assignments submitted after the beginning of class will receive a 1-point penalty per additional day.*

**GRADED REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1. REQUIRED READING AND AUDIO (100 POINTS)**
- 2. PARTICIPATION (LARGE GROUP; SMALL GROUP AND THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION EXERCISES: (A) FAMILY OF ORIGIN QUESTIONNAIRE, (B) FAMILY OBSERVATION, (C) FACE IN THE FRAME, (D) PRE-MARRIAGE SURVEY, AND (E) YOU & YOUR FAMILY EXERCISE). (100 POINTS)**
- 3. MARRIAGE AND PARENTING EXAM (100 POINTS)**

**Course total: 100 points**

**1. Required Reading and Audio (100 points)**

At the start of each class, students will record on the reading form the number of pages that were read from the assigned reading for that lesson. Credit will not be given for assigned reading or listening that occurs after the due date unless cleared by professors. The maximum number of pages credited for each combined reading and audio are indicated under "Lesson Plan and Assignments" below.

Evaluation of the required readings will be based on the following point distribution:

***Grading for Required Readings:***

1146 pages	100%	100 points	860 pages	75%	75 points
1089 pages	95%	95 points	802 pages	70%	70 points
1031 pages	90%	90 points	745 pages	65%	65 points
974 pages	85%	85 points	688 pages	60%	60 points
917 pages	80%	80 points	630 pages	55%	55 points
			573 pages	50%	50 points

**No points will be awarded for less than 50% effort.**

**2. Course Participation (100 points)**

Course participation will be graded on quality and quantity of interaction in class discussions; self and peer evaluation of small group interaction; quality of prepared application assignments; evident preparation of class prompts and in class activities. Class prep statements/assignments and application exercises will be assigned in class. Should the assignment call for a more formal paper to be prepared the following format should be adopted.

**FORMAT FOR ALL PAPERS:**

Submitted papers will be typed, 12-point Times New Roman font, *double-spaced*, one-inch margins all around and using left justification margins. Please number each page at the top right. Hand-written papers will not be accepted.

The top of first page must include the following information before the text body:

Student's name  
MFS  
Title of Assignment  
Due date

Students are required to integrate readings with personal critical thinking. When concepts from an outside source are used, they must be cited using a modified APA (American Psychological Association) format, parenthetically indicating author's last name, year of publication, and page number(s) referenced: e.g., Dobson, 2001, pp. 120-121. All papers should be written from a first person perspective.

Papers will be graded on content (how thoughtful, personal and specific you are), insight (level of integration of concepts from class and readings), and clarity (structure, grammar, spelling and form).

**6. Course Exam (100 points)**

**The Marriage and Parenting Final Exam** is designed to test the student's mastery of the key concepts and issues regarding marriage and family. Questions will be taken directly from classroom content and readings. The exam will be taken during the last two hours of class on April 20. It will consist of 100 objective questions.

**FINAL COURSE GRADE:**

At the end of the semester, the number of points you will have accumulated for all assignments will determine your final course grade according to the scale published in the Institute Catalog:

A: 94-100; A-: 90-93; B+: 88-89; B: 84-87; B-, 80-83; C+: 78-79; C: 74-77; C-: 70-73; D: 60-69; F: 0-59.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

**REGARDING MARRIAGE:**

1. Explain life's overall purposes for marriage
2. Explain the Discuss the diversity and unity of husbands and wives purpose and value of marriage
3. Describe the practical expression of love and respect commonly meaningful to women & men
4. Describe and practice basic speaking and listening skills required for effective personal communication
5. Describe and practice basic skills required for effective conflict resolution and forgiveness
6. Discuss budgeting that reflects biblical and responsible principles of money
7. Describe the benefits, challenges, and requirements for sexual intimacy in marriage

**REGARDING PARENTING:**

8. Develop a personal philosophy of marriage that includes core assumptions, anticipated struggles and present preparation strategy.
1. Explain the purpose and value of parenting
2. Understand family of origin and its impact on individuals and families
3. Critically evaluate parenting and child discipline strategies
4. Understand the importance of spiritual training that builds healthy self-worth in children
5. Identify devastating consequences and the recovery process of divorce on the family
6. Develop a personal philosophy and strategy for a healthy parenting plan

**LESSON PLAN & READINGS – Spring 2010****Lesson 1 (January 26, TUESDAY) - Lelands****LIFE, RELATIONSHIP, AND FAMILY FOUNDATIONS**

Reading: Waite and Gallagher, *The Case For Marriage*, pp. 1-43;

Articles: Family Portrait (pp. 1-24); 2009 Overview – Adults (6 pp.); 2009 Overview – Children (7 pp.); Young Adults (2 pp); Weakened Marriage (4 pp.) : Flanagan, “Is There Hope for the American Marriage?” (7 pp)

**CREDITED PAGES: 91**

**Lesson 2: (February 2, TUESDAY)****LOOKING BACK – LOOKING FORWARD: FAMILY OF ORIGIN**

Reading: Thomas, *Sacred Marriage*, (pp. 11-51)

Article: McGee, *Breaking the Cycle* – Sections 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4 (56 pp)

**CREDITED PAGES: 96**

**Guest Lecturers: Dr. Steve & Twyla Lee**

**SESSION 3: (February 9, TUESDAY) - Lelands****COMMUNICATION – THE LIFEBLOOD OF MARRIAGE**

Reading: Swihart & Wooten, *First Five Years of Marriage*, Part 6: Communication  
 Cloud & Townsend, *Boundaries*, (pp. 13-107)

**CREDITED PAGES: 117**

**SESSION 4: (February 16, TUESDAY – NOTE – class from 1-4pm) – Dr. Slattery****BUILDING INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE**

Reading: Eggerich, *Love and Respect* (EVERYONE read pp. 8-56; men read pp. 117-182).  
 Slattery, *Finding the Hero in Your Husband* (ladies read pp. 17-82)

**CREDITED PAGES: 113**

**SESSION 5: (February 27, SATURDAY)****FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S – MARRIAGE SIMULCAST**

(You will be attending the all day event held here at FOF)

Reading: Thomas, *Sacred Marriage* (pp. 53-71; 89-102; 127-152; 227-245)

**CREDITED PAGES: 74**

**SESSION 6: (March 2, TUESDAY)****SEXUAL INTIMACY: THE PHYSICAL STORM**

Reading: Swihart & Wooten, *First Five Years*, Part 5: Sex (pp. 156-189)  
 McIlhane and McKissic Bush, *Hooked*, pp 11-91

**CREDITED PAGES: 113**

**Guest Lecturers: Drs Steve and Diane Foley**

**SESSION 7: (March 9, TUESDAY) – Dr. Slattery****CONFLICT IN MARRIAGE: THE STORM OF EMOTION**

Reading: Dobson, *The New Love Must be Tough*, pp 13-41; 201-226)  
 Hart & Morris, *Safe Haven*, Ch 3, 6, 7, & 8.

**CREDITED PAGES: 142**

**SESSION 8 : (March 16, TUESDAY)****FOR LOVE AND MONEY: THE STORM OF FINANCES**

Reading: Swilhart & Wooten, *First Five Years of Marriage*, (pp. 107-151)  
 Handouts from Lecturer (pp. 20)

**CREDITED PAGES: 64**

**GUEST LECTURER: ROGER ROBB**

**SESSION 9: (March 30, TUESDAY) - Lelands*****FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE***

Reading: Boundless Booklet – *A Guy’s Guide to Marrying Well*, - men only  
 Clark, *When I get Married*, - ladies only - Ch 1-3  
 Article: Regnerus, “Case for Early Marriage”  
 Audio: Edwards, “Getting Yourself Ready for Marriage I and II”

**CREDITED PAGES: 80**

**SESSION 10: (April 6, TUESDAY)*****SPIRITUAL TRAINING AND CHILDREN***

Reading: Barna, *Revolutionary Parenting*, Ch 1, 3, 6 & 8  
 Thomas, *Sacred Parenting*, pp 11-68

**CREDITED PAGES: 101**

**GUEST LECTURER: Dr. Bill Maier**

**SESSION 11: (April 16, FRIDAY) – Dr. Slattery*****PARENTAL LOVE***

Reading: Dobson, *The New Dare to Discipline*  
 Dobson, *The New Hide and Seek*  
 Article: Stephenson, “For The Love of Me”

**CREDITED PAGES: 95**

**SESSION 12: (April 20, TUESDAY) - Lelands*****PASS IT ON OR STOP A CYCLE – THE BLESSING***

Reading: Trent & Smalley, *The Blessing*, pp. 1-40 (All read); LG 1-2 (ch. 6-7); LG 3-4 (ch. 8-9); LG 5-6 (ch. 10-11); LG 7-8 (ch. 12-13); LG 9-10 (ch. 14-15) (= 20 pp.)

**CREDITED PAGES: 60**

**FINAL EXAM TODAY! (Last two hours of class)**