Course Description
CO714 Family Counseling/Therapy - A clinical course to develop basic skills in counseling families. Evaluation of the most applicable methods for counseling interventions with families. Open to M.A. in counseling students only. Prerequisite: CO500 and CO614. (Course Catalog). It draws on concepts and techniques from the most contemporary psychotherapeutic method, counseling models and biblical interpretation to facilitate the student understands family values, ethics, social justice, faith and human behavior.

Course goal
This course will useful to its attendees both in training and in practice. It presents the challenges of a diverse population and describes practical strategies to assess families, develop tailored treatment plans and maintain treatment. This class aims to relate theory and methods of psychotherapy and counseling in action. It aims to view counseling as a collaborative venture with emphasis on Ethnosociocultural understanding, resistance, transference and countertransference. It aims to reflect on the self need and/or self-care as the first step toward the helping discipline. It will guide the student toward a view on family psychology.

Course objective
Upon the completion of this course, students who faithfully attend to the requirements of the class will be able:
1. Understand the new reality of professional family therapy practice by learning the many changes that have occurred and must be considered when developing effective treatment.
2. Describe the often overlooked relationship between work and family life, a relationship that is much more invoked than therapists had previously imagined.
3. Learn to accurately and effective assess needs to create goals, treatment process and techniques in using the theories.
4. Learn how to integrate the different theories with biblical and cultural context to tailor treatment effectively
5. To understand family constellation, research and development and apply their outcomes, the process of analyzing services, identifying gaps and advocating for services, resources and opportunities.
6. To learn how to recover oneself from abuse and dysfunction while working within an “Ethnosociocultural” environment.
7. Students will understand the values congruent to psychotherapy and counseling and know how to integrate them into practice, assess the effectiveness of his or her own professional practice and the importance of collaborating with others in the field of counseling and other related field of family therapy.

Course Correlation
The course correlates the psychosocial dynamic of culture into the professional and biblical context to challenge the students to a revolution in the practice of family therapy, to emphasize ongoing assessment while integrating various theories of family therapy with theology. This course will
Integrate faith and theology in the context of psychotherapy. Students will interact with comparative analysis of research method in family therapy and psychotherapy. It will elucidate the understanding of community counseling and learn to integrate multiple level of assessment and interventions. Student will focus on ethic of interventions and evaluate their outcomes.

**Require Course Textbooks**

**Recommended Course Textbooks**

**Class requirements**
1. Student must attend each class session on time. Each assigned chapter from the textbooks must be read prior to each class session. **Follow APA guidelines.**
2. **6 Reading assignments**- In the first portion of this class, students will hear lectures relate their expertise and personal experience to counseling. Each week they will write a **1 page paper** response to the lecture to incorporate their knowledge of counseling theory to the issues and problems that are raised in the lecture. Performance will be the evidence of an active, self-directed approach to learning and ongoing growth as a counseling student.
3. **Comprehensive assessment**- In the second half of the class student will work with each other to present a detailed and constructed assessment of a student in the class. This carefully constructed exercise will lead the student to present a comprehensive assessment of a student, which he or she has not worked with in the class. The assessment will include a Genogram, which will illustrates the family history of the student as well as the identified issues that run in the student’s family. This comprehensive assessment assignment will incorporate theological belief and philosophical assumptions and theory development.
4. **Research paper assignment**- Student will research how family dysfunction has been addressed in other environments or settings (e.g. church’s, and the field of psychotherapy, etc. in the State of Massachusetts to incorporate the legal requirements). This paper will outline a treatment goal, treatment process and techniques to address the identified dilemma or need. In this paper the student will clearly define the issue and its history and presents it in the form of a case study. The student will outline and describe the method for addressing the issue (the people to be involved and their responsibilities). This research paper may include interviews from experts in the area of study. (Experts include those running existing programs, groups, or systems currently addressing the need).
5. **Annotated Bibliography**- Students are expected to read 2000 pages for this class. Accountability will be measured by submitting an annotated bibliography [(i.e. a brief summary of the reading (approx. 250 words for a book, less for a chapter or journal article)] of each assigned textbooks for this class including other materials read for this course. If the resource material is a videotape, (1 hour = 33 pages), limit your search to six (6) hours maximum.
Grading criteria for the reading assignments- 2000 pages = 15%; 1600 pages 10%; 1200 pages 7%; 800 pages 5%

Grading Scale for the Class Assignments
1. 6 Reading Assignments at 5 pts each = 25%
2. Comprehensive assessment = 25%
3. Research Paper Assignment- 35%
4. Annotated Bibliography- 15%

Course Outline
1. Introduction to the Syllabus- Bowen Family Systems Therapy /Crisis and Trauma- Developmental Issues in Families/Creating Genograms
2. Strategic Family Therapy- Attending to Marital Conflict/Assessment and Research in Family Psychology- Tracking Family Patterns through time and space
3. Structural Family Therapy/ Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage/ Therapy with Couples-interpreting family structure
4. Psychodynamic Family Therapy and other contextual family therapy/ Other larger systems and contexts- assessing family patterns and functioning
5. Experiential Family Therapy- Individual Psychopathology/ Gender, Culture, Economic Class and Race/ Gender and Ethnic Issues- relational patterns and triangles
6. Solution-focused family therapy- Substance Abuse/ Coercion and Substance Abuse/ tracking individuals and families through the life cycle

Bibliography