PC542: Marriage Counseling with Dr. Raymond Pendleton

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Snapshot of Course Requirements
PC542 requires timely completion of the following six course requirements:

1. Required Reading (10% of your grade)
2. Case Studies (40% of your grade)
3. Personal Background Paper (10% of your grade)
4. Marriage Enrichment Program (30% of your grade)
5. Interactivity (required for course grade to be submitted to registration office)
6. Online Course Checkout/Reading Report (after you have finished all course requirements above)

Course Objectives

1. To study biblical, theological, cultural, and psychological aspects of marriage.
2. To study the multiple factors that emerge with marital conflict and lead to marital breakdown.
3. To understand and evaluate the variety of techniques that will effectively assist couples in the development of a marriage and provide a foundation for the resolution of marital conflicts.
4. To review a number of constructive programs that are designed to enrich the marriage relationship.
5. To underscore the unique role of the pastor as a primary agent in helping to promote healing in dysfunctional marital relationships.

Course Requirements

Reading
Reading materials may be selected from the bibliography or from other appropriate resources that relate to marriage and marriage counseling. The required textbooks may be counted toward the total pages read/hours spent. You may not include the time spent in reviewing the case study demonstrations that are included in this course. However, other audio and video tapes may be included in the reading log (on the Course Checkout). The reading log should be cumulative and should include the name of the author/lecturer, the title of the work, and the number of pages read/hours spent.

The grading scale for the reading will be as follows:

- 60 hours or 2500 pages = A
- 55 hours or 2250 pages = A-
- 50 hours or 2000 pages = B+
- 45 hours of 1750 pages = B
- 40 hours or 1500 pages = B-
- 35 hours or 1250 pages = C
Required Texts


Written Work

1. 6 Case Studies (2-3 pages each)

   Many of the lectures will have a case study demonstration as an extension of the lecture material. These case studies can be found at the end of Lectures 1-8 and are marked by a “Develop” icon. The corresponding videos are available under Modules as well. You should choose six (6) of these cases and write a 2- to 3-page (maximum) response to each case. Your response should answer the following questions:
   - What is the main issue?
   - What are the strengths evident in the couple’s relationship?
   - What changes in behavior should be recommended?
   - What are the biblical and theological issues that come to mind as you craft your response?

2. Personal Background Paper (5-8 pages)

   As basic preparation for counseling married couples, it is important to identify those factors in your own development that formed your attitudes and values regarding the conduct of marriage. Please write a brief paper describing the marriage of your parents and the influence that their marriage had on you as a developing person. Describe how they met, their own family backgrounds, their courtship, their marriage, and the subsequent conduct of their marriage in the context of the family in which you developed.

3. Interview (5-8 pages)

   Select a husband and wife who have married for at least five years and who appear to have a good marital relationship. Interview this couple concerning issues about how they met, what the source of their attraction to each other was, a brief description of their families of origin, a preliminary assessment of their spiritual heritage and foundation, and a description of their understanding of the responsibilities of marriage. This paper should be between 5 and 8 pages (maximum).

4. Marriage Enrichment Program (10-12 pages)

   The major paper is to be a plan for a Marriage Enrichment Program that will serve as a foundation for growth in Christian marriage. This paper will begin with a rationale for selecting the topic, a description of the target group population, and a description of the setting of the program. A very detailed description of the program, including materials to be utilized, must be included. This activity may be a marriage retreat or a course outline for a Christian education class. This paper is to be 10 to 12 pages (maximum), exclusive of appendices.

Submitting Assignments

Assignments can be submitted electronically through the Drop Box tool in Sakai. On the left menu, under "Project Tools," select "Drop Box." To add a file, click “Add” and upload from there.

Some guidelines for this process:

- Paper submissions should be in either .doc, .docx or .pdf format.
- Submitting your work through drop box is considered a formal (and final) submission. Nothing further will be needed on your part.
• All submissions are time/date stamped and will be retrieved by the Semlink office and routed to your professor for grading.
• Assignments may be returned to you electronically, in most cases through your Sakai drop box or via email. If your assignment was graded by hand, it will be scanned and delivered to you as a PDF file.
• Remember to use a full heading, including your name, professor, course, and date.

Please let the Semlink office know if you have any further questions about electronic submission. semlink@gordonconwell.edu or 978-646-4144.

Interactivity
As a member of the Association of Theological Schools, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary recognizes the value of interactivity in distance learning and complies with the standards for accreditation set by ATS which include interactivity as a compulsory component of any distance learning program that wishes to continue granting credit for its courses. The purpose of Semlink interactivity is to enhance learning by providing an online environment for students to engage meaningfully and substantively with professors, teaching fellows, and other students in order to achieve an enriching and academically challenging distance learning experience.

There are two interactivity requirements for this course:

1. An online discussion forum: converse with other students and with instructors on the Semlink forum. You are required to participate four (4) times in the discussions relating to your area of study. To ensure successful completion of this requirement, please complete your participation in the discussion forums at least one week prior to your course due date. This will allow sufficient time for you to resubmit any responses if necessary.

2. Email-based conversation with your Semlink teaching fellow. You are required to email a total of three (3) times, including your original response to the conversation starter. Please allow a minimum of one month to complete this conversation to allow time for the teaching fellow to respond. Allow five business days for a response to each of your submissions.

To begin your interactivity (and for more details about this requirement), see the Interactivity section under Modules. This section will explain in more detail what is expected for this requirement.

If you fail to complete the interactivity requirements, you will fail your course.

Grading
Your final grade for the course will be computed on the following basis:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Reading</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Background Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage Enrichment Program</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction completion required</td>
<td></td>
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Course Outline

Lecture 1

• Topic: Marriage as a covenant
• Suggested Reading:
  ○ *Marriage Made in Eden*, chs. 1-3

Lecture 2

• Topic: The Significance of Personal Histories: Culture, Models, and Expectations
• Suggested Reading:
  ○ *Marriage Made in Eden*, chs. 4–5
  ○ *The Family*, chs. 3–4

Lecture 3

• Topic: The Priorities of Marriage: Setting Goals for a Whole-Person Marriage
Lecture 4

- Topic: Communicating to Connect
- Suggested Reading:
  - *Marriage Made in Eden*, ch. 6
  - *The Family*, ch. 5

Lecture 5

- Topic: Resolving Marital Conflicts
- Suggested Reading:
  - *A Lasting Promise*, chs. 1–4
  - *The Family*, chs. 11–12

Lecture 6

- Topic: Enjoying God’s Gift: Sexuality in Marriage
- Suggested Reading:
  - *The Family*, chs. 9–10
  - *A Lasting Promise*, ch. 13
  - *Authentic Human Sexuality*, chs. 1–3, 9

Lecture 7

- Topic: The Place of and Responsibility for Children in Marriage
- Suggested Reading:
  - *The Family*, ch. 6–8

Lecture 8

- Topic: Becoming One Flesh: Developing Intimacy
- Suggested Reading:
  - *Marriage Made in Eden*, chs. 8–9
  - *A Lasting Promise*, chs. 11–12

Lecture 9

- Topic: Belonging to God’s Family: Marriage and the Church
- Suggested Reading:
  - *The Family*, chs. 16-17
  - *Marriage Made in Eden*, ch. 10

Lecture 10

- Topic: Pastoral Responsibility for the Nurture and Growth of Marriages
- Suggested Reading:
  - Skim *Restoring the Fallen*