

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

ED-3340: Marriage and Family Systems, 3 Credit Hours

Course Description

Catalog description: This sociology course examines the nature and needs of various family systems. Students study family structures, issues, concerns, problems, and dynamics. A theology of the family will be developed. As part of this course, an examination of the Christian family will be considered, including the biblical basis, distinctives, and functions for the family; preparing for Christian marriage; family roles and relationships; and parenting and child training.

Prerequisite: None

Course Goals

In this course, you will:

- Be exposed to differing viewpoints as to how Christians find a spouse and discover if one/some methods are considered more biblical than others
- Understand the dangers and traps that pornography present to the Christian, church and society
- Learn God's intended purposes of sex as consummation, procreation, love, and pleasure
- Discover how marriage and views of marriage, including roles and expectations of spouses, have evolved over the centuries in North America
- Be aware of unrealistic expectations many individuals bring into marriage including roles, methods of conflict resolution, and financial responsibility
- Understand the significant role that parents play in the lives of their children as the primary discipler and influencer of their children
- Gain a basic understanding of Family Systems Theory

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate God's purposes for sex
2. Explain how views of marriage, roles, and the home have evolved over the span of America's history
3. Create a three-generation Genogram
4. Identify unrealistic expectations individuals bring into a marriage
5. Create a personal financial budget

6. Communicate some effective ways for conflict resolution
7. Explain the significance of the parental role in raising godly children
8. Explain Family Systems Theory on an introductory level

Course Textbooks and Supplemental Reading

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments Overview

You will be graded on your completion of the following assignments.

Reading

Though not directly graded, all books and reading assignments are to be read by the due date so that you are prepared to comment on the readings either through a reflection paper or online discussion as assigned.

Assignment 1: Integration Paper on Romans 12:2

Write a two (2) page paper on how Romans 12:2 applies to those struggling with pornography use in light of brain activity. In particular incorporate what “renewing the mind” may look like as we begin to understand more how the brain works.

Due Week 2. (5%)

Assignment 2: Reflection Papers

You will write seven (7) reflection papers on the assigned readings. One of the reflections will be two (2) full pages in length, double-spaced and should describe the significant points plus the strengths and weaknesses of the book. The six (6) remaining reflections will be one (1) full page in length, double-spaced and should describe the significant points of the book.

- Assignment 2.1: Hollinger’s *The Meaning of Sex: Christian Ethics and the Moral Life* 2-pages
- Assignment 2.2: “How the Industrial Revolution Impacted American Marriage,” 1-page
- Assignment 2.3: “What the “Doctrine of Separate Spheres” Is and How it Impacts Marriages Still Today,” 1-page
- Assignment 2.4: Crabb’s *The Marriage Builder*, 1-page
- Assignment 2.5: “What Type of Apology Best Communicates to You,” 1-page. Base this on Chapman’s *Five Languages of Apology*, 1-page
- Assignment 2.6: Your thoughts of Sumner’s view of “How the Matthew 18 Passage Concerning Confrontation Should Work in Marriage,” 1-page
- Assignment 2.7: Matlock’s *Real World Parents: Christian Parenting for Parents Living In the Real World*, 1-page

You are welcome to express where you might disagree with the content, but must support your position. You are *not* to simply summarize the content of each book, but are to **interact with** and **reflect on** the main ideas and positions presented. A grading rubric will be posted on the Blackboard class. Turning in a reflection paper is your statement that you have carefully read the book or reading. Papers should be in **MLA format**.

Due Weeks 3, 4, 6, 7, 8. (40% total)

Assignment 3: Genogram

You will submit a genogram tracing the history of your family back three (3) generations. A one-page summary of interesting facts learned should be included. One excellent tool that can be used without cost is Genopro. You can get to it by going to <http://www.genopro.com>. Your Genogram must go back to your grandparents. Their siblings must be listed, but the spouses of your grandparents' siblings do not need to be listed.

Due Week 5. (10 %)

Assignment 4: Summary of the “Four Myths of Marriage”

Write a one (1) page paper identifying and briefly explaining the four myths of marriage as described by the Parrott's and identify one you either have or would have a potential to believe and why.

Due Week 5. (5%)

Assignment 5: Creating a Family Budget

Go to http://www.crown.org/Tools/Calculators/Budgeting_SpendingPlan.asp and insert your present household income into the appropriate box. If you are not presently employed full time you may insert what you believe will be a reasonable monthly income. Observe how the budget guide suggests you spend your money.

Due Week 7. (5%)

Assignment 6: Family Ministry Research Paper

A research paper addressing a family ministry issue in line with your personal interest is required. The paper should not be too broad, but instead should go into greater depth on one subject. A minimum of five (5) sources in addition to the Bible should be used. Only one (1) source may be older than 10 years. The eight to ten (8-10) page paper (works cited page is in addition) should be in **MLA format**. **Due Week 8.** (20%)

Discussion Board Participation

You are expected to participate in the online discussions expressing opinions and commenting on the opinions of others in the class. You should post their initial response thread by midweek (Friday, 11:59pm CST) and read/respond to at least two students' initial response posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CST), unless otherwise stated by the instructor. (15%)

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Assignment 1: Integration Paper on Romans 12:2	5%
Assignment 2.1: Reflection Paper (2-page)	10%
Assignment 2.2: Reflection Paper (1-page)	5%
Assignment 2.3: Reflection Paper (1-page)	5%
Assignment 2.4: Reflection Paper (1-page)	5%
Assignment 2.5: Reflection Paper (1-page)	5%
Assignment 2.6: Reflection Paper (1-page)	5%
Assignment 2.7: Reflection Paper (1-page)	5%
Assignment 3: Genogram	10%
Assignment 4: Summary of the “Four Myths of Marriage”	5%
Assignment 5: Creating a Family Budget	5%
Assignment 6: Family Ministry Research Paper	20%
Discussion Board Participation	15%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at my.moody.edu. If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the database tutorial at <http://library.moody.edu>.

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or www.bible.org. These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at bible.org.

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U from a variety of institutions, some biblically sound and some not.

Course Policies

Late work will be penalized by 10% per day. Papers will not be accepted more than five days late. Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure will be considered in all written work. All written work should follow **MLA** rules.

Students are responsible for checking their email regularly throughout the course.

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Course Bibliography

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- Clark, Jerry. *I Gave Dating a Chance*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook, 2000. ISBN 1-57856-329-1.
- Harris, Joshua. *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1997. ISBN 1-57673-036-0.
- Janney, Rebecca Price. *Then Comes Marriage? A Cultural History of the American Family*. Chicago: Moody, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-8024-5494-2.
- Kinkade, Thomas and Nanette. *The Many Loves of Marriage*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2002. ISBN: 1-57673-953-8.
- Leahy, Michael. *Porn Nation: Conquering America's #1 Addiction*. Chicago: Northfield, 2008. ISBN: 10:0-8024-8125-6.
- Mason, Mike. *The Mystery of Marriage: Meditations on the Miracle*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2005. ISBN: 1-59052-374-1.
- Smalley, Gary and Trent, John. *The Gift of the Blessing*. Nashville: Nelson, 1993. ISBN 0-8407-4849-3.
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