

**McMaster University Divinity College**  
**Marriage and Family Counseling**  
**MS 3XM3**  
**G. Wade Rowatt, Ph.D.**  
**June 16-20, 2014**

**Course Description**

This course is designed to explore the Biblical/Theological basics, the research findings, and clinical issues for marriage and family therapy. Students examine the nature, function, and forms of marital covenants, intimacy, and transformations. Participants will consider a variety of approaches for marriage and family counseling, examine their own beliefs and practices in those areas, and reflect on cultural approaches to use in counseling others. Members will share in a variety of personal learning exercises and clinical experience for role-play during class.

**Specializations**

Pastoral Care and Counselling  
Pastoral Studies

**Course Objectives**

- A. To develop a Biblical and Theological Foundation for a perspective on marriage and the family and for marriage enrichment (Knowing)
- B. To learn and to evaluate theologically what research says about marriage and the family (Knowing)
- C. To experience marriage and family enrichment by clinically exploring personal relationships (Being)
- D. To develop attitudes and skills for leading marriage enrichment and family growth seminars in a church context. (Doing)

**Course Requirements**

- A. A three to five page review of Beam/Stinett **(Due June 20) 30%**
- B. A three to five page review of Gilbert, Concepts of Bowen **(Due July 7) 30%**
- C. A five to ten page research project on some aspect of Marriage and Family, Family Process, or Family Ministry **(Due July 15) 30% Topic due June 18**
- D. A personal genogram (1page) for three or four generations reflecting the Gerson, McGoldrick and Petry book. **(Due July 22) 10%**

### **Course Textbooks**

Beam, Joe and Nick Stinett, Fantastic Families. 2008.

Gilbert, Roberta M., The Eight Concepts of Bowen Family Therapy (2006)

Gerson, Randy, Monica McGoldrick and Sueli Petry. Genograms: Assessment and Intervention, WW Norton, New York, NY, 2008.

### **Suggested Reading**

Egan, G. The Skilled Helper. Monterey, California: Brooks/Cole Publishing Co., 2001

Embelton, Gary, David Axten, Viveen Blandford, and Lesley Lavercombe. Freeing Ourselves from Our Family of Origin. London: Jason Aronson Inc., 1996.

Oates, Wayne E. Behind the Mask. Westminster/John Knox, 1994.

Rowatt, Mary Jo and Wade Rowatt. The Two-Career Marriage, Westminster/John Knox

Stinett, Nick. Fantastic Families: Six Proven Steps to Building a Stronger Family, 1999

### **Possible Research Topics**

The Bible and Marriage

The Bible and Divorce

A Theology of Marriage

A Theology of Remarriage

The Childless Couple

Two-Career Couples

Co-Habiting Couples

Cross Cultural Marriage

Step-families

Grieving Families

Family Worship

Family Life Education Programs

Preparation for Marriage

The Life Cycle and Marriage

Living Single in a Couples World.

Partners in Marriage

Legal Issues and Marriage

Social Media and Family Life

Sex-education and Family Life

Medical Issues and Family Life

Living Wills

Families and Hospice Care

Mental Illness and the Family

Other Issues as negotiated with the Professor

## Course Policies

### A. Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5K1: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

### B. Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>.

### C. Gender Inclusive Language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Late assignments will lose 1% per day (including weekends). **No assignments will be accepted after the cut-off day of July 18.**

There are no course extensions unless they have been improved by the Registrar's Office: [thomn@mcmaster.ca](mailto:thomn@mcmaster.ca)

## Class Schedule

June 16      Introductions, Expectations, Requirements, and Introduction to Family Study  
The Bible and the Family: Love, Marriage, Divorce, Sex, Children  
Genograms and Family Counselling  
Family group meeting: Introducing our Parents

- June 17      The Church and the Family (Marriage, Parenting, Children, and Aging)  
 Early Church and Contemporary Church;  
 Elements of Strong Families: Commitments and Change,  
 Communication and Conflict, Faith and Affirmation (Time, Touch, Praise,  
 Gifts, and Service)  
 Family Group sharing of Strengths
- June 18      Marriage Enrichment and Family Life Education (Research Topic Due)  
 Pre Marriage Education and Counselling  
 Counselling with Parents and Children  
 Family Group meeting  
 Family group sharing of Research Topics
- June 19      Counselling Estranged Couples  
 Counselling with Divorcing Persons  
 Special Issues: Aging Parents, Step-Families,  
 One-Parent Families, etc.  
 Family group Personal Genograms
- June 20      You and Your Family (Beam/Stinett Book Review Due)  
 Final group meeting and growth goals  
 Evaluations of this class

### **Selected Bibliography**

- Beam, Joe and Nick Stinett, Fantastic Families. 2008.
- Clinebell, H. and Sister Bridget Clare McKeever. Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.
- Embelton, Gary, David Axten, Viveen Blandford, and Lesley Lavercombe. Freeing Ourselves from Our Family of Origin. London: Jason Aronson Inc., 1996.
- Egan, G. The Skilled Helper. Monterey, California: Brooks/Cole Publishing Co., 2001
- Flaskas, Carmel and Imelda McCarthy. Hope and Despair in Narrative and Family Therapy, 2007.
- Garland, Diana S. Richmond, and Diane L. Pancoast. The Church's Ministry With Families. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1990.
- Garland, Diana S. Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide. 1999.
- Hall, Lynn K. Counseling Military Families, 2008.
- Hennon, Charles and Stephan M. Wilson. (eds) Families in a Global Context, 2008.

Oates, Wayne E. Behind the Mask. Westminster/John Knox, 1994.

Oates Wayne E. Wade Rowatt, Before You Marry Them: A Premarital Guidebook for Pastors, 1975.

Ondera, Jill Duba. (ed) The Role of Religion in Marriage and Family Counseling, 2007

Review and Expositor, Ministering with Ministers and their Families, 2001.

Rivett, Mark and Eddy Street. Family Therapy: 100 Key Points and Techniques, 2009

Rowatt, Mary Jo and Wade Rowatt. The Two-Career Marriage, Westminster/John Knox

Westberg, Granger, Good Grief, 1965.

Wolfelt, Alan D. Death and Grief: A Guide for Clergy, 1988.

Worden, William J. Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy, 1992.

**Contact Information**

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Disclaimer

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