

LONG BEACH CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, MTI
(Nondenominational School of Ministry)
COURSE SYLLABUS:
THEORIES OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING – COU 406
(GRAD ONLY)
Spring 2026| SEVEN-WEEK Course | March 3, 2026 – April 14, 2026

Professor: Dr. Mildred Oates
Class: Tuesdays, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Meeting Type: LAB/LECT (Laboratory/Lecture)

All Zoom Classes:

- Zoom link will be emailed to registered students

Required Text (s):

Title: Marriage and Family Counseling: Through Faith and Psychology
Author: Pablo Román Caballero
ISBN: 9798399320212

Title: The Holy Bible

Recommended Text:

Virtual Lecture Class Format: This class is designed for students with access to a computer and the internet. The course is a virtual (Zoom) classroom format. In this online teaching and learning environment, teachers and students can present and view course materials, lessons, and engage and interact with one another. Each class will consist of prayer, lectures, readings, presentations, and possibly guest speakers.

Course Description:

THEORIES OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING – COU- 406
(3-Units, 7-Week Intensive Format, GRAD ONLY)

Effective Biblical teaching concerning roles within the family, with direction being given on how to counsel. Review of family therapy literature.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing, permission of the academic dean, and fits into the educational path to stay on track with the student's major.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify the **foundations of Marriage and Family Counseling**
2. Integrating **biblical theology, relational psychology, and counseling theories**.
3. Explore how forgiveness, attachment, emotional maturity, and spiritual formation shape healthy marriages and families.
4. Emphasize **pastoral application, family systems, and redemptive counseling practices** within ministry settings.

Course Requirements:

- Readings: Must read the required text.

- Reflections: Reflection papers are required each week on the topic specified in the WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT section of this syllabus. These papers are to be 1-2 pages, typed, and double-spaced. Reflection papers are to be emailed to the professor before each class.
- Final Project: Must write a Family Counseling Plan to include a Biblical foundation, theory, and pastoral application. It must be at least 5-7 pages, excluding the cover sheet and the bibliography. The APA writing style is to be used to format quotations and bibliography. The paper must be double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.

Weekly Assignments/Lectures

Week 1 – Foundations & Family Systems

Assignment: Write a reflection paper on Why family patterns matter in pastoral counseling.

Week 2 – Forgiveness, Unity & Multigenerational Patterns

Assignment: Write a Case study: Family conflict and forgiveness strategies.

Week 3 – The Stages of Marriage & Family Development

Assignment: Write a reflection paper: Marriage life-cycle timeline (hypothetical or real case).

Week 4 – Attachment Theory & Emotional Bonding

Assignment: Write a reflection paper: Attachment style, self-assessment + reflection.

Week 5 – Spiritual & Adult Attachment

Assignment: Write a reflection paper: Theology and Adult Attachment in Marriage.

Week 6 – Family Therapy Models & Emotional Maturity

Assignment: Write a reflection Paper: Genogram or Emotional Maturity Assessment.

Week 7 – Speaking Blessings, Identity & Restoration (Final Project Due Before Class)

Write a Family Counseling Plan using Biblical foundation, theory, and pastoral application. Based on your required reading from the TEXT for Week 7, integrate information also from the Topics, Theories, Biblical Integration and Ministry Focus.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to assignments, lectures, or the course schedule as he/she sees fit.

FINAL: Due April 14, 2026*

Last Day of Class: April 14, 2026

Student Honesty | Plagiarism Statement: Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is seen as a shameful act and is not acceptable at LBBC. Each member of the academic community

must do their own work. In essence, be careful when using another writer or speaker's material (work). Give credit!

Attendance: Regular attendance is required and necessary to achieve success in this class. Students are expected to arrive at 7:00 pm and stay until the end of class. Each student is responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any attendance matters.

Refunds and Withdrawals: Refunds to students will be determined by the date the Notice of Withdrawal is processed through the website.

Withdrawal Policy

- The deadline for withdrawing from classes is at the end of the first week of the class.
- Failure to give a prompt withdrawal request can result in an 'Incomplete' grade on the transcript.
- Failure to give the required Notice of Withdrawal through the website before the deadline will result in the student staying **academically and financially responsible for the class.**

Refund Policy

- 100% refund for payments made before or during week one (1) of Class.
 - 0% refund - for payments made during and beyond week two (2) of class.
- NOTE:** Students who drop a class after the second week will be charged full tuition for the class.
- Students may seek approval to transfer a percentage of paid tuition to a class they will take the following semester, but approval is not guaranteed.

Expectations:

1. Students must perform college-level work.
2. Work must contain the student's name, date, and be submitted on time.
3. You must include your enrollment name in the Subject of your emails and on your work.
4. Read the required text as assigned—come prepared for class.
5. Bring the appropriate class materials, respect fellow students, and refrain from bringing food or drink to virtual class sessions (bottled water is okay).
6. You may be asked to speak (impromptu).
7. Have a well-lighted and quiet setting with the **CAMERA ON** for "Remote/Virtual" class.

Grading will be based on the following:

Class Attendance/Participation: 10%
Homework/Reading Assignments: 15%
Oral Presentations 20%
Reflection Papers: 25%
Final Project* 30%

***Final exam/assignments must be completed outside of the 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. instructional time.**

WELCOME LBCC SCHOLARS!