

Marriage and Family Therapy



Faculty Contact

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Please contact me if you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course or your overall learning and ministry goals.

Adjunct Faculty Lessons by Dr. Jerry Martin

Dr. Jerry L. Martin Dean of the School of Human Services at Amridge University, in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Martin earned a PhD degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Amridge University and also holds a M.S. in Counseling and a B.A. in Bible. He is a graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching.

Dr. Martin is a Licensed Professional Counselor. He is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors, a professional member of the American Counseling Association and an associate member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

Dr Martin and his wife, Denise, have been married for 51 years. They are the parents of four children and the grandparents of eleven.

Course Description

An examination of the preparation for marriage, living with God in marriage relationship, responsibilities of men and women, and problems of marriage. Consideration given to parenting skills. Special emphasis is placed on the Biblical basis for marriage, mate selection, ways that a couple can sustain a life-long marriage relationship, and ways that the church can contribute to meaningful family life.

Course Objectives

• **Objective 01 – The Biblical principles for marriage.**

Students will be able to identify and articulate Bible teaching on mate selection, marriage, divorce and remarriage. The student will understand mate selection and the changing roles of men and women and problems of marriage.

• **Objective 02 – The Biblical principles for the roles of men and women in the marital relationship.**

Students will be able to identify and articulate Bible teaching on the roles and responsibilities of men and women and their function in marriage.

• **Objective 03 – The Bible basis for effective parenting and meaningful family life.**

Students will be able to identify and articulate Bible teaching on parenting and problem solving.

• **Objective 04 – The Church’s role in teaching and supporting the biblical principles of meaningful family life.**

Students will be able to identify what the church can do to provide teaching, mentoring, and resources that produce and sustain strong families.

Methodology

This course of study will be primarily taught by lecture/discussion, demonstrations, homework assignments, and power point presentations.

Readings/Text

Primary Source

Bible

Faculty Assigned Resources

Jerry L. Martin’s Marriage Counseling Material (Five weekly lessons)

Secondary Resources

While secondary sources may have some value in understanding Scripture they are not necessarily in harmony with God’s Word. You are encouraged to read all secondary sources critically with discernment examining everything carefully in light of Scripture as the Bereans did:

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Tim Clinton and John Trent *The Quick-Reference Guide to Marriage & Family Counseling*

Gary Chapman. *The Five Love Languages*.

Stephen R. Covey, *7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*.

Willard F. Harley Jr. *His Needs Her Needs*.

Gary Thomas, *Sacred Marriage: What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than To Make Us Happy?*

Everett L Worthington Jr, *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling: A Guide to Brief Therapy*.

See further resources in Christian Education Syllabus.

Reading & Assignment Schedule

	Subject	Text, Assignments, etc.
Lesson 1	Marriage Counseling: The Individual	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson at the same time every day.
Lesson 2	Marriage Counseling: Giving Birth to a Relationship	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson at the same time every day.
Lesson 3	Marriage Counseling: Assuming the Proper Roles – Husband	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson at the same time every day.
Lesson 4	Marriage Counseling: Assuming the Proper Roles - Wife	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson at the same time every day.
Lesson 5	Marriage Counseling: Pillars of a Godly Home	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson at the same time every day.
Lesson 6	Marriage Counseling: Problem Solving	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson
Lesson 7	Marriage Counseling: Communication	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson
Lesson 8	Marriage Counseling: Budgeting	Required 15-minute daily reading of the assigned lesson

Course Assignments

1. Daily devotional commitment of at least 15 minutes at the same time every day using the assigned class material.
2. Seminar discussions.
3. Book Review.
4. Research paper on marriage and family relationships grounded in an exegesis, exposition and application of Ephesians 5:15–6:4.