

Marriage and Family Counseling

WESTERN REFORMED SEMINARY

Rev. Kevin Backus, S.T.M., Ph.D.

(Dr. Backus is a Board Member and Fellow of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors, formerly NANC)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The sufficiency of Scripture in counseling; the importance of the Christian home as understood from a covenantal perspective; courtship vs. dating; pre-marital and marital counseling guidelines; divorce issues and rebuilding a marriage after adultery.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Understand the importance of and a commitment to pre-marital counseling.

Understand the implications of the covenantal nature of marriage to the practice of marriage and family counseling.

DATES AND TIMES

January 9-15, 2020 (exclusive of weekend sessions)
9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. with a 90-minute lunch break

COST

Credit: \$735 for 3 credit hours

Audit: \$390 for 3 audit hours

Pastors (first time at WRS) may audit for free or take for credit at a reduced rate.

ASSIGNMENTS (Credit Students Only)

There are three text books that need to be read before the course begins. An interactive paper of books 1 & 2 (two to three typed pages, double spaced) will be **submitted electronically** by the first day of class; late submissions may not be accepted. Interactive papers on books 1 & 2 are to be your personal interaction with these assignments and the benefit you received, as well as how you see them being used in your life/ ministry in the future. Be sure to review the books in the light of biblical theology and your personal experience. Email your papers to backus@wrs.edu.

The third text is a workbook for pre-marital counseling. Write out a brief paraphrase for each of the Scripture proofs used in the exercises of this workbook by **the first class**. Record these notes in the space provided in the book. You only need to record enough to remind you of what the verse says.

The fourth and fifth texts simply should be read.

- 1) Adams, Jay. *Christian Living in the Home*
- 2) Scipione, George. *The Sword and Shovel: A Theology of Family Life*
- 3) Mack, Wayne. *Preparing for Marriage God's Way*
- 4) Backus, Sharon. *Running the Christian Race*

5) Backus, Sharon. *Molding the Clay*

EXAM

For students taking the course for credit, there will be final exam one week after the end of the course.

GRADING

Grading will be based upon

- Class participation
- Readings and text reports
- Final Exam