

#3113 Theology of the Family
Western Reformed Seminary (<http://wrs.edu>)
John A. Battle, Th.D.
Spring, 2013

COURSE INFORMATION

Course goals

This elective course will examine the biblical teaching on the family, including relations within the family compared to relations within the Trinity, individual roles and duties in the family, marriage and divorce, parents and children, extended families, the family in society, the family's relation to the church, and the biblical response to modern challenges to marriage and the family. You will read and study Reformed writings on these subjects, inductively study the Bible's teachings in these areas, making brief written and oral reports to the class; construct outlines for counseling in these areas; and conduct detailed research in one of these areas, with a class presentation showing your conclusions. There are no examinations in this course.

Weekly assignment

Each week spend at least 90 minutes studying the topic for the following week's class. Fill out and submit the form showing what you did.

Bible presentations assignment

During the semester you will orally report to the class two times. Each time you will show several Bible passages that you think most clearly deal with the topic for that class. Summarize what these Bible passages, taken together, teach concerning that topic. The oral report should last about 15-20 minutes.

Reading assignment

Select a book related to this course. Obtain approval for the book from the instructor. Read the book and write a one-page summarizing the content of the book and giving your evaluation of the book.

Grading

- Attendance and participation 10%

- Weekly assignments 45%
- Reading assignment 15%
- Bible presentation #1 15%
- Bible presentation #2 15%

Class topics

Topic Number	Topic
1	Introduction – Theology of the Family Personal relation in the Trinity Creation of humans; distinction from animals Male and female Institution of marriage and family
2	Survey of family ethics Source of family law Natural and revealed family law Family's relation to church and state
3	Family roles Importance versus role Survey of roles
4	Marriage: Institution of Marriage Purposes of marriage Illustration of Christ and the church Singleness
5	Child bearing Adoption Childlessness
6	5 th Commandment (Part 1) Duties of husbands and wives
7	5 th Commandment (Part 2) Duties of parents and children
8	5 th Commandment (Part 3) Duties of siblings Duties regarding extended family

9	Polygamy
10	Divorce Just grounds of divorce Remarriage Blended families
11	Homosexuality
12	Living in a family Ministering to families

Class schedule

Jan.	30	Topic 1
Feb.	6	Topic 2
	13	Topic 3; Reading assignment book approved
	20	Topic 4
	27	Topic 5
Mar.	6	Topic 6 (First oral report due by this time)
	13	Topic 7
	20	Topic 8 (Midterm exams)
	27	(no class)
Apr.	3	(Spring recess; no class)
	10	Topic 9
	17	(GW Presbytery; no class)
	24	Topic 10
May	1	Topic 11; Book report due
	8	Topic 12 (Second oral report due by this time)
	15	(Extra class if needed; Final exams)