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PC 610 Pastor and Marriage

Burrell D. Dinkins

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PC610: Pastor and Marriage
Dr. Burrell Dinkins
Mrs. Phyllis Dinkins

Spring 2002
Fri. 6-8:40pm (2/8, 3/8, 4/5, 5/3) & Sat. 9am-3:40pm (2/9, 3/9, 4/6, 5/4)

I. Course Description

The Pastor and Marriage (PC610) class is designed as a combined educational and enrichment experience for married seminary students and their spouses. The primary focus is on the student’s own marriage. Issues related to preaching, teaching, marriage preparation, weddings and counseling will provide a foundation for ministry with engaged couples.

II. General Goals

1. To encourage and help seminarians to seek growth and enrichment in their own marriage.
2. To prepare students and their spouses for ministry.
3. To help participants learn skills for negotiating change.
4. To focus attention upon the importance of a theology of marriage.
5. To develop specific plans for educational and marriage enrichment opportunities.
6. To provide models for pre-marital and marriage counseling.

III. Leaders Assumptions

- Marriage was created by God
- Married couples are co-creators with God in the development of a Christian marriage.
- There are biblical principles and guidelines for marriage, but each partner is responsible for the way these are applied to the marriage.
- Personal gifts of each spouse are more important than cultural role expectations.
- There are many models of marriage and no two marriages are exactly alike.
- Couples are their own experts in regard to what is suitable for their marriage.
- Marriages go through considerable change over the life span of the marriage.
- Marriages can become more satisfactory through additional information and support.
- Couples can be in full-time ministry and have a healthy, happy marriage.

Prerequisites for PC610
This course is limited to married students who enroll for course credit. Spouses of students must enroll for course audit. Attendance at each session and class participation is expected of each spouse.
IV. Class Assignments

1. Term Paper: A ten-twelve page paper titled: My Theology of Marriage will be submitted Friday, April 6 and discussed in class May 3. This paper will include a biblical foundation and a theological method of understanding marriage from a Christian perspective. The purpose of the covenant of marriage and the issue of divorce should be considered by the writer of the paper.

2. Notebook Project: Design a complete program of marriage enrichment retreat with all the details of the target group, objectives, place, use of time, content, resources, cost, and follow-up. The project is due May 3.

3. Couples Financial and Legal Project: Design a family financial stewardship, management and communication plan. Fill out a basic will, a Living Will Directive and a list of financial and legal documents. This project will be due May 3.


5. Devotional: Two couples will work together to give a devotional at each class session.

6. Refreshments: Teams of two – three couples will provide refreshments for class breaks.

V. Reading Assignments

A. Assigned Texts & Videos

Goleman, Daniel. Emotional Intelligence
Gottman, John. Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work
Hunt, Richard; Hoff, Larry and DeMaria, Rita. Marriage Enrichment
Markman, Howard; Stanley, Scott & Blumberg Susan. Fighting for Your Marriage
(4 video tapes that will be shared by classmates)

B. Collateral Reading

Bilbert, Barbara. Who Ministers to Ministers
Hof, Larry and Miller, William. Marriage Enrichment
Penner, Clifford and Joyce. The Gift of Sex

C. Selected Readings
Students may select books about marriage that are of interest and have the approval of the instructors for course reading credit.

VI. Exams & Grades

A. Exams: The couple’s marriage enrichment retreat notebook will serve as the final exam.

B. Grades: Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theology of Marriage Term Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notebook Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Report (over 1000 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and Legal Documents</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: A late paper will automatically be given a letter grade lower than the value assigned to the paper.)

VII. Office Hours & Contact Information

The instructors are available to assist students with the course assignments. No office hours will be posted but time will be made available upon request. Office telephone: 407-482-7652. E-mail address: burrell_dinkins@asburyseminary.edu. Home telephone: 407-977-3948. (No calls except for emergencies after 9:30pm)

The Instructors reserve the right to change the assignments and dates.
VIII. Dates, Times, & Description of Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fri. Feb. 8 | 6:00 – 8:40pm | Introduction & development of a group covenant
Syllabus & course requirements  
Marriage enrichment exercise  |
| Sat. Feb. 9 | 9:00 – 11:40am| Marriage Communication Skills
Creating a Vision for Marriage |
|             | 1:00 – 3:40pm | Caring for a Marriage
Negotiating Change: Stages of Marriage |
| Fri. Mar. 8 | 6:00 – 8:40pm | Dealing with the Four Big C’s
Developing Marital Emotional Intelligence |
| Sat. Mar. 9 | 9:00 – 11:40am| Making a Covenant for Marriage
Marriage and Ministry |
|             | 1:00 – 3:40pm | Stewardship of Marriage
Marriage Enrichment |
| Fri. April 5| 6:00 – 8:40pm | Developing Intimacy in Marriage
The Four H’s of Marriage |
| Sat. April 6| 9:00 – 11:40am| Premarital Counseling and Weddings
Marriage Counseling
Role of the Spouse |
|             | 12:00 – 3:40pm| Pot Luck Lunch at Dinkins’ Home
Group Work: What wives and husbands want from their spouse |
| Fri. May 3  | 6:00 – 8:40pm | Developing a Theology of Marriage
Discussion of Term Papers |
| Sat. May 4  | 9:00 – 11:40am| Enrichment Programs for Families & Couples
Practice of Spirituality in the Home |
|             | 1:00 – 3:40pm | Love is More than Romance
Communion Service |