



CANADIAN BAPTIST SEMINARY
MB SEMINARY
NORTHWEST BAPTIST SEMINARY
TRINITY WESTERN SEMINARY



**ASSOCIATED CANADIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS
OF TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY**

Graduate Course Syllabus

Course Number: MFT 670

Course Name: Marriage and Family Therapy II

Semester and Year: Spring 2023

Instructor: Estera Boldut

Contact Information: Estera.Boldut@twu.ca , cell: 778-772-0671

Office Hours: by appointment - Tuesdays 11am to 2pm, Wed. 9am to 12pm

Class time: Tuesdays from 2:30-5:10PM

Class Dates: January 10- April 11

Co-requisites or Pre-requisites: MFT 582: Theories of Counselling and MFT 553: Advanced Skills, MFT 660: Marriage and Family Therapy. Or by special permission.

Semester Hours: 3

Zoom Link <https://twu.zoom.us/j/95819537570>

Course Description

As an advanced course in Marital and Family Therapy, MFT670 will focus on the systemic issues and treatment of couples and families addressing essential topics like divorce, remarriage, step family and blended family issues, severe illness and death, sexuality and intimacy as well as violence and sexual abuse. Issues that are related to diversity and power and privilege as they relate to the areas of age, gender, sexual identity, health/ability, culture, SES, spirituality, and ethnicity will also be addressed.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize contextual and systemic dynamics (e.g., gender, age, socioeconomic status, culture/race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, spirituality, religion, larger systems, social context) to issues in developmental and situational crisis in the family.
2. Develop competency in a variety of individual and systemic therapeutic models and their application, including evidence-based therapies and culturally sensitive approaches as they apply to the following topics in Marriage and Family therapy.
 - a. Divorce and Remarriage (The Story of Us)

- b. Step-family and Blended families (Step Mom)
- c. Severe Illness, Death and Bereavement (Up)
- d. Family Violence
- e. Sexual Abuse
- f. Infidelity and Pornography
- g. Sexual Dysfunction and Therapy

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

1. Assess for gender and power imbalances in family relations.
2. Screen and develop adequate safety plans for child and elder maltreatment, couple violence, physical violence, suicide potential, and danger to self and others.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of legal child protective practices
4. Describe treatment modalities for adult survivors of family violence
5. Demonstrate ability to assess sexual history and relational stresses.
6. Differentiate and diagram the typical sexual response cycle for men and women
7. Describe three typical sexual disturbances for each, female and male, and responding clinical interventions.
8. Identify the impact of separation and divorce on family members and resulting therapeutic issues.
9. Delineate loss, potential conflict and readjustment issues for blended families.
10. Describe the cycles of death and bereavement within the family context.
11. Assess for the impact of severe physical and mental illness on relationships within the family.
12. Describe the different etiology for infidelity and demonstrate their respective treatments.
13. Demonstrate unique treatment modalities for specific topics.
14. Demonstrate the ability to effectively research a topic
15. Demonstrate the ability to use multimedia: including powerpoint to communicate concepts.
16. Demonstrate abilities to delineate knowledge to a clinical audience through effective presentation.

Required Texts and Materials

Sellers, T.S. (2017). *God, Sex and the Conservative Church: Erasing Shame from Sexual Intimacy*. Routledge, New York, NY.

Other assigned and recommended readings/lectures will be posted on Moodle.

Course Activities/Requirements

Attendance and participation is expected in all classes

All readings are expected to be done before class.

Course Evaluation

1. **Research Paper:** Students can pick one of five topics (Divorce and Remarriage; Step-family and Blended Families; Severe Illness; Death and Bereavement; Sexual Abuse; or Pornography and

Infidelity) with permission of the instructor. Though the instructor will do their best to accommodate student preferences, the topics will be distributed among the students. The five topics will be chosen in the first class. Paper is due at the beginning of the class on your presentation day except for those who will present the first 3 topics. Students who present first can hand in their paper a week later. All assignments should be posted on Moodle.

Paper should include if applicable:

- a. Etiology: prevalence causes, etc.
- b. Assessment (if applicable)
- c. Treatment considerations including cultural issues, gender issues and contraindications for treatment.
- d. Standards of treatment from both an individual and systemic perspective.
- e. The relevant Learning Outcomes outlined above.

It is understood that different aspects of the above will be treated differently depending on the topic chosen.

The paper should be between 15 and 20 pages using the APA format (no more than 20, no less than 15 excluding cover page and references). A minimum of 10 references required. (40 marks)

2. **Presentation:** Students will present their paper topics in class. If more than one student is presenting on a particular topic, students will need to coordinate their presentations. In the role of guest lecturer, each student will be considered the expert on his/her topic. It is expected that students will have thoroughly researched their topics and will present them to class in a format conducive to learning. Papers and presentations must achieve the relevant outcomes stated above (Outcomes 14-16). Grading will reflect the usefulness of the presentation to student learning and application to client issues. Use of video clips, power point and other media will enhance your presentation. Please prepare a handout for students with room for written notes or send to the participants by email a few days before. Send the instructor handouts in time to be posted on Moodle. (10 marks) (Outcome 14)
3. **Blog/Vlog post on Spirituality and MFT**
 - Details in class
4. **Take Home Exam** will consist of 2 parts: Due first week after reading break (30 marks)
 - a. The first part is a multiple-choice exam consisting of 10 questions (1 point/question. It also includes 2 short answer questions. (2 points/question) (Outcomes 1-4, 8-13).
 - b. The second part will focus on a client case. Emphasis will be on sexual dysfunction and therapy, although the student must assess whether there are other factors exacerbating the presenting issues. (10 points) (Outcomes 5,6,7)
5. Feedback on the exam will be available one week after the exam is submitted.

Grading:

Research paper 40%

Class presentation 10%

Take home exam 30%

Blog post 20%

Grading System

Letter Grade Percentage Grade Point

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.3
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7

Course Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND AVOIDING PLAGIARISM AT TWU

One of the core values of Trinity Western University is the integration of academic excellence with high standards of personal, moral, and spiritual integrity. The University considers it a serious offence when an individual attempts to gain unearned academic credit. It is the student's responsibility to be informed about what constitutes academic misconduct. For details on this, and on identifying and avoiding plagiarism go to the [University Homepage > Academics > Academic Calendar](#) (p. 47).

<https://prezi.com/od62fxnkbmxh/plagiarism-how-to-get-it-out-of-your-life/> (Prezi presentation)

<http://bit.ly/1p00KX3> (Google Slide presentation offering more comprehensive information)

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students with a disability who need assistance are encouraged to contact the Equity of Access Office upon admission to TWU to discuss their specific needs. All disabilities must be recently documented by an appropriately certified professional and include the educational impact of the disability along with recommended accommodations. Within the first two weeks of the semester, students must meet with their professors to agree on accommodations appropriate to each class. Students should follow the steps detailed by the Equity of Access Office on their website at: <http://www.twu.ca/student-life/student-success/disabilities-and-equity-access>.

HOSPITALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

TWU is committed to an ethic of inclusion centered on the principles of Christian hospitality, reciprocity and reconciliation. We seek to cultivate generous learning spaces that are based on respect for differences and are open to diverse views, opinions, and identities that are thoughtfully expressed in a collegial manner. We welcome and value all voices, including those from under- represented groups or those who have been marginalized.

The following policies are optional but recommended, to allow you to efficiently respond to student challenges to the syllabus. *Click on these fields and press delete if you do not wish to use them:*

CAMPUS CLOSURE AND CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of extreme weather conditions or other emergency situations go to the <https://www.twu.ca/campus-notification>.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Click here and type or use the following excerpt from the *Academic Calendar* below

“A student who is absent from a final examination without an acceptable excuse will be assigned a zero for that examination. Absence due to illness must be supported by a medical certificate indicating the nature of the illness. If an examination is missed for any reason, including illness, the student must notify the faculty member prior to the examination and the Office of the Registrar within 48 hours of the missed examination, giving written documentation explaining the absence.” [2019-20 Academic Calendar](#)

LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

All assignments are due one week after the last day of class. If you need an extension, you need to ask via email, explaining the reason for extension. If there is no request for extension, there will be a 5% deduction/day, after 10 days I will not accept your assignments.

PROGRAM GRADE SUBMISSION POLICY

I will submit your grades by April 31. If you need the grade earlier, please email me.