

ETHIC 4303 A—The Christian Home
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall 2014 (T-Th 8:30–9:45)
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I. Course Description

A study of the biblical and theological foundations of the Christian home. Students will be equipped to apply sound moral standards in their relationships at home and to build strong families.

II. Course Objectives

- A. A student who completes this course should be able to articulate the biblical and theological norms that apply to marriage and family life.
- B. A student who completes this course should be able to identify the sources of moral erosion in contemporary society that are impacting marriage and family life.
- C. A student who completes this course should be able to engage contemporary culture on issues related to marriage and the family with the goal of transforming culture from an informed biblical perspective.

III. Required Texts

Harvey, Dave. *When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage*. Wapwallopen: Shepherd, 2007.

Jones, David W. "The Betrothal View of Divorce and Remarriage." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 165 (2008): 68–85. (Available on Blackboard)

Köstenberger, Andreas J., with David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.

Lenow, Evan. "The Challenge of Homosexuality for Gender Roles." *The Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* 17 (Fall 2012): 28–35. (Available on Blackboard).

Southwestern Journal of Theology 49:1 (Fall 2006). (Articles posted on Blackboard)

Strauch, Alexander. *Men and Women Equal Yet Different*. Littleton: Lewis & Roth, 1999.

Select one of the following texts or conference:

Danylak, Barry. *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.

Tripp, Tedd. *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. 2nd ed. Wapwallopen: Shepherd, 2005.

IV. Electronic Equipment

- A. Computers, Tablets, iPads—Computers, tablets, and iPads are allowed in class for academic purposes only. Surfing the internet, playing games, checking email, and other non-class-related activities on a computer are not allowed. Anyone caught using a computer during class time for a non-class-related activity may forfeit the privilege to bring a computer to class for the rest of the semester.
- B. iPod, MP3 Players, and Other Handheld Devices—iPods, MP3 players, and other handheld electronic devices are not permitted during class. Please turn them off prior to the beginning of class.
- C. Cell Phones—All cell phones must be turned off or turned to silent mode prior to the beginning of class. If you are expecting an emergency phone call that requires you to have a cell phone on, please place that phone in vibrate-only mode and sit close to an exit door. If you must answer an emergency call during class, please do not begin talking until after you have exited the classroom. Cell phone calls are a distraction to your fellow students and the professor.
- D. Text-Messaging—Text-messaging will not be allowed during class.
- E. Recording Equipment—Recording devices may be permitted at the professor's discretion. Please request permission from the professor prior to using recording equipment in class.

V. Course Requirements

- A. Attendance—Responsible Christian conduct should encourage students to be faithful in class attendance. Negligence in class attendance inevitably will have a negative effect upon a student's grade and it will discourage the professor from showing grace in a time of need. The seminary catalog states, "Students are expected to attend all meetings of all classes in which they are enrolled. A student's grade may be penalized for absences. Students absent from more than 20% of the class sessions will not receive credit for the course. During the fall and spring semesters this means that students missing more than . . . six (75-minute) class meetings of a three-hour class will not receive credit for the course." While the professor may not "take attendance" or "call the roll," the seminary's attendance policy is in effect; therefore, students are strongly encouraged to attend all class sessions.
- B. Cultural Awareness Articles—Each student should locate three current news articles online that describe an event, controversy, legal case, or issue that relates to the course content. The articles should be published during the semester and

not older than the beginning of the semester. In the discussion board Cultural Awareness Articles, create a thread with your name as the title. Post the title of the article and a link to the article on the internet in your post. You may add all three articles at one time or edit your post to add articles throughout the semester. Make sure that all articles are from reputable news sources. All articles are due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec 2.

- C. Exams—This course includes a mid-term and a final exam. The exams will include objective questions (e.g., multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, listing) and subjective essay questions. Unless otherwise indicated, the exams will cover material from the class lectures, discussions, handouts, and reading. In your exam preparation, please do not make the mistake of focusing solely on materials presented in class lectures. Reading the required texts will also be pertinent to exam preparation.

The mid-term exam will be offered on Blackboard to be taken between 10:00 a.m. on Oct 9 and 11:59 p.m. on Oct 18. The exam is closed-book/closed-notes and has a 2 hour time limit.

The final exam will also be offered on Blackboard to be taken between 10:00 a.m. on Dec 2 and 11:59 p.m. on Dec 10. The exam is closed-book/closed-notes and has a 2 hour time limit.

- D. Book Discussion Boards— Each student will complete discussion board assignments related to two of the assigned books, *When Sinners Say “I Do”* and his/her choice of *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*, or *Redeeming Singleness*. Each discussion board assignment will consist of an original post and three replies completed over a two-week period. During the first week of the assignment, each student will compose an original post of 350–500 words answering the question posted on the discussion board instructions. The original post will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday. During the second week, each student will then compose a reply to at least three other students’ original posts for a total of three replies. Each reply should be at least 100 words and will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday. The process will be repeated later in the semester for a different book.

Each discussion board assignment (original post and 3 replies combined) will be worth 100 points. There will be two sets of these assignments during the semester, resulting in two original posts and six replies. Please see the Discussion Board Assignment Instructions and Grading Rubric (available on Blackboard) for more details.

The book discussion board assignment due dates are listed in the Course Schedule section of the syllabus.

- E. Research Paper—An academic research paper will be required for completion of this course. All papers should address a topic pertinent to marriage, family, or

home. See “Guidelines for Research Paper” for further instructions. The paper is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Nov 15.

VI. Grading

A. Assignment Weight		B. Seminary Grading Scale			
Cultural Awareness Articles	5%	A+	98–100	C	73–77
Book Discussion Boards	20%	A	93–97	C-	70–72
Mid-Term Exam	25%	A-	90–92	D+	68–69
Final Exam	25%	B+	88–89	D	63–67
Research Paper	25%	B	83–87	D-	60–62
		B-	80–82	F	Below 60
		C+	78–79		

VII. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. When the professor concludes that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the student will receive the grade of zero for the assignment, and the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will be notified about the incident. The same actions apply to other acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating on examinations (see the Ethical Conduct section in the seminary's catalog).

VIII. Special Needs

Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the professor at the beginning of the semester in order for special arrangements to be considered.

IX. Syllabus

The professor has provided this syllabus as a written outline and summary for the convenience of the student. The professor may change the syllabus in writing or verbally for any reason at any time at his sole discretion. By remaining enrolled in the course, the student agrees to be bound by the syllabus and by any changes made by the professor.

X. Guidelines for Research Papers

- A. Students must write an academic research paper following the Southwestern Style Guide. Students should remember they are writing a term paper, not a thesis or dissertation. Papers must address an important moral or theological matter relating to marriage and/or family life.
- B. Analyze, criticize, and evaluate. Students should make their own judgments. Do not only report what others say. As a suggestion, parts of a well composed paper might include: (1) discussing the background and importance of a moral issue, (2)

criticizing responses with which you disagree, and (3) arguing and defending what you think is the right position based on Scripture.

- C. Papers must have at least 10 pages of text (they should at least get to the 10th page of text) and a maximum of 12 pages. A 5 point penalty will apply for every page short or long. Students should include a bibliography of works cited, but pages of bibliography will not count toward meeting the paper length requirement.
- D. Page numbering should start with the first page of text (i.e., the first page of text is page #1).
- E. Quotes and unique facts must be documented using footnotes.
- F. Papers should have at least 10 unique sources. There should be at least 4 book and 4 articles among those sources.
- G. Internet research is allowed, but first try tracking information to more reliable printed publications.
- H. Papers must be composed in Times New Roman using #12 font size. Pages of text must be double spaced.
- I. Students should be sure to make a backup for their files.
- J. Papers will be graded on the following criteria: clarity & style; grammar & format; scholarship & research; content & originality; organization & cohesion.
- K. Papers are due on or before 11:59 p.m., Saturday, Nov 15. Submit papers on Blackboard through the TurnItIn module. **Late papers will be penalized 10 points for each day late.**
- L. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is any use of 4 or more words in a row from another author without quotation marks. Students who plagiarize will fail the assignment and potentially the course. However, this only applies to intentional deception. It will not apply to honest errors or to matters of relative judgment.

XI. Common Courtesy

- A. Discussion is welcomed during the course of the semester. At times the professor may discontinue or forego discussion for the sake of staying on schedule or to move to another topic. Please show proper respect to your fellow students and professor by raising your hand or gaining the professor's attention prior to speaking in class.

- B. Please consider the content of what you want to say before expressing it in class. Some of the topics we cover in this course are sensitive. Therefore, please take extra care when asking questions or making comments about sensitive topics.
- C. When formulating a question or comment in your mind, carefully consider the wording. Considering the nature of some topics covered in this class, certain statements could be perceived as crude or inappropriate if worded poorly.

XII. Tentative Course Schedule

Week Number	Class Dates	Lecture Topic	Assignments
1	Aug 21	Syllabus, Course Introduction	None
2	Aug 26, 28	Worship & the Christian Home, Erosion of Marriage & Family in Culture	SWJT Moore article
3	Sep 2, 4	Biblical Foundations of Marriage	Köstenberger ch. 1–3
4	Sep 9, 11	Biblical Foundations of Marriage	Sinners Discussion Board Original Post due Sep 13
5	Sep 16, 18	Biblical Foundations of Marriage	Köstenberger ch. 4–6 Sinners Discussion Board Replies due Sep 20
6	Sep 23, 25	Divorce & Remarriage	Köstenberger ch. 11–12
7	Sep 30, Oct 2	No Class—Fall Break	
8	Oct 7, 9	Divorce & Remarriage	Jones article Mid-Term Exam available 10:00 a.m. on Oct 9
9	Oct 14, 16	Singleness	Köstenberger ch. 9 Mid-Term Exam due by 11:59 p.m. on Oct 18
10	Oct 21, 23	Gender Roles	Strauch ch. 1–3; JBMW Lenow article
11	Oct 28, 30	Gender Roles No Class Oct 28	Strauch ch. 4–6; SWJT White article Shepherding/Singleness Discussion Board Original Post due Nov 1
12	Nov 4, 6	Sexuality & Reproductive Issues	Köstenberger ch. 7–8; SWJT Yeats article Shepherding/Singleness

			Discussion Board Replies due Nov 8
13	Nov 11, 13	Sexuality & Reproductive Issues	Research Paper due by 11:59 p.m. on Nov 15
14	Nov 18, 20	Distorted Sexuality No Class Nov 20 (ETS)	Köstenberger ch. 10; SWJT Lenow article
15	Nov 25, 27	No Class—Thanksgiving Break	
16	Dec 2	Distorted Sexuality	Cultural Awareness Articles due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec 2
17	Dec 2– 10	Final Exam available 10:00 a.m. on Dec 2 and due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec 10	