



**PTH 617 Human Sexuality & Marriage  
Counseling  
SYLLABUS**

September 1-2, October 27-28,  
November 10-11

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an overview of the dynamics of human sexuality and marriage counseling including premarital counseling, psycho-sexual development, sexual identity development and common sexual issues that arise in the pastoral counseling process. Attention is given to a theology of sexuality and marriage as it relates to living out Christian values regarding sexuality in contemporary society from a Biblical worldview. The course will assist students to develop an approach to marriage counseling for a variety of adjustment and sexual issues that could present in pastoral context.

**EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Create appropriate intervention strategies to facilitate marriage preparation and the promotion of healthy marital relationships in a community setting
2. Articulate the difference between a biblical perspective of “authentic sexuality” and perspectives that are based on evolutionary, psychological and sociological theories
3. Articulate an understanding of the development of gender roles, sexual motivations, and variations in sexual behavior throughout the development life-cycle
4. Discriminate between the most common sexual disorders and illnesses

5. Develop attitudes of grace and empathy towards both victims and perpetrators of sexual behaviors that challenge social, cultural, legal and biblical norms
6. Evaluate controversial psycho-sexual development constructs professionally from an integrated Biblical worldview
7. Create appropriate intervention strategies to facilitate the promotion of healthy relationships and sexual behaviors in a community setting

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

For information on textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

Balswick, J. K. & Balswick, J. O. (2008). *Authentic human sexuality: An integrated Christian approach (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. ISBN 978-0-8308-2883-8. 356 pages.

Hyde, J. & DeLamater, J. (2013). *Understanding human sexuality (12<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. New York, NY: McGraw Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0077487386. 665 pages.

*Note: although the 13<sup>th</sup> edition was published in 2016 its prohibitive price makes the use of this earlier edition a wiser choice. Secondhand options are also available but students are encouraged to obtain the latest version that they can afford because of the reference value that this book continues to have over the years.*

### METHODOLOGY

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussions, case studies, multi-media presentations, and assignments, spread through three weekends in the semester and a final comprehensive examination at a point in time after the third weekend is completed.

### COURSE PLANNING

Themes	Topic/ Activity	Assignments and Pre-reading
<b>September 1 &amp; 2 Class</b>		
	Introductions, syllabus	Pre-course attitude survey
1	Theoretical Perspectives,	Hyde Chapter 1 & 2; Balswick Chapter 3
2	Sexual Research	Hyde Chapter 3
3	Attraction, Love and Communication	Hyde Chapter 11

	Articles due midnight October 22	
<b>October 27 &amp; 28 Class</b>		
4	Sexual arousal	Hyde Chapter 8, Balswick Chapters 4 and 9
5	Premarital sexuality, cohabitation, extramarital relationships and sex in old age	Hyde Chapter 10; Balswick Chapters 8 and 10
6	Child and Adolescent Sexuality	Hyde Chapter 9; Balswick Chapters 2 and 7

	Student Presentations	Peer-reviewed articles
	<b>Articles due midnight November 5</b>	
<b>November 310 &amp; 11Class</b>		
7	Hormones and Differentiation	Hyde Chapter 5; Balswick Chapter 5
8	Sexual Orientation, Ethics and Christian Perspectives	Hyde Chapter 13 & 19
9	Sexual Disorders and Treatment, Sexually Transmitted Illnesses	Hyde Chapter 17 & 18
	Student Presentations	Peer-reviewed articles
	<b>Literature Review Due Nov 26</b>	
	<b>Dec. 11-15</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Professionalism and courtesy regarding punctual class attendance is expected.
2. Students will be expected to read the relevant sections of both textbooks in preparation for each of the classes.
3. For the last two weekends, students will be required to find 4 peer-reviewed journal articles (for each weekend; a total of 8 for the semester) and review them in accordance with a format that will be provided during the first classes of the semester. Articles must be **no older than 10 years**. These reviews will be compiled into a compendium for fellow students. The student grade will be determined by the appropriateness of the articles (in the light of the class contents) and the usefulness of the summary that the student provides for his/her colleagues on the content and meaning of the articles in the light of our discussions in class. The articles will be presented in class where the student explains the main lessons that can be learned from the article.

These article summaries will be presented electronically to the professor in the appropriate format before the weekend class so that they can be compiled into a compendium for the rest of the class. Articles will be due by MIDNIGHT on the Sunday BEFORE each weekend class. These summaries will account for 20% of the grade

4. Active participation in class discussions is expected and will account for 20% of the overall grade for the class. In the calculation of the participation grade the clarity with which students present their findings from their four journal articles on issues relevant to class content will be taken into consideration.
5. A succinct and summative literature review of 5 to 7 pages on a subject that is approved by the professor will be submitted on a date to be determined in class.

This literature review should resemble a meta-analysis of a specific subject. The format of the review will be discussed on the first day of class. This review will account for 30% of the grade for the class.

6. The class material will be tested in a final exam that will account for 30% of the class grade.

### **DOCUMENT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

1. All reports must be submitted electronically to the professor
2. If you are using a program other than Microsoft Word, you also need to save it as a Word Document (.doc or .docx).
3. When you have completed your paper, save your document onto your drive with the following code: **PTH 617 Reflection #.YourName.**
4. This document must be attached to the email and the subject line of the email should state: **PTH 617/Your Name.**

### **GRADING PROCEDURES**

Here is a summary of the weighted distribution of each element that will contribute to the overall class grade:

Spontaneous classroom participation	20%
Peer-reviewed articles	20%
Literature review	30%
Final examination	30%

Students are expected to complete all course work in a timely fashion as specified in this syllabus. A grade of IP (In Process) will be issued if the course ends after the AGTS semester ends. A grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted at the discretion of the professor for extenuating circumstances upon the presentation of the Incomplete Grade Request form: <http://www.agts.edu/academics/forms.html>. The approved Incomplete request will extend the due date for up to ninety days, may include a grade reduction, and will be assessed a grade change fee. Students may not register for courses in a new term if carrying more than two IP or I grades.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE**

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at: [http://www.agts.edu/community/student\\_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf](http://www.agts.edu/community/student_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf)

### **DISABILITY ACCOMODATION**

As defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If AGTS students believe they qualify for

accommodations, they should contact the Student Life Office in the Student Union, Room 202, telephone extension 8881.

### **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

1. The use of personal computers and tablets is encouraged during class periods to augment the learning experience. Using the classroom Wi-Fi capacity to quickly obtain information on a subject under discussion is highly enriching to classroom discussions
2. The use of cellphones and the monitoring of personal social media during class time is offensive, both to the professor and to students sitting behind you who have to look past your screen to concentrate on the lecture
3. Bringing visitors to class, including family members and children, is not allowed.
4. Consuming food in classes has become more acceptable because weekend format classes do not allow much time for mealtimes outside of class. Please consider your fellow classmates when choosing your meals. Consuming some foods produce loud distracting sounds or fill the classroom with aromas that can be distracting. After class you are responsible to leave your seating area clean and free from debris

*This syllabus was revised by Dr. Johan Mostert on March 17, 2017. The professor reserves the right to expand, change, or otherwise alter this syllabus as may be necessary both before commencement of the class or as the class progresses over the semester.*