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# PC 610 Pastor and Marriage

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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.
4. Group Projects: Wife's Group: Develop an instructional book for married men on how to relate to a wife. Men's Group: Develop an instructional book for a married woman on how to relate to a husband.
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.

Theology of Marriage Term Paper	40%
Notebook Project	30%
Reading Report (over 1000 pages)	20%
Financial and Legal Documents	10%

**(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](mailto: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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Session Description</u>
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