

**ANCHORAGE CAMPUS**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY**

**Wayland Mission Statement:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Course Title and Number:** *MNST 3331*

**Term:**  *Spring 2021*

**Name of Instructor:** *Dr. Mark T. Goodman*

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:**

Phone Numbers: 345-7830 (office) 250-5166 (cell)

Email: mark.goodman@wayland.wbu.edu and mark@rabbitcreekchurch.org

**Class Meeting Time:** *Online course with sessions as scheduled*

**Catalog Description:** *Biblical understanding of marriage and related areas of marital growth.*

**Prerequisites:** *RLGN 1301 and RLGN 1302.*

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Resource Material:**

* *Balswick, Jack O. and Judith K. Balswick, A Model for Marriage: Covenant, Grace, Empowerment and Intimacy, InterVarsity Press,* **ISBN 13:** 9780830827602, 2006.
* *The Holy Bible*

**Course Outcome Competencies:**

1. *Demonstrate awareness of the Biblical background for Christian marriage.*
2. *Demonstrate understanding of the skills of couple communication.*
3. *Demonstrate awareness of the steps to marital conflict resolution.*
4. *Demonstrate awareness of the issues with Christian marriage.*

###### **Attendance - External Campuses**

* + - * Students enrolled at one of the university's external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus dean. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy. A student may petition the Academic Council for exceptions to the above stated policies by filing a written request for an appeal to the provost/academic vice president.
* **No student missing more than 25% of the class meetings (including both excused and unexcused absences) can pass the course.** Students who need to leave class early must get approval from the professor *in advance*.
* Roll will be checked each class meeting.
* Students who need to leave class early must get approval from the professor in advance. Not doing so may result in an unexcused absence.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**:

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Passing off another's writing or ideas as your own is plagiarism. It is unethical, it constitutes Academic Dishonesty (cheating), and it is sufficient grounds both for failure of a course and suspension from the university. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

For more information, see [http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion\_and\_philosophy/  
student\_help/documents/StatementonPlagiarismandAcademicDishonesty.pdf](http://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/religion_and_philosophy/student_help/documents/StatementonPlagiarismandAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

**Services for the Disabled:**

**“In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”**

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

**Course Requirements**

1. **Reading Assignments**

Read required text, *A Model for Marriage.* Write a one page summary of each chapter.

# **Written Assignments**

* 1. The student must **choose three** from the list of assignments. While we recommend all the assignments be done as a couple or with another person, at least two MUST be done as a couple or with another person.
     + **If married**, secure and review a copy of your marriage vows. If you wrote your own vows, did they describe feelings present at the time? If so, how have those feelings changed? Did your vows include specific promises? If so, in what ways have you attempted to keep those promises?
     + **If single,** secure a copy of your pastor’s marriage vows. Discuss with the pastor the importance of the various sections. Describe your own attitude toward these promises. Give a biblical rationale for the vows as well as your position.

* + - Create a one year plan to nourish your marriage on a monthly basis. The plan must be mutually satisfying, agreed to by both parties and should include ways to gain insight as well as spend creative time together. The plan must contain clear objectives and details.
    - Journal reflecting on your marriage at least several times a week for six weeks. Turn in your journal.

***For single students only (Singles may choose one from below as well as the general list to complete their three assignments.)***

* + - Create ten questions you would like answered about marriage. Then interview two married couples, asking them these questions. Write a 2-3 page paper comparing and contrasting their responses. What did you learn that might help you if you marry? Turn in your questions but do not consider them in the page count.(Optional: Consider interviewing a Christian couple and a non-believing couple.)
    - Observe marriages of family and friends over the next three weeks. Identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and helpful habits and strategies. Write a 2-3 page paper describing how these observations might help you if you marry in the future.

1. **Examination**

The Final Exam will cover the course material up to the day of the exam.

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week Subject Assignment**

1 The Dilemma & Crisis of Modern Marriage Read Chapter 1 (Balswick)

2 Models of Marriage Read Ch. 2 & 3 (Balswick)

3 Models of Marriage Read Ch. 4 & 5 (Balswick)

4 Intimacy Read Ch. 6 & 13 (Balswick)

5 Differentiation in Marriage Read Ch. 7 & 8 (Balswick)

6Communication Read Ch. 9 (Balswick)

7Conflict Read Ch. 10 (Balswick)

8Seasons of Marriage & Marital Spirituality Read Ch. 11 & 14(Balswick)

**Course Assignment Grade Values:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Percentage** |
| Required Reading | 10% |
| Three Chosen Assignments | 25% each = 75% |
| Final Exam | 10% |
| Class Participation | 5% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

**Course Evaluation (Method of Determining Grade):**

##### University Grading System

A 90-100 I INCOMPLETE\*\*

B 80-89 Cr FOR CREDIT

C 70-79 NCr NO CREDIT

D 60-69 WP WITHDRAWAL PASSING

F BELOW 60 WF WITHDRAWAL FAILING

W WITHDRAWAL

\*\*A grade of incomplete is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes "F". This grade is given only if circumstances beyond the student's control prevented completion of work during the semester enrolled and attendance requirements have been met. A grade of "CR" indicates that credit in semester hours was granted but no grade or grade points were recorded.

* Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.
* **Procedure for computations of final grade:** The student may calculate his/her grade by multiplying his/her score in each category by the percentage value and adding the totals. To earn an A the student will need to earn between ninety and one hundred points, eighty and eighty-nine for a B, etc.

**Learning Resource Center:**

The Wayland Library (Learning Resource Center) is available to all Wayland students at:  [http://library.wbu.edu](http://library.wbu.edu/)

Tutorials for accessing library resources are linked from the homepage.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students are responsible for reading, understanding, obeying, and respecting all academic policies, with added emphasis being placed upon academic progress policies, appearing in the Wayland Baptist University Academic Catalog applicable to their curriculum and/or program of study.