



GARY T. SMALLEY

— SCHOOL OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY —

COURSE SYLLABUS - CMFM LEVEL I

SMALLEY METHOD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MINISTRY



PROFESSOR DETAILS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of the Smalley method for helping couples and families and the key strategies used for more than 50 years in ministry. This course will help learners gain a solid foundation of effective marriage and family ministry using Smalley methods through the local church. They will implement these methods in real-world scenarios.

PREREQUISITE

There is no prerequisite for CMFM 610.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Author	Title	ISBN	Estimated Cost
Gary Smalley	Love is a Decision	849942683	\$10.00
Gary Smalley & John Trent	The Blessing	978-0-8499-4637-0	\$16.00
Michael & Amy Smalley	The Surprising Way to a Stronger Marriage	978-1589975606	\$14.00
Michael & Amy Smalley	Pursue Oneness	978-1727272918	\$21.00
Gary Smalley	Joy that Lasts	9780310242819	\$13.00



COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Communicate a comprehensive knowledge about the core strategies used by the Smalley Institute in marriage and family ministry.
2. Apply the core strategies of the Smalley Method to a ministry setting in the local church.
3. Analyze the fundamental concepts involved with the Smalley Method and how they apply to the local church.
4. Understand the research and effectiveness of marriage education compared to traditional marriage counseling.
5. Define what it means to plug into the source of life and how that applies to their own spiritual journey.
6. Understand the importance of honoring God and honoring others and how to teach these concepts to a layperson.
7. Administer and explain the Smalley Animal Personality Assessment to couples and families.
8. Utilize the core strategies of communication, and specifically L.O.V.E. Talk, with couples and families to help resolve conflict.

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

Textbook Readings

See the required texts.

Discussion Board Forums

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words. Each thread must also be supported with at least 2 peer-reviewed, scholarly sources cited in the current APA format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. Each reply must also be supported with at least 1 peer-reviewed, scholarly source cited in current APA format. Sources must be no older than 5 years.



Textbook Reading and Notes

See the required texts. Allow time to finish each reading assigned in this course. Reading should be completed before you begin a lesson. At least a single page of notes will be required for each chapter of reading assigned from the text. These notes should consist of key ideas and insights taken from the reading that week. Notes should show understanding and reflection of the material. Outlines of topics will not be granted full credit. This is not a summary of the chapter but rather a selection of key points from the text that the student found important. Handwritten notes are allowed if they are legible and a photo of them can be taken and submitted like a paper.

Video Watching Notes

At least a single page of notes will be required for an assigned video. These notes should consist of key ideas and insights taken from the video. Notes should show understanding and reflection of the video. Outlines of topics will not be granted full credit. This is not a summary of the video but rather a selection of key points from the video that the learner found important. Handwritten notes are allowed if they are legible and a photo of them can be taken and submitted like a paper.

Book Reaction Paper

Learners will write a 900-1,200 word reaction papers to assigned readings. The summary essay must show a knowledge and understanding of the book's core teaching and how the learner would utilize the teachings in a church ministry setting.

Research Paper: Integrating marriage education in the church

Learners will write a 900 to 1,200-word reaction paper to the required readings. The reaction paper must show a knowledge and understanding of the book's core teaching and how the learner will utilize the strategies in a church ministry setting. Reaction papers should follow APA guidelines.

Real Life Exercises

Throughout the course, learners will be given response exercises dealing with real people and organizations. These exercises are meant to help the student apply what they are learning through the course to actual scenarios they will encounter in ministry.



Personal Journal

Writing exercises will help learners integrate Smalley's core teaching on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to their own life. Critical thinking and personal integration should be evident in the journal.

Personality Paper

Learners will compare the Smalley Animal Personality Assessment to three other leading personality assessments. Critical thinking and analysis will be needed to compare and contrast the different personality inventories to the Smalley's.

Final Paper

Learners will write a 900-1,200 word essay covering an overview of the Smalley method for helping people build a better relationship and how to integrate the Smalley method in the local church.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

#	Lesson Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction and learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Lecture Text • Personal Goals for this Course • Read <i>Love is a Decision</i> • Reaction Paper: <i>Love is a Decision</i>
2	Marriage Education Research & Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Marriage Education Research • Read Marriage Education Effectiveness • Paper on integrating marriage education in the church • Forum Discussion #1 • Real Life: Create a proposal for your local church about implementing one marriage education strategy
3	Core strategy of faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Finding Fulfillment: Discovering the Source of Life</i> • Watch <i>Finding Treasures in Hardships and Trials</i> • Watch <i>I Promise to conform my beliefs to God's truths</i> • Watch <i>I Promise to be filled by God</i> • Read <i>Joy that Lasts</i> • Personal Journal from <i>Love is a Decision</i> ch. 13-14 and Videos “How has your relationship with God compared to Dr. Smalley’s wisdom on the source for life?” • Forum Discussion #2
4	Core strategy of honor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Recognize and Value Your Mate’s Differences</i> • Watch <i>Four Essential Elements Every Relationship Needs to Succeed and Grow</i> • Watch <i>Honor...The single greatest skill for a satisfying marriage</i> • Read <i>The Blessing</i> • Forum Discussion #3
5	Core strategy of personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Discovering the Value of Your Personality</i> • Watch <i>Your mate's personality can improve your marriage</i> • Watch <i>Discovering your child’s personality type</i>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Parenting your child's personality</i> • Take the Smalley Personality Online Assessment • Personality Paper • Real Life: Predict personalities of three different people and then give them the assessment. • Forum Discussion #4
6	Core strategy of personal responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>The Power of One</i> • Watch <i>Freedom From Negative Emotions</i> • Watch <i>Transforming Trials and Hurts Into Life-Changing Benefits</i> • Watch <i>Changing Unwanted Behavior and Habits</i> • Watch <i>Building Boundaries in Your Relationships</i> • Watch <i>I Promise to find God's best in every trial</i> • Read <i>The Surprising Way to a Stronger Marriage</i> • Forum Discussion #5
7	Core strategy of Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch <i>Using Emotional Word Pictures To Increase Intimacy and Understanding</i> • Watch <i>Reducing and Overcoming Conflict</i> • Watch <i>I Promise to listen and communicate with love</i> • Watch <i>The five levels of intimate communication</i> • Watch <i>LOVE Talk – a powerful communication tool to resolving conflict</i> • Watch <i>Using the "SALT" Principle for communication</i> • Watch <i>Resolving conflict with your kids</i> • Real Life: L.O.V.E. Talk Video Session • Forum Discussion #6
8	How to Use the Smalley Methods in Real Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Story: Basics of using Smalley Methodology in the Local Church • Reflection Paper: The significance, application, and understanding of the Smalley Method



GRADING POLICY

Gary T Smalley School of Marriage and Family uses a system of Pass/Fail.

Grading Format

This course will be graded on a **PASS/FAIL** basis.

- A. A passing grade will be awarded upon the completion of all assignments as stated in the syllabus and course requirements.
- B. Assignments will be submitted in proper format with the required number of words and/or pages. Graduate levels of writing and grammar skills are expected.
- C. Plagiarism will result in the failure of an assignment. Plagiarism is a serious ethical violation and is not always intentional. Therefore, be careful to do your own work. The student is urged to cite references whenever appropriate. When in doubt, cite your reference and give appropriate credit to your source. You will never be critiqued or criticized for having too many sources or citations.
- D. Failed assignments may be re-accomplished once to ensure syllabus requirements are met.

ACADEMIC UNITS OF MEASUREMENT DEFINITION

GTS's academic units of measurement definition is as follows:

Semester and quarter hours shall be equivalent to the commonly accepted and traditionally defined units of academic measurement in accredited institutions. Academic degree or academic credit-bearing distance learning courses are measured by the learning outcomes normally achieved through 45 hours of student work for one semester credit or 30 hours of student work for one quarter credit. This formula is used by the American Council on Education in its Credit Recommendation Evaluative Criteria.

135 hours = 3 Credits

Reading = 25-30 pages per hour

Audio/Video = 22 pages per hour

Slide Presentations = 15 pages per hour



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