

Course	COUN 5500 Blending Families Seminar Sat. June 20 & 27, 8:30-2:30 PM (working lunches)
Term	Summer, 2009
Instructor	Fred Mayfield, Ph.D., L.C.P.C., L.C.M.F.T. 913-491-4788 Office, 816-478-0073 Res.
Catalog Description	This seminar will provide a psycho-educational model for understanding the process and complexities of combining fragments of previously intact families to form a new unit. This contemporary model highlights strategies for family therapists.
Prerequisites	None
Course Level Learning Outcomes	1. Students will identify inherent dynamics unique to re-marriages. 2. Student will assess and address re-marriage issues. 4. Students will be able to present the <i>Blending</i> Family as a process. 5. Students will demonstrate pre-emptive psycho-educational problem solving.
Materials	No text. Instructor provided handouts.
Grading	Final Exam 65% of grade (take home). Blending "Tool Belt" 35% (Sample will be provided). The GRADUATE catalog provides these guidelines and grading options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/A- Superior graduate work • B+/B/B- Satisfactory graduate work • C Work that is barely adequate as graduate-level performance • CR Work that is performed as satisfactory graduate work (B- or better). A grade of "CR" reserved for courses designated by a department, involving internships, a thesis, practicum or specified courses. • F Work that is unsatisfactory • I Incomplete work • ZF An incomplete which was not completed within one year of the end of the course. ZF treated the same as an F or NC for all cases involving G.P.A., academic warning, probation or dismissal. • IP In progress • NR Not reported • W Withdrawn from the course
Weekly Schedule	Sat. 6/20 I. Family Trends: Marriage, Cohabitation, Divorce, Remarriages, and Singletons. II. Impact of the <i>Good vs. Bad</i> divorce. III. Nuclear vs. Blending Family Make up: Complexities, Brady myth, The <i>new</i> norms, Predation, and Blending Triangles.

	<p>IV. Inherent Factors of re-marriage: Lack of symmetry, Boundary ambiguity, Shifting insider/outsider positions, and Balancing biology.</p> <p>IV. Working lunch: Bring your own lunch!</p> <p>V. Blending Family Predictabilities: The Hex of the Ex, Blending Money, and Step Parent issues.</p> <p>Sat. 6/27</p> <p>I. How Re-marriages Succeed: Assessment of the Good/Bad divorce impact, Psycho-education regarding inherent factors, Stated challenges with management strategies, and therapy as the <i>forum for forming</i>.</p> <p>II. Instillation of Hope. The advantages of a blending family.</p> <p>III. Working Lunch: Bring your own lunch!</p> <p>IV. Fostering the couple bond.</p> <p>V. Positive problem solving techniques.</p> <p>VI. Therapy Demonstration.</p> <p>VI. Resources.</p>
<p>Policy Statements: University Policies</p>	<p>University policies are provided in the current course catalog and course schedules. They are also available on the university website. This class is governed by the university's published policies. The following policies are of particular interest:</p> <p><i>Academic Honesty</i></p> <p>The university is committed to high standards of academic honesty. Students will be held responsible for violations of these standards. Please refer to the university's academic honesty policies for definition of academic dishonesty and potential disciplinary actions associated with it.</p> <p><i>Drops and Withdrawals</i></p> <p>Please be aware that, should you choose to drop or withdraw from this course, the date on which you notify the university of your decision will determine the amount of tuition refund you receive. Please refer to the university policies on drops and withdrawals (published elsewhere) to find out what the deadlines are for dropping a course with a full refund and for withdrawing from a course with a partial refund.</p> <p><i>Special Services</i></p> <p>If you have registered as a student with a documented disability and are entitled to classroom testing accommodations, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course of the</p>

	<p>accommodations you will require in this class so that these can be provided.</p> <p><i>Disturbances</i></p> <p>Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, disruption or by inconsiderate behavior is not acceptable. Students are expected to treat the instructor and students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from course.</p> <p><i>Student Assignments Retained</i></p> <p>From time to time, student assignments or projects will be retained by The Department for the purpose of academic assessment. In every case, should the assignment or project be shared outside the academic Department, the student's name and all identifying information about the student will be redacted from the assignment or project.</p> <p><i>Contact Hours for this Course</i></p> <p>It is essential that all classes meet for the full instructional time as scheduled. A class cannot be shortened in length. If a class session is cancelled for any reason, it must be rescheduled.</p>
Additional Course information	The course material will be presented by power point while tracking a Blending family through cinema.
Additional Course Policies	Class attendance is a requirement. Class will start promptly at 8:30 A.M.