

**Wesley Theological Seminary**  
**Doctor of Ministry Program**  
**Soul Care Track D**  
**Reading List**

**Course:** DM-C604OL: The Care and Counseling of Couples and Families

**Dates:** Sept 1 – Oct 20, 2015 | **Required synchronous (live online) classes on the following dates and times: Sept 1, Sept 15, Sept 29, Oct 6, Oct 20; all at 8-9pm EDT**

Additional work to be completed online

**Faculty:** Valerie Leyva

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This course is taught wholly on-line and requires computer equipment and Internet access to participate in live video conferencing and viewing streaming video. Headset recommended. Those living in rural areas with limited Internet access should contact their Internet provider regarding recommended broadband speed.

Students who do not already have a log-on for the Wesley Blackboard system will receive it via USPS. Please contact the Registrar's office if you do not receive this information. 202-885-8650. Log-ons are issued once by the seminary and used for the entirety of your seminary career at Wesley.

Course Description:

This course includes developing specific pastoral counseling skills for addressing issues impacting couples and families across the lifespan. These include traditional life transitions faced by most couples and families (e.g. marriage/partnering, raising children, grief/loss), as well as more challenging topics such as domestic violence, mental illness, child abuse and others. Students in this course will learn the basic skills for conducting Solution-Focused Brief Pastoral Counseling, a pastoral approach to Narrative Counseling and the basic tenets of Family Systems Theory.

Required texts:

1. Galindo, I., Boomer, E., & Reagan, D. (2006). *A Family Genogram Workbook*. Kearny, NE: Educational Consultants.
2. Bidwell, D. (2013). *Empowering Couples: A Narrative Approach to Spiritual Care*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
3. Kollar, C. (1997). *Solution-Focused Pastoral Counseling*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Dr. Valerie Lester Leyva is an Associate Professor of Social Work at California State University, Stanislaus and a clinical supervisor and consultant.