PST-D555 **Pre-Marital Prep/Counseling**

Joseph Milner
milnerjv@slu.edu
314-630-1593

Winter, 2013, Wednesday: 6:30 – 8:10
1 credit
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description: Offered every other year This course will provide a comprehensive understanding of the importance of Pre-commitment coaching/counseling; Pre-marriage preparation and education and the need for on-going marriage education for married couples. An extensive array of materials, and resources will be provided including pre-marital inventories. Participants are asked to attend a pre-marriage program or presentation.

Course Objectives:
To understand the importance of guiding couples in discerning a Call to Marriage
To learn basic relationship skills to assist couples seeking to be married.
To recognize the wedding of the spiritual and the practical in order to live out faithfully the marriage vows.
To become familiar with some of the very many resources available for marriage and relationship education.
To become familiar with the FOCCUS instrument for assisting couples preparing for marriage.

Course Format: lecture and discussion, presentations based on readings

Course Requirements:
Reading, understanding and discussion of materials presented in class.
Oral and written report on a practical book on marriage.
Oral report on a marriage preparation experience.
Written report on the essential aspects of marriage preparation.

Required Texts: Books available from Instructor
Brennan, Bridget & Shen, Jerome. *Claiming our Deepest Desires, the Power of an Intimate Marriage*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004. $13.

Brennan, Bridget. *The Marriage Connection, Wedding the Spiritual and the Practical.* St. Louis: The Cana Institute. 2001. $25. includes CD

Pierce, Gregory. *Perspectives on Marriage.* Chicago: ACTA Publications, 2003 $6