

HS 240
Family Studies
3 Credits

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HS 240 Version: 9



Family Studies

Calendar Description

This course is an introduction to the Family. The focus of this course includes various ways of viewing family, diversity, economics, and social influences that determine the family's ability to thrive in society. Students have the opportunity to explore different theoretical ways of viewing the family. The course also explores issues of marriage, variations in families, parenting, crises, separation, divorce, and remarriage as well as provides practical suggestions in working with families as they face many challenges.

Rationale

This is a required course for the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) and the Child and Youth Care (CYC) diploma programs. Human service professionals in each of these disciplines require an understanding of the family and relevant issues and/or situations that influence the family. There is probably no greater influence on an individual's life than that of the family so it is vital that human service professionals have a solid grounding on the matters that influence the individual they may be supporting.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. describe why studying families is important to the human service profession.
2. list and describe several theoretical perspectives on how to view the family.
3. illustrate the variables that affect the marriage commitment.
4. discuss and positively respond to a variety of nonmarital family situations.
5. identify some of the struggles and rewards of parenting.

6. identify and suggest possible responses to crisis, stress, disaster, violence and abuse in the family.
7. discuss reasons why people divorce, and explain the process of divorce and the effects of divorce on individuals and families.
8. describe the complexities associated with remarriage and blended families.
9. work appropriately with and for families in a variety of situations using proper communication skills and building trust by utilizing a strength based perspective.

Resource Materials

Required Text:

Spindel, P. (2020). *Working with families: A guide for health and human services professionals* (2nd ed.). Canadian Scholars.

Reference Text:

None

Conduct of Course

This course uses lectures, class discussions, problem solving scenarios, guest speakers, videos and PowerPoints to help facilitate the exploration of issues related to the family.

Evaluation Procedures

The grading system is based on the number of points received for each assignment. Students are able to receive a possible 100 points for all assignments.

In Class Case Studies	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	25%
Research Presentation	25%
Total	100%

Please refer to your student handbook regarding penalties for late assignments.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor. Frequent absences may result in the student being probation. Further absences may result in suspension from the program.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

Instructors have the authority to require attendance in classes.

Course Units/Topics

Unit One: (Chapters 1 and 2)

- a. Why Study Families?
- b. The challenges to Relationships and Families
- c. Theoretical Perspectives on the Family

Unit Two: (Chapters 8 and 9)

- a. Marriage: The ultimate commitment?
- b. Variations: Non-marital families and households

Unit Three: (Chapters 11 and 13)

- a. Parenting: children, families, and generations
- b. Crises: managing stress, disaster, violence and abuse

Unit Four: (Chapters 14 and 15 and Working with Families)

- a. Uncoupling: separation and divorce
- b. Remarriage: reinvented, renewed and blended families
- c. Working with families: roles, responsibilities, communication, trust and strengths.



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