School of Human Sciences  
HMS 441.501/551  
Contemporary Family Issues  
Spring 2016

Instructor:  Jennifer Newquist, Ph.D., LPC, CFLE  
Course Time and Location:  Online  
Office:  EDAN 133  
Office Hours:  Mondays and Wednesdays: 2-4pm, Tuesdays: 11am-12pm  
Office Phone:  (936) 468-1082

Mail: Only through D2L  
Mail: Click E-mail Icon on Home Page Toolbar

Prerequisite:  Junior or senior standing

I. Course Description:  
The role of the family, the environment in which the family functions, and its relationship to the quality of life; families as agents for change; intergenerational studies

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives:  
This course supports the vision, mission, and core values of the College of Education which is to prepare competent, successful, caring, and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership, and continued professional and intellectual development. The course enhances student learning in the area of family living and is a major family courses in the Child and Family Development Program in the Department of Human Sciences, and aligns with the standards of the National Council on Family Relations to promote learning and understanding of family relationships and environmental factors that affect individual and family life.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Learners will identify social & cultural influences affecting family life.
2. Learners will recognize healthy and unhealthy characteristics pertaining to family relationships.
3. Learners will apply appropriate practices based on theories of human growth and development to individuals and families.
4. Learners will apply strategies based on the child’s age/stage of development to promote effective developmental outcomes.
5. Learners will develop culturally-competent educational materials and learning experiences.
6. Learners will demonstrate professional behaviors that are reflective of ethical standards and practice.
Student learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify diverse contemporary marriage and family lifestyles.
2. Evaluate the strengths and stressors that affect individual and family living.
3. Identify and critique theoretical perspectives on marriage and family.
4. Identify and characterize cultural diversity of American families.
5. Analyze the dynamics of intergenerational relationships.
6. Appraise the history and development of social policy in the United States.
7. Evaluate issues related to the policy areas of financial assistance, health care, education, and aging.

Family Life Educator Certification

Course content in HMS 441 emphasizes the following Family Life Educator Content Areas identified by the National Council on Family Relations:

I. Families and Individuals in Societal Contexts
An understanding of families and their relationships to other institutions, such as educational, governmental, religious, healthcare, and occupational institutions in society.

Notes from HMS 441 should be retained to review for the CFLE exam.

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:

1. HMS 441 is an online course and all content will be delivered through D2L. Information notices will be posted on the course home page. Home page includes tools for class assignments, discussion board questions, and grades. Students may contact the instructor and/or other students by clicking in the mail tool and selecting individual's name or click on class instructor's name or all instructors to send mail.
2. Course content is delivered via class lectures and discussions, assigned textbook readings, assignments and discussion board questions directly relevant to the course content. Students should check the homepage on a daily basis for notices, mail, and assignments.
3. Students should check their grade points at least once a week. Any discrepancies in points must be resolved within one week after assignment grades have been posted otherwise the posted grade points are considered final and will not be reviewed at a later date.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

The course is graded on a letter grade basis (A-F). Final grade will be determined by a percentage of total required points for the course.

A=90-100% of required points; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=0-59%.
Course Points:

1. **Discussion Questions-40 points (2x20 points)**. Discussion questions are related to course content topics, such as public families, work-life balance, and public policy. Students must post discussion response **directly to the discussion board** by due date/time for credit. Do not e-mail discussion board responses to the instructor. No credit will be given for e-mail responses. In order to fully engage in discussion, a student must post a response to the discussion question and also reply to 2 other students in the discussion board to obtain full credit. Students will receive 12 points for their post and 8 points for their responses to 2 other students (4 points per response).

2. **Assignments-60 points (2x30 points)**. Students will do written assignments related to course content such as public policy, ethnicity and race in families. Students must turn in assignments to Dropbox by assigned due time to obtain credit.

3. **Exams-300 points (3x100 points)**. Students will take a total of 3 exams throughout the course semester. Each exam will consist of approximately 50 questions worth 2 points each. Questions may consist of, but are not limited to: multiple choice, matching, and true/false. The specific format in terms of actual number of questions etc. may be subject to change—more specific information will be provided closer to the specific day of the given exam. Students will have 65 minutes to complete the exam.

   Students must have computer access and need to log in promptly in order to take the exam.
   Please call Student Help Line at 468-1919 for technical assistance. Assistance is available M-F, 8:00-5:00 p.m.

   **Students must contact the professor prior to the exam date if rescheduling is necessary for a compelling reason.** Specifically, students should notify professor as soon as possible, preferably more than a week prior to the regularly scheduled exam date. Missing the scheduled exam date means that a student will earn a zero for the given exam.

4. **Group Research Report-100 points**. Each group composed of 2 students will research a topic related to course content and submit a 3 page research report written and referenced in correct APA format (6th ed.). The title and reference pages do not count as content pages. Click Content Module to access research assignment guidelines. Report is due Wednesday May 4, 2016 to the Dropbox no later than 11:00 p.m.

   **Go to Communication Tools, Click on Groups, Review List of Topics, and Enroll in A Research Topic.**

   Information should be current (within the past 13 years (2002-2015) and all statistics must be the latest available data. *See the grading scale link (rubric) for the major content areas that must be addressed in the presentation. Make a clear connection between your topic and the social/cultural influences affecting family life.*
Research paper must be Posted in Livetext and D2L Dropbox by May 4, 2016 no later than 11:00 p.m. Also each student enrolled in the class must submit the assignment into their Livetext account. A student’s failure to submit assignment in Livetext by the due date will result in zero points for the assignment.

**Extra-Credit Optional**
Opportunities to earn extra-credit will be given during the semester. These assignments may not be announced ahead of time and cannot be made up if missed.

**V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content/Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10-11</td>
<td>Chapter 1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 14-18</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21-23</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 1, 2 Public Families Discussion due Wed 3/23 at 11pm</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24-28</td>
<td>EASTER BREAK Classes resume Monday 3/28 at 4pm</td>
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<td>March 28-April 1</td>
<td>Continue Chapters 1, 2</td>
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<td>April 4-8</td>
<td>Chapters 4, 5 Race, Ethnicity and Families Assignment due to Dropbox April 8 at 11pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11-15</td>
<td>Continue Chapters 4, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18-22</td>
<td>Chapters 14, 6, 11 Exam I (Covers 1, 2, 4, and 5) Monday 4/18 at 8am and closes 11pm</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>April 25-29</td>
<td>Continue Chapters 14, 6, 11 Public Policy Review Assignment due Friday April 29 at 11pm</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2-6</td>
<td>Chapters 8,10 Exam II (Covers 14, 6, and 11) Monday 5/2 at 8am and closes 11pm Group Research Project due to Dropbox Wednesday 5/4 at 11pm Paid Paternal Leave Discussion due Friday May 6 at 11pm</td>
<td>100 100 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9-13</td>
<td>Continue Chapters 8,10 Final Exam (Covers 8 and 10) Friday 5/13 at 8am and closes 11pm</td>
<td>100</td>
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VI. Readings (Required):

LiveText Statement:
Upon your enrollment in this course, if your major is a program in the Perkins College of Education, OR if you are seeking educator certification, AND if you do not already have an existing LiveText account, you should receive an access code for a LiveText account via your SFA Titan email account. If you do not receive this code by the end of the first week of class, please check your junk email. If you still do not have the message, please contact the SFA LiveText coordinator at livetext@sfasu.edu. Once you have received the access code, it is YOUR responsibility to activate the account. Failure to activate the account and/or submit the required assignment(s) in LiveText, will affect your final grade.

If you have questions about obtaining or registering your LiveText account, call ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu. Once LiveText is activated, if you have technical questions, call ext. 7050 or e-mail livetext@sfasu.edu. Failure to activate the account and/or submit the required assignment(s) within the LiveText system may result in course failure.

VII. Course Evaluations:
Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.

As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the PCOE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: These policies are found at https://www.sfasu.edu/policies
Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or,
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**
Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

**Student Appeals**
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp](https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp) or call the office at 936-468-2703.

**Additional Information:**

**To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:**

1. Undergo criminal background checks for field or clinical experiences on public school campuses; the public school campuses are responsible for the criminal background check; YOU are responsible for completing the information form requesting the criminal
background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may not be allowed to complete field or clinical experiences on public school campuses. At that point, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, drivers license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/<http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/>). YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

For further information concerning this matter, contact Katie Snyder 936-468-1740 or snyderke1@sfasu.edu.