

CHFD 3920: Issues in Family Systems
Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Gonyea
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Class Location: 310 Dawson Hall
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Email: WebCT email ****BEST METHOD**
Office Hours: Mon 9am -12pm or by appointment
Class Times:
Section A: MWF 10:10 -- 11:00 AM
Section B: MWF 2:30 -- 3:20 PM

Required Text

Anderson, S. A. & Sabatelli, R. M. (2002). *Family Interaction: A Multigenerational Developmental Perspective*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Additional readings are posted on WebCT and are noted in the syllabus.

Course Description

An advanced study of family issues over the lifespan with an emphasis on family research and theory, transitions in families, and intergenerational issues. In addition, we will consider the effects of social issues on the American family.

Course Objectives

1. To examine major theoretical approaches to the study of families.
2. To identify adaptations in family structure and interactional patterns during family transition.
3. To explore the impact of various social issues on American families.
4. To consider the diversity within and between families.
5. To gain an understanding of intergenerational family dynamics.

Course Expectations

- 1) Students will take three exams (two during the semester and a final exam) that will cover lectures and readings.
- 2) Students will participate in collaborative group research projects and present findings to the class.
- 3) Complete all assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Students are responsible for all material in the text even though it may not be discussed in class lectures.
- 4) Attendance and participation in class discussions.
- 5) Students will complete in-class and outside of class assignments that will be assigned throughout the semester. These activities will be counted for part of your course grade. Throughout the course, topics in lecture and presented in the readings will be further explored through individual activities and small group activities that will be completed during selected lessons inside or outside of class time. Because assignments build on material covered during class sessions and contribute to class participation, in-class assignments may NOT be submitted late by students who have missed class.

Tentative Schedule & Assignments

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING/ASSIGNMENT
Part I: Research and theories of family functioning.			
1	1/09	Introduction – Orientation to class	
2	1/12	Defining Family	A&S CH 1
	1/14	Family Strategies	A&S CH 2 Group presentation preferences due
	1/16		Richards (1989) Suizzo et al, 2007
3	1/19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	NO CLASS
	1/21	Structural Models of Family functioning	A&S CH 3
	1/23		
4	1/26	Intergenerational Models of Family Functioning	A&S CH 4 Chairperson info due
	1/28		
	1/30		
5	2/2	Contextual Models: Family Diversity	A&S CH5 Sutfin et al (2008)
	2/4		Romero & Roberts (2003) White & Gilbreth (2001)
	2/6	EXAM 1 on Chapters 1-5 and all readings	
Part II: Adolescent transitions, families in early adulthood, and marriage.			
6	2/9	Transition from adolescence to adulthood	A&S CH 6
	2/11		
	2/13	Mate Selection	A&S CH 7
7	2/16		Eastwick & Finkel (2008) <i>Premarital sex</i>
	2/18		<i>Mandatory premarital counseling</i>
	2/20	Transition to Marriage	A&S CH 8 Wright et al (2007)
8	2/23		<i>Cohabitation vs. Marriage</i>
	2/25	Communication and intimacy	A&S CH 9 <i>Adolescent pregnancy-marriage</i>
	2/27		Kirby et al (2005) Albright & Conran (2003)
9	3/02	Conflict	A&S CH 10
	3/04		<i>Discipline: Is spanking detrimental or necessary?</i>
	3/06	EXAM 2 on Chapters 6-10 and all readings	
	3/09	Spring Break No Class	

10	3/11	Spring Break No Class	
	3/13	Spring Break No Class	
Part III: Parenthood, Middle & Later years of family development and Alternative family developmental pathways.			
11	3/16	Transition to Parenthood	A&S CH 11 Lawrence et al (2008)
	3/18		
	3/20		Doucet & Merla (2007)
12	3/23	The parent-child relationship	A&S CH 12
	3/25	3/24 Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline	<i>Maternal Employment</i>
	3/27	Exam 3 on Chapters 11 & 12 and all readings	
13	3/30	Single parent household	A&S CH 17
	4/01		<i>Are fathers really necessary?</i>
	4/03		Manning & Lamb (2003)
14	4/06	Divorce	A&S CH 16 <i>How harmful is divorce to children?</i>
	4/08	Remarriage: Step-parenting	A&S CH 18
	4/10		<i>The effects of remarriage on children</i>
15	4/13	Family in Middle Adulthood	A&S CH 13
	4/15		<i>Children at risk for abuse</i>
	4/17		Vandeweyer & Glorieux (2008)
16	4/20	Family in Later Life	A&S CH 14
	4/22		Peters et al (2006)
	4/24		
17	4/27	Death, loss, & bereavement in the family	A&S CH 15
	4/29		
	4/30	Catch-up/Review	
18		Section A: 5/8 8-11am Section B: 5/4 3:30-6:30p FINAL EXAM on chapters 13-18 and all readings	

Assignments

Exams

Exams consist of multiple choice and written response questions and will be based on required readings, guest lectures, and class activities. No make-up exams will be given except in the case of a *serious illness or emergency*. Documentation of such a circumstance must be submitted and a make-up arranged within one week of the regularly scheduled exam. Acceptable documentation is discussed below. All exams must be written in blue or black ink or dark pencil. Remember, if it can't be read, it can't be graded.

Attendance policy/Participation Points for Class Lectures

Throughout the semester, topics will be explored through activities that will be completed in-class or as homework assignments. Assignments build on material covered during class sessions and contribute to class participation. With the exception of documented excuses, students who have missed class may not submit in-class assignments late. The participation grade will consist of attendance, class participation, small group participation, homework assignments and quizzes.

Attendance will be taken at random during the semester and will count toward these points. If you do not sign the sheet I will not count you as having attended. This means that if you are late and you don't sign the sheet, you will NOT receive attendance points that day.

Collaborative Small Group Debate Presentation

Students will participate in small group presentations of Family Issues. The purpose of this project is to critically analyze current family issues, summarize the information from research of empirical studies, and present findings to the class. Each topic will be presented in a debate format, with EACH group presenting both sides of the issue. Groups will be graded on their ability to critically think about the issues and their impact on families and individual members. Groups will be determined by matching students' interests as closely as possible. **See WebCT for a handout on this assignment!!**

Chapter Outline/Video Example Assignments

Each class member will be responsible for video example assignments. Once group membership is determined, Dr. Gonyea will advise students of specific chapter summary/video example assignments.

- 1) Presentation of Video Example – Each student will select a video example that illustrates a concept presented in an assigned chapter. Group members should consult one another and NOT address the same concept. A 1-2 page handout summarizing the groups' examples must be submitted to Dr. Gonyea the class **before** presentation of the clips (titled "3920_grouptopic_vidHO.doc"). The handout must include exact timings of clips, definitions of concepts illustrated by the clips, and a justification for the selection of each of the clips. Clips will be presented to the class by the students and the concepts must be identified and coupled with explanations of the concepts being illustrated.

Grading

Assignment	Points	Your Points
Exam 1	100	
Exam 2	100	
Exam 3	50	
Final Exam	100	
Participation/Attendance/Homework Projects	50	
Collaborative Presentation	100	
Video assignment	50	

Total

550

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
515 - 550	A	94-100%
493 - 514	A-	90-93%
476 - 492	B+	87-89%
454 - 475	B	83-86%
438 - 453	B-	80-82%
421 - 437	C+	77-79%
399 - 420	C	73-76%
382 - 398	C-	70-72%
328 - 381	D	60-69%
<300	F	<60%

Class policies and other information

To save paper, the class policies are posted on WebCT. It is your responsibility to make sure you read and understand these. The class policies include information on the following:

Classroom rules about respecting diversity of culture, values & opinions

Questions on Grading & Assignments

Timeliness

Attendance

Documentation for Absences

Withdrawal Deadlines

Incompletes

UGA Academic Honesty Policy

References for Supplemental Readings

This list is available on WebCT.