SYLLABUS: FCS 2400: FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS (GE *SS)

SEMESTER: Fall 2012

Professor: Tim Eicher, M.Ed.
Contact Info: phone: 652-7845
Email: eicher@dixie.edu
Office: Room 128, Education and Family Studies Building

Office Hours: 2:00-5:00 Monday through Thursday; make an appointment by sign up on door calendar.

Begin/Ending Dates: August 21-December 14

Class Hour: TR 9:00. Section #03, CRN# 40359
TR 10:30 Section #04, CRN#43423
Room: 111 in the EDFAM Building

Credit Hours: 3.0
Prerequisites: None


Canvas: All course material will be posted to the Canvas system, and all work will be turned in through this.

Course Description: Family Relationships is an introductory course on the study of family systems, sociology of the family, and interaction patterns within families. It includes an analysis on research methods of studying the family, conceptual theories for understanding family dynamics, and family systems theory. Other topics covered will be resource management within the family, parent-child relationships, marriage relationships, patterns of problem solving within families, and the study of family change and transition.

NOTE TO STUDENTS***
The Family Relationships Class will give you many opportunities to apply sociological practices to your own life. Yes, there are many assignments and they will keep you busy during the semester. Believe me, you will not regret putting this effort forth. I promise you that the time you spend practicing the concepts encountered in this class will enhance your life...it’s worth the work!

FCS Department Objectives:
Students taking courses in FCS will:
1. Study currently accepted theory within the discipline.
2. Expand understanding of theory using applications and exercises that personalize the depth of knowledge and understanding.
3. Complete assignments demonstrating professional practices specific to the discipline.
4. Analyze course concepts against previously held schema prior to experience in the course.
5. Show, in writing, the ability to think critically.
6. Achieve a passing grade on the comprehensive final exam for the course.

Course Objectives:

Social Science General Education Objectives:
1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of human development and the human condition.
2. Students will recognize the ideas, people, and events in the past that are generally thought to be important to society and civilization.
3. Students will develop informed points of view based on knowledge in psychological, social, economic, and/or political theory which can be expressed orally or in writing.

Upon completion of this course, the student will:
1. Describe methods for studying the family and frameworks for evaluating family relationships.
2. Develop a better understanding of self and personal interaction within relationships.
3. Become more aware of gender related issues and articulate how these issues impact family.
4. Consider and explain current studies on communication and conflict resolution skills that contribute to successful family living. Students will practice these skills in course assignments.
5. Recognize areas of risk in families and relationships, and name resources to diminish the likelihood of problems.
6. Discuss issues of human reproduction and human sexuality within relationships.
7. Explain theories of parent-child relationships and styles of parenting.
8. Recognize the signs of violence and stressors in relationships and give methods for protecting at-risk individuals within the family.
9. Define current patterns of transition and change within families, including divorce and separation, remarriage, and blended families, and explain the impact of these changes on the individuals within the family.
10. Discuss research findings on the distribution of resources within the family and family dynamics for managing resources.
11. Articulate in conversation and/or in writing traditional as well as current sociological theories explaining family dynamics, family systems, and family development.
12. Show improvement in writing, both mechanically and in considering topics mindfully.

Assignments

1. Written Assignments and 2. Exercises: These are all short typewritten submissions that will help you apply course concepts in a personal manner. These are the core, the meat, of what will bring you personal growth during this class. I will respond to each of your efforts; these responses are where I do much teaching to you directly. Here is how these two categories break out:
**Written Assignments:** These are 1-2 pg. responses to various readings, classroom activities, videos. There are 9 possible assignments; do 7 for a maximum of 84 points; my computer will drop your two lowest scores. A rubric of reflection will be used to grade these written assignments:

a. What beliefs about this topic did I hold before this learning opportunity?

b. What new information did I learn from the opportunity?

c. How will the new knowledge affect your choices and behaviors in the future?

Written Assignments:
1. BaFa
2. Video on Socialization
3. Gender and stereotypes video
4. It’s Not About Sex
5. Family Violence Presentation
6. Missing Pa
7. Fair Fighting Assignment (Pgs. 195/196, 211/212 in textbook)
8. Money Game
9. Malcolm Reading

**Exercises:** These are often interactive; that means you will be doing some of these exercises with someone else. For those of you who have no significant other to do some of these, I will give you an alternative possibility. These exercises are posted in ‘Files’ on Canvas, and instructions for each exercise are included. There are 10 possible; do a maximum of 120 points! One exercise is double weighted. As you open these exercises on Canvas, follow the directions provided in the specific exercise.

Exercises:
1. SAHI happiness survey
2. Related Exercise
3. Division of Labor
4. Safety Wheel Exercise
5. a. Love Attitude Scale, or 5.b. Compatibility
6. Fighting Fairly Exercise
7. Intimacy Exercise
8. Sexual Behavior Standards
9. Genogram (x 2)
10. Interview of Married Couple

In completing the written assignments and exercises, give a typewritten **personal response** to what you are learning from the experience. These will be graded as follows: 80% for completing the assignment/exercise, 10% on writing skills, and 10% on your personal investment in the experience. These are due the day designated on the outline; if you have an issue that prevents you from completing it on the due date, you must call me ahead of that date and discuss with me the nature of the problem. Otherwise, they will not be accepted late for any reason.

3. **Quizzes:** Prepare for each class period by reading the chapter(s) assigned for that day in your outline. I will try to give you a heads-up on these quizzes in the outline, but pop quizzes can happen any time. These don’t make up a lot of your grade, but it will make a difference if you are prepared. These quizzes cannot be made up if you miss them.

4. **Project:** There will be a **Project** due during the course of the semester. These may be book projects, research efforts, service projects, or may be other forms of study/involvement with family and relationships. There is a description on-line in Canvas to clarify the nature of this project, called the Project Description. The intent of this assignment is to stretch you to learn about yourself by reading something relevant to your situation right now, by choosing an activity that promotes your personal development, or by doing research that does the same. Books and research must be related to family and personal relationships, and **they must have teacher approval. Any book that does not have teacher approval will lose an automatic 30%, and perhaps more.**

As you complete your project, you should have a 2-3 page typewritten summary of the book you read, your research, or your activity. Add to this a 2-4 page typewritten reflection on how the information or experience relates to your life, how it affects you, what you have learned specific to your own situation and present relationships.
5. **Chapter Tests:** Chapter tests will be given as scheduled on the course outline. I drop one test during the semester; other than that, missed tests are lost opportunities. There are no make-up tests. If you have an emergency, please call me before the scheduled test to keep me posted why you must miss the test. Tests will primarily be Multiple Choice/True-False, with some short essay questions. Scantrons will not be needed except for the final exam.

6. **The Choice Seminar:** In class you will have an opportunity to learn material from Arbinger’s Choice Seminar. The classes cannot be missed. Look to the outline and identify the dates this material will be taught. If you know you will miss one or more of these dates, you might be able to attend a night class early in the semester to make it up. Inform Eicher, and make sure you don’t miss.

6. **In Class Simulation Activities:** We may conduct simulation activities in class this semester. Please remember that these activities are to be kept confidential to the class so that subsequent students also have the benefit of learning from them. There will be a 2.00 lab fee for one of the activities.

7. **Comprehensive Final Exam:** There will be a comprehensive final for this class. The study guide for the final attached to this form outlines the concepts that will be included on the final. If you focus on these concepts as we encounter them in class, you will find yourself prepared for the final.

**GRADING:** Your grade will be determined by the percentage of points you earn out of the total possible for the class. Your accumulation of points will also reflect the level of mastery of the outcomes identified above that you have achieved. I program my grader for this class to drop scores as necessary. For example, if only 7 exercises are due out of 10 possibilities, my computer automatically will drop your 3 lowest scores. I will hand out grade summaries to you starting the fourth week of the semester so you can compare your records with mine, and will provide updates every 2-3 weeks thereafter. Come visit with me any time you have a question about your grade or assignments. Points will be accumulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>15-25 each test for @220 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Choice Seminar</td>
<td>Assignments 10 points each 40 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>12 points for each assignment 84 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Project</td>
<td>100 points 100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>20 points. each @120 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points @100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5-6 points each @45-75 pts.</td>
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</tbody>
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The grade earned is based upon the following percentages:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91%-94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>61-63%</td>
</tr>
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**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Cheating is not acceptable in any form, whether it is copying from another student, plagiarism, or other form. The penalty for cheating can range from losing credit for an assignment or test to being expelled from the college or program. Additionally, all students are required to report suspected cheating.
**Classroom Disruption:** Inappropriate classroom behavior may also result in an administrative withdrawal. The classroom is a place of learning which I am responsible to maintain and any disruptive behavior can lead to dismissal from the class. You will be notified of your withdrawal in this way:

1. A verbal request to comply with behavioral expectations of the class. I will let you know that your behavior is not acceptable and what you need to do to change. If your disruptive behavior continues,
2. You will receive a written ‘warning’ letting you know that you have not made the required behavioral change. If the disruptive behavior continues you will be given
3. An administrative withdrawal.

**Special Class Notes:**

1. In the Family Relationships Class we address issues of human sexuality as related to family living. The presentations are respectful and presented sensitively. They reflect current sociological perspectives consistent with other institutions of higher learning as well as current research. If these topics are offensive to a student, that student can negotiate with the instructor to personalize the assignments. Another option is to reconsider enrolling in this course. If these issues are of concern to you, you should look through Chapter 7 in the textbook, Sexuality and Sexual Expression throughout Life, to prepare you for these topics, and decide if they are acceptable classroom material for you.

2. **Attendance Policy** - There is no attendance requirement for the class. However, you will find that if you don’t attend, you will lose points for missed quizzes, for classroom activities, and for the assignments that are due that day. It’s hard to get a good grade in this class without being there. You cannot make quizzes up!

3. **Confidentiality** - Often in a class about relationships students exercise their right to participate by disclosing personal information that is sensitive by nature. We respect these disclosures by not revealing personal information about others outside of class. You may speak about concepts and ideas, about our stories, but you may not connect these with a person or name.
4. **Student Support Services**  
**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**  
Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located at the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

5. If you need help with writing papers, you can physically go to the writing lab in the Browning Learning Center, room 105. You can also reach the Online Writing Center by going to [http://dsc.dixie.edu/owl/](http://dsc.dixie.edu/owl/).

6. Drop in tutoring is available to all registered Dixie State College students. Inquire at [http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/index.htm](http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/index.htm).

7. If you need help from a librarian, access this site: [Http://library.dixie.edu/](http://library.dixie.edu/)

8. Dmail: Important class and college information will be sent to your DMAIL email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a DMAIL email account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select “DMAIL,” for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your DMAIL email, so please check it often.

9. **Disruptive Behavior Policy:** If your conduct in class affects the learning atmosphere of the class, the instructor reserves the right to drop you from the class. This will happen using the following procedure:

   a. Verbal warning that your behavior is negatively affecting the class  
   b. Written warning that you are negatively affecting the class  
   c. Removal from the class. The instructor will inform the student in writing of this, along with contact information for a supervisor of the instructor so the student can appeal if desired.

10. **Policy for Absences Related to College Functions:** For students, such as student athletes, who travel as official representatives of the college, absences due to college functions will not negatively affect the student’s grade. The student is required to provide the instructor with a schedule of days that will be missed, will be required to negotiate any scheduled work ahead of time with the instructor.