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

SEMESTER: Spring 2012
Professor: Gwen Hurd, L.C.S.W.
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Office: Adjunct Office, Education and Family Studies Building

Office Hours: By an appointment only, please e-mail, call or text to schedule.
Begin/Ending Dates: Jan 9 – May 3, 2012
Class Hour: TR 1:00 pm, Section #03
TR 2:30 pm, Section #04
T 5:15 pm, Section #50
Credit Hours: 3.0
Prerequisites: None


Blackboard Vista: All information for the course can be downloaded from Blackboard Vista

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 that 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.

Assignments
1. These are all 2 page typewritten papers 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. For some of the 9 assignments you will have your choice of two options, please complete the assignment that promotes the most personal growth for you:

1a. Research Assignment or BYU survey
2a. Division of Labor
3a. Gender write up (on one of many videos shown in this section)
4a. Sexual Assault Video or Family Violence Presentation
5a. Love Attitude Scale, or Compatibility
6a. Interview of Married Couple
7a. Fair Fighting Exercise or Safety Wheel Exercise
8a. Intimacy Exercise or Sexual Behavior Standards
9a. Genogram

In completing the above assignments, give a typewritten personal response to what you are learning from the experience. These will be graded as follows: 80% for thoughtfully 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; they need to be turned in via Blackboard by the start of class the day they are due (Tuesday night class assignments due Tuesdays by 5:15; T/TH classes assignments due Thursdays at 1 or 2:30 according to class time), no late assignments will be given full credit.

2. Quizzes and in class exercises: Prepare for each class period by reading the chapter(s) assigned for that day in your outline. Pop quizzes and in class exercises can happen any time. These don’t make up a lot of your grade, but it will make a difference if you are in class and prepared. Neither quizzes nor in class exercises can be made up if you miss them.

3. 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 Blackboard 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 3-4 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.

4. Chapter Tests: Chapter tests will be given as scheduled on the course outline. Generally you will be tested on 2 chapters at a time. Tests will be completed online at the testing center; you will have a space of a few days to take the test. There are no make-up tests. Tests will be Matching, Multiple Choice/True-False, with short essay questions. Scantrons will not be needed except for the final exam which will be taken in class.
5. **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.

6. **Comprehensive Final Exam:** There will be a comprehensive final for this class. A study guide for the final will be provided. If you focus on these concepts as we encounter them in class, you will find yourself prepared for the final.

**GRADING:** There are 5 grading categories listed below, each categories will be count as 20% of your final grade. Your grade will be determined by the percentage of points you earn for each category out of the total possible. Your accumulation of points will also reflect the level of mastery of the outcomes identified above that you have achieved. Contact me any time you have a question about your grade or assignments. Points will be accumulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>100 each test (80 for first test)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>20 points each (40 pts for Genogram)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Project</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class Quizzes</td>
<td>10 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>120 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The grade earned is based upon the following percentages:

- A = 95%-100%  
- B+ = 88-90%  
- C+ = 78-80%  
- D+ = 68-70%

- A- = 91%-94%  
- B = 84-87%  
- C = 74-77%  
- D = 64-67%

- B- = 81-83%  
- C-= 71-73%  
- D- = 61-63%

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Failure to comply with academic integrity, honesty, and behavior standards of Dixie College may result in course failure or administrative withdrawal from the class. Don’t be cheating. Inappropriate classroom behavior may also result in an administrative withdrawal. You will be notified of your withdrawal in this way:

1. A verbal request to comply with behavioral expectations of the class.
2. On written ‘warning’ letting you know that you have not made the required behavioral change.
3. 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/.

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

7. If you need help from a librarian, access this site: 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 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.