



HFST 2400

Division: Social and Behavioral Science

Department: Home and Family Studies

Course: HFST 2400

Title: Family Relations

Catalog Description:

In this course students gain an understanding of how relationships are created and maintained in the family system. The course discusses family theory (family systems theory, structure function theory, exchange theory, conflict theory, family development theory etc.), using examples taken from contemporary literature and film to illustrate classroom concepts. Parenting skills and other practical suggestions to challenges facing families today are also included.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

The course is designed to be an introductory course in the study of the family and the many issues that impact these relationships. The course is required for Human Development, Family Science and Family and Consumer Science Education majors, as well as the Family Life one-year Certificate of Completion unique to Snow College. It serves as an elective credit for a number of related majors (Social Work and Psychology, for example). The course is articulated to each of the schools in the state system of higher education.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to

- discuss the different types of families that exist today and why it is so difficult to define just what a family is
- compare and contrast the essential elements of the major family theories
- identify the key factors associated with maintaining healthy family relationships
- describe the impact that education, religion, socioeconomic status, neighborhoods, etc. have on the family and individual family members.
- recognize the relationship principles, family paradigms and appropriate theoretical framework exhibited by the families in the films shown in class.

The student will understand how families have changed throughout history and how the roles of family members have changed over time.

Content:

- Relationship Principles
 - Time, Energy, Risk and Self-Worth
 - Film - *Ordinary People*
- Foundations of Family Study
 - Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives in Family Studies
 - Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Issues Concerning Family Life
 - Family Diversity
 - Partner Selection, Sexual Relations, and Reproduction
 - Patterns of Family Formation
- Social and Cultural Family Contexts
 - Effects of the Economy and Economic Inequalities on Families
 - Impacts of Neighborhoods and Environments on Family Life
 - Roles of Education and Religion in Family Life
- Family Relationships
 - Family Developmental Stages
 - Spousal and Partner Relationships
 - The Parent/Child Relationship
 - Sibling Relationships and Situations
 - Film - *A River Runs Through It*
- Family Problems and Solutions
 - Divorce and Remarriage
 - Film - *Mrs. Doubtfire*
 - Family Violence, Abuse, and Child Neglect
 - Family Dynamics and Emotional, Behavioral, and Delinquency Problems
 - Family Future and Social Policies
- Active Parenting
 - The Active Parent
 - Instilling Courage and Self-Esteem
 - Understanding Your Child
 - Developing Responsibility
 - Winning Cooperation
 - Active Parenting in a Democratic Society
 - Film - *Dad*

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students read and outline each chapter of the text. They can use their outlines on the Mid-term and Final Exams. Groups of students are assigned to read a contemporary work on relationships and families and apply the concepts from the text in a presentation on the work to the rest of the class.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students observe the family depicted in each of the four movies we watch. They then write a two-page paper using the classroom concepts as a basis for their analysis. Suggestions for improvement are given on each paper in order for the students to improve their writing ability and their analytical skills.

4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

Groups of students are assigned to read a contemporary work on relationships and families and present information to the rest of the class. These presentations use a variety of media. Points are given for the creativity and novelty of the presentation.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Students are asked to write an essay as part of the mid term and final exam about how the family has changed over time.

Key Performance Indicators:

The following percentages are approximate:

Chapter Outlines (10 @ 5 pts. each) 7%

Genogram (100 pts.) 15%

Film Papers (3 @ 50 pts. each) 22%

Active Parenting Workbook (135 pts.) 19%

Presentations (50 pts.) 7%

Mid Term Exam (100 pts.) 15%

Final Exam (100 pts.) 15%

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Ambert, Anne-Marie (current edition). *Families in the New Millennium*. Allyn and Bacon Publishing.

Popkin, Michael (current edition). *Active Parenting Today*. Active Parenting Publishers.

Misc. contemporary books such as:

- *Fatherless America*
- *When Work Doseen't Work Anymore*
- *Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus*
- etc.

Fims:

- *Ordinary People*
- *A River Runs Through It*
- *Mrs. Doubtfire*
- *Dad*

Optimum Class Size: 24
Maximum Class Size: 35

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Tracie Bradley, MEd, Associate Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Home and Family Studies Department:

Kim Cragun, MS, Associate Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)