

HDFS 524 Essential Course Elements – Family Studies

Approved by the University Curriculum Committee: December 2020; Effective Fall 2021

Course Description

Major theories and content areas in the field of family studies with an emphasis on family diversity.

Course Prerequisites

None

Grade Mode

Traditional

Instructional Format

Online & Face-to-Face

Credit Distribution

Lecture: 2 credits

Recitation/Other: 1 credit

Course Learning Objectives (These are to communicate the observable and measurable student learning outcomes for every course offering.)

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and explain the core assumptions, major concepts, and limitations of key theoretical perspectives employed in studying families.
2. Describe current trends in family studies content areas.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the roles of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, income, and culture on family relationships and functioning.
4. Analyze how family theories are applied in empirical studies in the fields of family studies and family interventions.
5. Identify the implications of family studies research for family-related prevention and intervention programming.

Course Content (Major topics necessary to meet course objectives.)

Week	Content	Learning Outcome
1	Course Overview	LO1-LO5
2	Introduction to Family Studies & Family Theory Library & Research Resources	LO1
3	Historical Context of Family Postmodernism	LO1, LO2
4	Race & Racial Discrimination Critical Race Theories & Other Theories Related to Discrimination	LO1-LO5
5	Sexual Orientation & Gender Feminist & Queer Theories	LO1-LO5
6	Income & Poverty Family Stress Model	LO1-LO5
7	Relationship Formation & Cohabitation Social Exchange Theory	LO1, LO2, LO4, LO5
8	Couplehood & Marriage Adult Attachment Theory	LO1, LO2, LO4, LO5
9	Transition to Parenthood Family Development Theory & Life Course Perspective	LO1, LO2, LO4, LO5
10	Family Processes Family Systems Theory	LO1, LO2, LO4, LO5
11	Divorce, Repartnering, Stepfamilies Family Stress Theory	LO1, LO2, LO4, LO5
12	Work & Family Families & Health	LO2, LO5
13	Intimate Partner Violence	LO2, LO5

	Families in Later Life	
14	Immigrant Families Family Policy	LO2, LO3, LO5
15	Final Reflections	LO1-LO5
16	Final Research Paper	LO1-LO5

Methods of Evaluation (These are the assessment components listed in the CIM system for this course but instructors can depart from these guidelines if they have justifiable reasons. In contrast, instructors are required to meet all learning objective and content requirements listed.)

Reflections & Discussions (15-40%)
 Theory & Research Papers (25-40%)
 Student Presentations (20-35%)

Student Pedagogical Techniques

In both online and face-to-face formats, the course will consist of lecture, student presentations (e.g., theory or content presentations), discussions and reflections (evaluated based on length, content, and writing quality), and theory and research paper(s).

Textbooks and Course Materials

Current and relevant materials will be selected, such as:

Smith, S. R. & Hamon, R. R. (2012/2016). Exploring family theories (3rd/4th ed). Oxford.
 The Decade in Review (2020). Journal of Marriage and Family, 82(1).

Required in these Programs

ADVS-PHD: Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Science
 HDFS-MAFZ-MS: Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies, Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization, Plan A
 HDFS-PVSZ-MS: Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies, Plan A, Prevention Science Specialization
 PRSP-DD-MPSP: Master of Prevention Science Practice, Plan C (M.P.S.P.)

Elective in these Programs

None