

EDU 338W CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study about children, youth, and family development. It is based on the theory that primary caregivers have the most significant influence in the growth and development of children. This course will cover family systems, with a strong orientation on the context of relationships, parenting, school, community, and social issues and the impact each has on the family.

Textbook: There is no text required. A notebook will be provided for students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will:

- Learn and understand the basic theories, terms, and approaches to the study of children, youth, and family as demonstrated in class discussion, lecture, speakers, community resource tours, group work and written assignments.
- Learn and understand various functions and roles of a family as demonstrated in class discussion, lecture, speakers, community resource tours, group work, and written assignments.
- Learn what affect divorce, addiction, homelessness, abuse, violence, parenting styles, education, and family roles have on the healthy development of a family as demonstrated in class discussion, lecture, speakers, community resource tours, group work and written assignments.
- Learn and understand different counseling strategies to improve the well-being of children, youth and family as demonstrated in class discussion, lecture, speakers, community resource tours, group work and written assignments.
- Learn and understand how influences outside of the family impact the healthy or unhealthy development of children, youth and family as demonstrated in class discussion, lecture, speakers, community resource tours, group work and written assignments.

ATTENDANCE:

Your attendance and participation is important to a meaningful learning experience. Class participation by students is encouraged and valued. It enhances the learning experience. It is understood there are times when a student may need to miss a class. Here is how it will be dealt with. For the first absence a student can read an article from a magazine, newspaper, journal or periodical related to children, youth or family. The student must then do a typed, double-spaced, grammatically correct, complete three-page summary of what the article said in their own words and how that applied to the course objectives. It must be done in 12- point font, and is due by the last class session. If the student chooses not to do this, there will be a loss of five points. The second absence results in a loss of one letter grade. The third absence will result in loss of credit for the course. For seminar students, all work must be turned in the last class session.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Students are expected to participate in the learning process. They will do the following:

- Students will complete five individual take home assignments worth two points each that are directly related to the course objectives. Students must be prepared to share their perspectives from the assignments. Failure to complete them will result in a loss of two points per assignment not completed.
- Students will receive a notebook to be used as a reference. There are several topics with questions, and students are required to have them answered for group work. Speakers, tours, and group collaboration will be used to enhance the student's learning experience.
- Students will do a 50-point take home exam, which will be taken from the class notebook, notes, speakers and tours. This will be given to the students the 7th week and will be due the 8th week of class. Students are expected to use the honor system and do the take home on their own, not in groups. For seminar students, it will be due the last class session.
- Students will be divided into groups and choose a topic related to children, youth and family. They are expected to work cooperatively and collaboratively to thoroughly research it. A minimum of four references is required. The research will reflect each person's interpretation of the data as well as new information and insight. It is to be done in PowerPoint the last class session. Each student is expected to participate in the research and presentation. The presentation should not exceed 20 minutes. It is worth 15 points.
- The questions in the notebook will be used to inspire class discussions and raise student's awareness of issues confronting children, youth and families. Students are strongly encouraged to respond to those questions between class sessions. Some of the work will be done in class. Students can lose two points for not being prepared for class.
- Students will work in groups to do case studies related to children, youth and families.

Keep in mind that course circumstances change; therefore the instructor may need to change the course agenda.

GRADING:

A 100 point grading system will be used. The take home exam is worth 50 points, the five individual assignments are worth 10 points, the group presentation on creating a resource center is worth 15 points, and 25 points for attendance, preparation, participation and notes. The following scale will be used: 93-100=A, 91-92=A-, 89-90=B+, 85-88=B, 83-84=B-, 81-82=C+, 77-80=C, 75-76=C-, 73-74=D+, 71-72=D, 70=D-, and below 70=F. Grading criteria for written assignments is in the class notebook.

Work not handed in on time will result in a 6-point loss unless there is an extraordinary circumstance approved by the instructor. If any assignment is not turned in by the last class session, it will not be accepted and 0 points will be assessed to the student's grade.

This course is interactive and requires each student to look at critical issues that face children, youth and families. There may be times during the course when someone shares a personal experience. Therefore, it is important to be patient, understanding, respectful and compassionate. What a person shares will be listened to respectfully and should be kept confidential.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES:

All work by students needs to be turned in by the end of the last class session. Unless there is an extraordinary circumstance approved by the instructor and the student requests an incomplete, none will be given and the appropriate deduction for the assignment will be made to assess the student's final grade.

IMPORTANT WEB SITES:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu> for APA style, which is required.

<http://www.colorado.edu/Publications/styleguide/capitalization.html> for writing skills.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: The Doane College academic policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and test will represent your own work. Any use of others' ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.