

COUN 316
Parent & Family Dynamics
Spring 2014
Flexible Class Schedule

Instructor: Timothy Sneed
Office Location: Sherman, TX
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Office Phone: 903-957-4820
Email: (use Coun 316 in your subject line) tsneed@leomail.tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Text

Bigner, J.J. & Gerhardt, C.J. (2013). *Parent-child relations: An introduction to parenting*. (9th ed.). Columbus, OH: Pearson.

Course Description

COUN 316 Parent and Family Dynamics.

This course will expose students to basic approaches to parenting assessment and development of parenting skills; communication systems study of children, and families with various cultural patterns and lifestyles. Included in the course will be readings from the text.

Objectives

Students will demonstrate:

- The ability to recognize and identify the different family structures.
- A familiarity of parenting approaches.
- A recognition and understanding of communication patterns within the family system context.
- An understanding of the theoretical implications of techniques utilized when working with family systems.
- An awareness of cultural importance when working with families.

FLEXIBLE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Method of Instruction

This course will utilize lecture, class discussions, role plays, experiential activities, and possibly video demonstrations to achieve the learning objectives.

Assignments

Presentation: (100 pts.)

You will be expected to give a 10 - 20 minute presentation to the class about a book on parenting. The book may be of your choosing, but it must be pre-approved by the instructor prior to scheduling and completing your presentation.

The presentation will include:

- Choosing a book on parenting and getting permission to present it to the class (10 pts.)
- Providing a handout to the class of the overview of your book & presentation (40 pts.)

- 10 - 20 minute presentation about the book to the class

(50 pts.)

100 pts.

Writing Assignment: (100 pts.)

You will be expected to complete a writing assignment discussing your beliefs about parenting and parenting styles. The paper will be in response to specific questions about parenting styles and techniques, therefore will require you to engage in some self-exploration. This paper will not be required to have citations nor references since you will be discussing your own thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. There is no minimal length for this assignment, however, the paper will include:

- An APA formatted cover sheet
- 12 pt., Times New Roman font throughout
- Double-spacing throughout

In grading your written assignment I will be looking at two areas:

- The degree to which you completed all aspects of the assignment
- To what degree were you engaged in self-exploration

A handout with questions for the writing assignment will be provided in class

Final Examination: (100 pts.)

You will be expected to complete a final examination. The final exam will be completed in class and will cover material from the assigned text book, lectures, discussion, presentations, handouts, notes, and any other related material discussed in or made available to the class. More information about the final exam will be provided in class.

Quizzes: (TBD)

You will be expected to read the items listed in the flexible schedule below prior to each class. Quizzes are not regularly scheduled but you will be expected to complete all quizzes in class as they are assigned. Please be prepared for class by keeping up with the assigned readings ahead of the class. This will ensure that you are prepared for any unannounced or “pop” quizzes.

Attendance & Attention: (100 points)

You will be expected to attend class regularly. Please inform me via e-mail if you are planning on not attending class. Since this class meets once a week missing more than 2 classes means missing almost 20% of the class. Therefore, missing more than 2 classes will result in the lowering of your final grade by 1 letter grade unless prior arrangements have been made.

1st Absence: -10 pts **2nd** Absence: -15 pts **3rd** Absence: -20 pts ...and so on...

You will also be expected to be courteous, respectful, and participative. Participation in class activities, including discussion groups and in-class assignments, is a component of attendance. Failure to prepare and participate effectively will negatively impact the learning processes devised for the class. “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment” (Student Guide Book, pp. 67-73). Arrive to class on time and **do not pack up early**. If you know ahead of time you will be late or will need to leave early please notify me by email at least a day in advance. Contributions, on a regular basis, to class discussions are expected. Reading assigned work and course material is expected. **Silence all cell phones (vibrate is not silent)**. Students who fail to do so may be asked to leave the class. **It is inappropriate and disrespectful to “surf” the web,**

check email or text during class. You will be expected to limit computer usage to note taking only (if necessary) unless otherwise stated in class by the instructor.

** My full time job occasionally requires me to be out of town. Occasionally, the need for me to be out of town does not become known with much advanced notice. If I need to cancel class I will let you know as soon as possible along with any relevant material. Thank you in advance for your understanding.*

Late Assignment Policies

All assignments are due, on the given assignment date, at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted. Computer problems are not an excuse for missed/late assignments. In certain circumstances, some assignments may be emailed to me. Do not email assignments to me unless you have discussed the situation with me and I have given you permission via email to send the document. **Remember the subject line should read “Counseling 316”.**

Grading

Presentation = 100

Written Assignment = 100

Final Exam = 100

Attendance & Participation = 100

Total possible points for the semester = 400

Unannounced quizzes will be worth 5 pts. each and will change this grading scale

A: 360 - 400 points

B: 320 - 359 points

C: 280 - 319 points

D: 240 - 279 points

F: 239 points or below

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The best way to communicate with me between classes is email. Please use “Counseling 316” in the subject of your email. In the content part of your email be sure to include your first and last name and the best phone number in which I can contact you, if necessary. If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, please contact me at 903-957-4820 during regular business hours, leaving your first and last name and, again, the best way I can contact you. Also, I will be more than happy to meet with you if necessary at the CHEC. Contact me so that we can set up a convenient time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly work free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Texas A&M University-Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. As the University states, **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** These policies are

stated in detail in the Student's Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read this document and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment grade of "0" on the homework assignment. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the University. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate *plagiarism* and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse, (destruction, defacing or removal of resource material.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit the following websites:
<http://www.plagiarism.org/>
<http://www.unc.edu/depts/weweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>
<http://www.indiana.edu/-wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.html>

Withdrawal Policy

Every student has the right to drop the course without penalty until the drop-date. Students dropping the course during this period will be given a DP (drop while passing). A grade of DP is GPA neutral, but a grade of DF counts as an F on your transcript. If you choose to stop attending class, you may be dropped from the course due to excessive absences. If you are not satisfied with your grade in the course and wish to drop, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. Once the grade of DP or DF has been registered, I will not be able to change it. A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the web page.

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. *If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:*

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-51512 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

Polite and civil interactions with all members of the class is expected. ("All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.

- All electronic games devices are to be silenced during class time. I understand there are times and situations in which you may need to be available to others via electronic devices. However, I expect you to be courteous to the class and respectful to everyone else's attention to the class. So please, have your electronic devices silenced.
- I expect every student to have the utmost respect for their peers in class, especially when discussing experiences of a sensitive or personal nature. Students are reminded disclosures in the classroom setting are to be kept confidential.
- Discriminatory, rude and, inappropriate language will not be tolerated in this class and the student(s) choosing to act in a discriminatory or rude manner or use inappropriate language will be asked to leave the class. Disruption of class or inconsiderate behavior will not be tolerated. If the student continues to act in the same manner during future classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop the student from the course.

University closing due to weather

Check <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu> regarding class cancellations. Also KETR radio on 88.9 FM and Channel 4, 5 and 8 (Channel 7 for Tyler and Longview area).

Flexible Class Schedule

Flexible Schedule	Class Content	Assignment(s) Due
01/15/2014	Introduction, Syllabus	
01/22/2014	TBD	TBD
01/29/2014	TBD	TBD
02/05/2014	TBD	TBD
02/12/2014	TBD	TBD
02/19/2014	TBD	TBD
02/26/2014	TBD	TBD
03/05/2014	TBD	TBD
03/12/2014	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No Class; No Assignment</i>
03/19/2014	TBD	TBD
03/26/2014	TBD	TBD
04/02/2014	TBD	TBD
04/09/2014	TBD	TBD
04/16/2014	TBD	TBD
04/23/2014	TBD	TBD
04/30/2014	TBD	TBD
05/07/2014	<i>Final Exam</i>	

***A specific breakdown of class content and reading assignments will be made available in class**