COUNSELING 414 Home and Family Living  
Spring 2015 Flexible Syllabus  
CHEC 114, McKinney, TX  
Thursdays, 7:20 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Instructor: Timothy Sneed, LPC, LMFT-A, NCC  
Office Location: 315 W. McLain Sherman, TX 75092  
Office Number: 903-957-4820  
Office Hours: By Appointment in the CHEC building  
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COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Text  
Required:  

Optional:  

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

COUN 414 will cover the facets of marriage, family life, gender roles, sex and sexuality, family violence, divorce and the impact on daily living.

Objectives:

The student will examine and acquire a general understanding of:

* The meaning of marriage and the family,
* Variations in the American family life,
* Gender and family,
* Intimacy, friendship, and love,
* Sex and sexuality,
* Communication, power, and conflict,
* Marriages in societal and individual perspective,
* Singlehood and cohabitation,
* Marriage, work, and economics,
* Parenting,
* Intimate violence and sexual abuse, and
* Separation and divorce.
FLEXIBLE COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course will utilize lecture, class discussions, video demonstrations, role plays and experiential activities to achieve the learning objectives. Students are expected to attend all classes and complete all assignments, exams, and quizzes by their respective due dates.

FLEXIBLE COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

READING ASSIGNMENTS & QUIZZES
You will be expected to have read the material for each class period PRIOR to class. In the schedule each class date has an assigned chapter from your text listed that you are to have read prior to the start of that respective class date. Unannounced quizzes over the assigned readings may be given at the discretion of the instructor.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (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 for 14 weeks missing more than 2 classes means missing more than 20% of the class. Therefore, missing more than 2 classes will result in the lowering of your final grade by 1 letter grade for each missed class beyond 2 misses unless prior arrangements have been made. Being late to class or leaving early could result in loss of points as well. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please inform me ahead of time if you will be late or will need to leave early.

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). 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 those around you to “surf” the web, check email or text during class. If you must be on your phone, please step outside to avoid distracting others in the class. You will be expected to limit computer usage to note taking only (if necessary) unless otherwise stated in class by the instructor. “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).

Reaction Papers (100 pts. each)

In addition to weekly reading assignments, each student will be responsible for 2 reaction papers which will be related to a topic discussed in class. These are opinion based papers which are intended to gauge your feelings regarding topics and/or presentations that are discussed in class. Papers are to be 2-3 pages in length (no more than 3 pages, no less than 2 pages), be specific to the assigned topic, be completed in proper APA format, and are due at the beginning of class on their due date. E-mailed papers will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.
Family Reflection Papers (100 pts.)

A handout on this assignment will be made available by the instructor to the class.

Grading Total possible points for the semester = 400
Attendance/Participation 100 points
Reaction Papers (X 2) 200 points
Family Reflection Paper 100 points

Final Grades:
A - 360 - 400 points
B - 320 - 359 points
C - 280 - 319 points
D - 240 - 279 points
F - Below 240 points

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

All assignments are due, on the given assignment date, at the beginning of class. NO LATE PAPERS/PROJECTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Computer problems are not an excuse for missed/late assignments. In certain circumstances, some assignments may be emailed to me. Unless otherwise notified, all assignments are to be printed and handed in at the beginning of class. Do not send assignments to me unless you have discussed the situation with me and I have given you permission to send the document via e-mail. Remember the subject line should read COUNSELING 414.

Extra Credit & Unannounced Assignments

NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THIS CLASS. The instructor may provide additional assignments (such as pop quizzes, writing assignments, reading assignments, etc…) as the course develops and continues to help aid in meeting the learning objectives for the course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT:

The best way to communicate with me between classes is email. I will communicate with the class via your TAMUC myLEO e-mail account. Please use COUNSELING 414 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 to contact you, if necessary. I respond to emails daily. If you do not hear from me within 24 hours or you need to speak to me, please contact me at 903-957-4820, leaving your first and last name, and, again, the best way I can contact you. You will likely need to leave a message, as I am typically with clients or in meetings. Also, I will be more than
happy to meet with you on campus if necessary. Contact me so that we can set up a convenient
time.

Due to the nature of my full-time employment, I may have to cancel class unexpectedly. I will
alert the course via e-mail should this happen. Please check your e-mail before you begin your
journey to campus each week to avoid any unnecessary trips.

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).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES:

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
a GPA neutral, but a grade of SD 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 webpage.

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
COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES:

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.

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/remarks 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(s) continue 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 http://www.tamu-commerce.edu, KETR radio on 88.9, and your local news & weather channel.

REFERENCES AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

It is not uncommon for students wishing to apply for a job or who are applying to another degree program or university to request that their instructors provide them a letter of recommendation or to be a reference for them. Much like many instructors, I do not mind being this person for you should you want me to be. However, in order to be able to provide an appropriate recommendation it is important that I believe a person to actually be a good recommendation. For this reason I have developed my own guidelines for me to feel “OK” about being a reference for students. I cannot, in good conscience, provide a recommendation for students unless he or she has:

* Completed a minimum of 2 courses I have instructed
* Have passed all courses I have instructed for them with a grade of a “B” or better
* Have discussed the desire to have me provide the recommendation for them AHEAD of time and I have agreed to provide such recommendation (The first time I know you need a recommendation does not need to be when somebody contacts me needing the recommendation)

Students having met the above guidelines are welcome to contact me about the need for a recommendation and we can schedule a time to discuss your needs face-to-face. Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to helping you reach your goals if you need me to do so!
FLEXIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

01/22  --------------------------------------- NO CLASS ---------------------------------------
01/29  Introductions, course overview, expectations, material, syllabus, etc.
02/05  Ch. 1; Class Discussion
02/12  Ch. 2; Class Discussion
02/19  Ch. 3; Class Discussion
02/26  Ch. 4; Class Discussion
03/05  Ch. 5 & 6; Class Discussion
03/12  Ch. 7; Class Discussion; Reaction Paper 1 Due
03/19  SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS
03/26  Ch. 8; Class Discussion
04/02  Ch. 9; Class Discussion
04/09  Ch. 10; Class Discussion
03/16  Ch. 11; Class Discussion
04/23  Ch. 12; Class Discussion
04/30  Ch. 13; Class Discussion; Family Reflection Paper Due
05/07  Ch. 14; Class Discussion; Reaction Paper 2 Due
05/14  Wrapping up, Final thoughts, & Parting words of wisdom