

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Department of: Human Environmental Studies

Course No.: CF 630

Title of Course: Family Systems Applications in
Human Services

Revision: Spring 2013

New: _____

Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Advanced family studies based upon the Family Systems Theory. Thorough examination of the familial subsystems and intervention determination. (3)

I. Prerequisite(s) :

Graduate standing; completed at least two human behavior courses or permission of the instructor.

II. Purposes or Objectives of the Course:

- A. Explain the evolution of the family structure from a historical perspective.
- B. Summarize the foundational concepts and frameworks of selected family theories and theorists.
- C. Demonstrate the ability to integrate Family Systems Theory into the phases of the family life cycle.
- D. Develop a critical understanding of the application of the Family Systems approach in professional human service intervention and practice.
- E. Construct a functional overview of contemporary family issues and trends and establish potential solutions utilizing the family theoretical models.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Summarize foundational concepts and frameworks of selected family theories.
- B. Distinguish elements of the family systems theory in the family life cycle.
- C. Outline the historical milestones in the development of the family.

V. Expectations of Students:

- A. Complete all reading assignments and be prepared to discuss all assignments in class.
- B. Summarize and critically evaluate research involving family systems concepts.
- C. Complete family worksheets and discuss in class.
- D. Pass the midterm and final essay exam and terminology quizzes.

VI. Course Content or Outline:

- A. Brief history and overview of the family structure. 3 hrs.
 - 1. Chronological overview up to 1800
 - 2. Chronological overview from 1800 to present
 - 3. Historical change elements
 - 4. Cross-cultural perspectives
- B. Frameworks for studying Families 6 hrs.
 - 1. Family Development
 - 2. Symbolic Interaction Functionalism
 - 3. Social Construction
 - 4. Feminist
 - 5. Structural Functional
 - 6. Conflict
 - 7. Social Exchange
 - 8. Systems
 - 9. Ecological
- C. Family Systems Theory 10 hrs.
 - 1. Systemic conceptualization
 - a. Subsystems
 - 2. Wholeness
 - a. Non summativity
 - 3. Boundaries
 - 4. Hierarchy
 - 5. Communication
 - a. Circular Causality
 - b. Positive Feedback
 - c. Negative Feedback
 - 6. Equifinality
 - 7. Balance
 - 8. Interdependence-connectivity
 - 9. Change
 - a. First order
 - b. Second order
- D. Familial Subsystems 2 hrs.
 - 1. Adult Subsystem
 - 2. Parent-Child Subsystem

- 3. Sibling Subsystem
- 4. Family of Origin as a Subsystem

- E. Systemic Power 6 hrs.
 - 1. Dyadic Power
 - 2. Triangulation
 - 3. Perverse Triangles
 - a. Generational
 - b. Scapegoat
 - 4. Alignments
 - 5. Coalitions
 - 6. Adultification
 - a. Precocious Knowledge
 - b. Mentored Adultification
 - c. Peerification/spousification
 - d. Parentification
 - 7. Relational Power Factors

- F. Genogram and Mapping Techniques 12 hrs.
 - 1. Genogram symbols
 - 2. Genogram plotting
 - 3. Family mapping
 - 4. Assessment of family system structural indices
 - 5. Determination of systems status

- G. Implications for Intervention 6 hrs.
 - 1. First order change
 - 2. Second order change
 - 3. Mapping potential intervention
 - 4. Implications for referral

- 45 hours

VII. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

Falicov, C.J. (1998). *Family transitions: Continuity and change over the life cycle*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Reference texts:

McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R. & Petry, S. (2008). *Genograms assessment and intervention*. (3rd edition). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

McKenry, P. & Price, S. (2000). *Families and change*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Nichols, W. & Everett, C. (1986). *Systemic family therapy*. New York: The Guilford Press.

VIII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

A. Midterm Essay Exam	20%
B. Final Essay Exam	30%
C. Special assignments/worksheets	5%
D. Research Analysis Paper	30%
E. Terminology Quizzes	<u>15%</u>
	100%

IX. Grading Scale: (Point system)

100-92%	A
92-84%	B
83-76%	C
75-0%	F

Note: The weight of evaluation criteria may vary according to each instructor and will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

X. Academic Policy Statement:

Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to: <http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html>

XI. Student with Disabilities Statement:

If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs.

XII Academic Integrity Statement:

Questions, comments, or requests regarding this course or program should be taken to your instructor. Unanswered questions or unresolved issues involving this class may be taken to (supervisor name here).