



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SUMMER 2016

SWK 361 – Issues in Family Treatment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This elective course is designed to enable students to understand the theories and the process of helping families. Information is provided on diverse family structures and work with families facing divorce, death, domestic violence, and other social problems.

GOALS AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Prepare BSW graduates for entry-level professional social work practice that reflects generalist social work knowledge and skills. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- 1.1 Apply critical thinking and effective communication (2.1.3)
- 1.2 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research (2.1.6)
- 1.3 Apply knowledge of HBSE to practice (2.1.7)
- 1.4 Apply knowledge of policy to practice (2.1.8)
- 1.5 Apply change strategies with all levels of systems (2.1.10)

2. Enable BSW graduates to practice ethically and apply social work values to promote equality and justice. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- 2.1 Apply social work ethics & principles (2.1.2)
- 2.2 Engage diversity in practice (2.1.4)

2.3 Promote human rights and social and economic justice (2.1.5)

3. Provide meaningful contexts through which BSW students engage in leadership, service, and professional excellence. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

3.1 Identify and respond as a professional social worker (2.1.1)

3.2 Respond to professional contexts that shape practice, demonstrating qualities of leadership for the profession. (2.1.9)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To further the students understanding of the multi problem, crisis-prone family.
2. To enhance the student's awareness of current, state-of-the-art models of helping families dealing with stress, dysfunction, and coping techniques.
3. To explore a variety of approaches to assessment and intervention when dealing with the difficulty of family problems.
4. To provide students with a good systems-oriented understanding of families and how they are evolving in today's society.

TEXT:

Thomlison, B. (2016). *Family Assessment Handbook: An Introduction and Practical Guide to Family Assessment 4th Edition*. CA: Thomson, Brooks/Cole.

GRADING:

Grading and evaluation - Grades will be determined according to the following percentage points earned against possible points.

Evaluation for the course grade will be computed according to the following formula:

Possible Points Grade

200 to 180 – A

179 to 160 – B

159 to 140 – C

139 to 120 – D

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

ONLINE: Students are expected to attend class by logging in to the course in a timely manner, reflecting responsibility, which is inherent in the development as a social work professional. The instructor has the ability to see when you log in, what sections you visit and how much time you spend in the course material. Assignments submitted on time are also counted as attendance; therefore, an assignment not submitted is counted as an absence for that week. Students are expected to participate in class, even when there is not a specific grade attached (see Topic Check-in). Course topics, PowerPoint lectures, discussions, groups, videos, and other experiential exercises are essential for a student's professional learning and continued development of self-awareness. In this online course, a student is considered absent if he/she fails to log in sufficient time for the material for that week or fails to complete an assignment that is due that week.

The following penalties for absences (unexcused, or excused, according to university policy) will be administered:

Weekly	Up to 2 absences No penalty	3 absences 1 letter grade drop	4 absences Class grade of "F"	
Bi-weekly	Up to 3 absences No penalty	4 absences 1 letter grade drop	5 absences 1 letter grade drop	6 absences Class grade of "F"
Summer 10-week	Up to 1 absence No penalty	2 absences 1 letter grade drop	3 absences Class grade of "F"	

Final evaluation and grades depend on both presence and participation. Students' grades will be significantly impacted by inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment each week. Students are expected to spend a comparable amount of time in the online learning environment as they would in class (3 hours a week in the classroom). In addition, just as in traditional F2F classrooms, students are expected to spend time reading and studying class materials.

NOTE: PROBLEMS WITH YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION AND/OR COMPUTER ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS REASONS FOR LACK OF PARTICIPATION. You have access to

the university's computer labs (in the social work department AND other campus facilities, including the library) as well as local libraries and other access to computers and ISPs.

If you believe that you are unable to fulfill the requirements for the course you should talk with your instructor about the possibility of dropping or withdrawing.

Class participation has three components: (1) Appropriate interactions with classmates, (2) Attentiveness, and (3) Active involvement in class activities. Evaluation of class participation is based on instructor observation. Students will be given feedback if problems are evident.

POLICY ON DUE DATES: Assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the Sunday of the week in which the assignment is located. Class weeks for this course begin on Mondays at 12:00 a.m. and close on Sundays at 11:59 p.m. *Late assignments will not be accepted.*

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Law, ethical standards, university policy, and departmental policy demand that students refrain from plagiarism and any form of cheating. Plagiarism is the "Act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts of passages from of his [or her] writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the products of one's own mind." (Black's Law Dictionary, Abridged Fifth Edition, 1983). When using others' words, phrases, or ideas in writing, the original author should be given proper credit.

Cheating may take different forms. These include, but are not limited to, copying others' answers during an exam, using notes or other forms of help during an examination or quiz, except when explicitly permitted by the instructor, giving or receiving help on exams or assignments, or submitting work for one class which has already been submitted for another class for credit. Use of citations from the Internet without paraphrasing content AND proper

programs (such as Turn It In”) to identify plagiarism.

The department does not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. A student found to be engaging in such illegal and unethical conduct may receive a failing grade in the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary proceedings. Any assignment or exam that lacks honesty will be given a grade of "0".

ACCEPTABLE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

“Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to obey all federal, state, and local laws, in addition to the regulations of the University. The standards of Student Conduct including disciplinary rules and procedures are designed to provide and conform to the basic tenets of due process, as developed by institutions of higher education. As such, the University distinguishes these procedures and regulations as an educational and growth process which is not intended to conform to adversary proceedings as in a court of law. (Student’s Guide Book, 2011, p. 35).

OVERVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Quizzes (3 throughout the course) = 30 points total
- 2. Discussion board (3 throughout the course) = 30 points total
- 3. Written assignments (3 throughout the course) = 60 points total
- 4. Group = 20 points
- 5. Topic Check-in = 20 points
- 6. Final exam = 40 points total

SWK 361 Schedule Summer 2016

Week	Reading(s)	Assignment/Activities
1- June 6	Syllabus Chapter 10 – Critical and Reflective Thinking	Review of Syllabus and navigation of course Topic Check-in
2- June 13	Chapter 1 – Family Contexts Chapter 2 – A Framework for Understanding Families	Discussion Board #1 Quiz on Chaps 1, 2, 10
3- June 20	Chapter 3 – The Family System	Paper #1
4- June 27	Chapter 6 – Intergenerational Family Systems	Topic Check-in Discussion Board #2
5- July 4	Chapter 4 –Family Assessment	Quiz 2 on Chaps 3, 4, 6

6- July 11	Chapter 5 – Designing Family Interventions	Paper #2
7- July 18	Chapter 8 Chapter 9 – Evaluation	Topic Check-in Discussion Board #3
8- July 25	Chapter 7 – Evidenced-based Practice	Online Groups Quiz 3 on Chaps 5, 7, 9
9- August 1	Online article	Paper #3
10- August 8		Topic Check-in Final Exam due on August 14 th by 11:59 Pm

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

1. **Quizzes** – There are three quizzes throughout the course; each one is worth 10 points (20 questions worth ½ point each). Quizzes will only open on Monday at 12 a.m. in the week they are listed and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. **There are no allowances for opening a quiz after it has closed (in order to be completed late).** Each quiz is on specific chapters and there are no overlaps. All quizzes are open book; however, all quizzes are also timed, which means you are advised to have notes or to have read the material to reduce flipping through pages to find the answers.

2. **Discussion** – There are 3 discussion assignments throughout this course. They are worth 10 points each. To receive the points on each discussion assignment **you must do all of the following:**

a. **You must respond to the discussion prompt of the instructor by Wednesday at 11:59 pm and then respond to TWO of your peers between Thursday after 12:01am and Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

b. Your initial post must be a true discussion of your understanding of the topic assignment and **must be between 10- 15 sentences.**

c. The comments to your **TWO peers** must be a minimum of **five sentences and must add to the discussion.** Though you are free to say things like “Interesting thought” or “Nice discussion,” these comments and those similar **are not counted as part of the five sentences.**

d. Proper grammar is expected. I highly recommend typing your thoughts and comments in a file on a word processing program and check for spelling and grammatical errors. Professionalism and professional presentation is an expectation and not an option. Points will be taken off for sloppy spelling and writing.

3. **Papers** – You will have three written assignments throughout the course on an assigned topic. Each paper is worth 20 points. All assignments are to be APA format with Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double-spaced. They are submitted via the **dropbox** in your eCollege course for the week they are due. *Do not submit them as an email. **They must be a document with your last name as part of the file name and they must be a Word document** (.doc or .docx*

extensions). You are required to use the template “located in “doc sharing” for each of the papers. A grading rubric is supplied for each paper so you know **exactly** what you are being graded on. **You must copy and paste the rubric to each of your papers.**

4. Group – Prior to **Week 8** you will be assigned to a group and given specific instructions for the group activity your group is to complete. This assignment will be given to you (and your group members) in **Week 2** and must be completed by the end of **Week 8**. It is worth 20 points.

5. Topic Check-in – These are scattered throughout the course. They require that you log in for that week and watch the video. For credit for this, you must complete the assignment by clicking into your Journal after viewing the video **and posting a one paragraph summary of what the video was about, and a one paragraph summary of your thoughts on what you saw.** Be sure that you date your journal entry. The combined assignments are worth 20 points.

6. Final Exam – This is worth 40 points and is a **comprehensive exam** on everything you learned in the course. It pulls questions from all previous exams you have taken and to be done within the time allocated so you will need to have studied the material.

POLICY ON LATE WORK OR EXTRA CREDIT: I DO NOT allow for late work or extra credit. There are a number of assignments in the course that will allow students of multiple learning types to excel. I do not allow for make ups for any missed assignment. The reason for this is that you have ample time to complete each assignment. It is important to pay close attention to deadlines. **I highly recommend using a calendar or print off a calendar and mark your assignments and due dates.**

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the “My Courses” tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

Pearson Learning Studio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see
Updated version 12.12

certain material, etc.) please contact the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson Learning Studio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson Learning Studio Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You then will be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

Internet Access

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>


Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

frEE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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