



COUN 316:01E, Parent and Family Dynamics

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I, 2026 (Jun 1st – July 2nd)

Instructor: Dr. Rusty Fox
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Office Hours: Times are available by appointment, virtual or in person
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Preferred Form of Communication: Email
*(please **always** put course number 316 in subject line)*
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours during weekdays

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required – Parent-Child Relations: An Introduction to Parenting

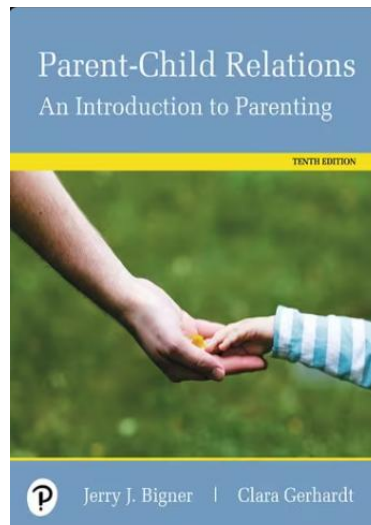
Author: Bigner and Gerhardt

Edition: 10th

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Publisher: Pearson



The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

COUN 316

Parent and Family Dynamics. Three semester hours. Approaches to parenting; assessment and development of parenting skills; communication systems; study of children and families with various cultural patterns and lifestyles.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstration of understanding of theories related to Parent and Family Dynamics.
2. Application of techniques and skills related to parenting.
3. Fundamental assessment of causes of challenges facing families.
4. Ability to demonstrate basic counseling skills related to family intervention.
5. Awareness and ability to effectively use basic parent and family definitions, data, and principles of practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Required preparation before class, and participation in each class session.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of postings, discussion, applications of content/experiential learning, reading and writing assignments, guided practice and perhaps even role-plays, and group activities. Self-reflection, self-evaluation, and offering and receiving feedback are essential instructional methods in this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Read ahead. Be present. Outline each chapter, first. Read chapter and review outline before assigned class time. Review outline and reconstruct core content daily for each discussion and activity. Actively participate in class. Ask questions.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 900-1000 Points
- B = 800- 899 Points
- C = 700- 799 Points
- D = 600 -699 Points
- F = 599 or Fewer Points

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Assessments

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Class Activities/Assignments	50%
Class Discussions/Participation	20%
Three, 5-Chapter Exams	<u>30%</u>
TOTAL	100%

- Daily activities posts, will be found under the Assignments tab in D2L. You will receive feedback, and grades for these each two weeks. Your responses must include both content from the text, as well as your opinion. Content from the text is to be summarized, and not directly quoted.
- Discussion posts will be found under a tab of that same name in D2L. You must post a response to the prompt, and then respond to two classmates' posts. These must be completed within the two-week period where they are posted, in order to receive credit. These will be reviewed, but will not necessarily receive feedback from your instructor. Feedback will be from classmates in Discussions; thus the importance of your daily responses. (Due in 3 sections, June 11th, June 22nd, and July 1st)
- There will be an exam roughly every two weeks of the course, for a total of 3 exams. All of equal weight, and each containing content from the chapters assigned for that period of time. (June 10th, June 21st and July 2nd.)

The following criteria will be used to determine participation & activity points:

Class Participation & Activity Rubric

3 – Meets or Exceeds Expectations
(10-12.5 points)

Proactive participation: leading, originating, informing, challenging contributions that reflect in-depth study, thought, and analysis of the topic under consideration. Clear application of learning. This does not mean dominating discussion or self-disclosure inappropriate to the circumstances. Full attendance in the class experience. No absence/no evident pattern of lateness.

2 – Meets Expectations
(8-10 points)

Reactive participation: supportive, follow-up contributions that are relevant and of value, but rely on the leadership and study of others, or reflect opinion/personal self-disclosure rather than study, contemplation, synthesis, and evaluation. One absences/no evident pattern of lateness.

1 – Minimally or Does Not Meet Expectations
(0-7 points)

Passive participation: present, awake, alert, attentive, but not actively involved or invested; Or Uninvolved: absent, present but not attentive, sleeping, texting/surfing, irrelevant contributions. More than two absences/pattern of lateness evident.

**Reminder:* D2L reports the hours you are logged in and working on assignments. You must meet the 3 posted due dates in order to earn a passing grade in this course. Posting everything during the last week, will not suffice.

Missed assignments, discussions, and presentations cannot be accepted late, unless they are a consequence of a University approved absence, pre-approved by your instructor. In those cases, an assigned paper covering the content missed from those chapters, with additional references, may be substituted by your instructor for activities missed.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

June 1st through July 2nd (4 weeks and 4 days)

This outline is subject to change.

Notification will be posted if a significant change occurs or should due dates or requirements need to be adjusted.

Through a series of 15 Chapters, the Structure of this class will occur in THREE Parts:

Part 1, The CONTEXT of Parent-Child Relations

Part 2, The DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS of Parenting

Part 3, The CHALLENGES of Parent-Child Relations

This means that each week and a half we will cover *roughly 5 chapters*. There MAY be some adjustments, based on progress, events, or the dynamics of our interactions. I reserve the right to amend this as needed and will post information if there is a change.

PART I: THE CONTEXT OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONS

June 1st through June 5th 1. The Evolving Context of Parenting

June 1st through June 5th 2. Approaches to Parenting

June 1st through June 5th 3. Historical and Cultural Influences

June 6th through June 10th 4. Theoretical Perspectives

June 6th through June 10th 5. Parenting: Rights and Privileges

* (Part 1 Assignments and Quiz 1 due before 11:59p, June 10th)

JUNE 11TH THURSDAY BEFORE 11:59P (1ST TWO-WEEKS' DISCUSSIONS DUE. YOUR POST & 2 RESPONSES)

PART II: THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS OF PARENTING

June 11th through June 14^h 6. The Transition to Parenthood

June 11th through June 14th 7. Parenting Infants and Toddlers

June 15th through June 21st 8. Parenting Preschoolers

June 15th through June 21st 9. Parenting in Middle Childhood

June 15th through June 21st 10. Parenting Adolescents and Teens

* (Part 2 Assignments and Quiz 2 due before 11:59p, June 21st)

JUNE 22ND SUNDAY BEFORE 11:59P (ALL 2ND TWO-WEEKS' DISCUSSIONS DUE. YOUR POST & 2 RESPONSES)

PART III: THE CHALLENGES OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONS

June 22nd through June 26th 11. Parenting: Family Composition and Dynamics

June 22nd through June 26th 12. Parenting Interrupted and Fragile Families

June 22nd through June 26th 13. Blended and Intergenerational Family Systems

June 27th through July 1st 14. Family Formation and Parenting in LGBT Contexts

June 27th through July 1st 15. Towards Better Outcomes

* (Part 3 Assignments due before 11:59p, July 1st)

JULY 1ST WEDNESDAY BEFORE 11:59P (ALL 3RD TWO-WEEKS' OR FINAL WEEKS OF DISCUSSIONS DUE. YOUR POST & 2 RESPONSES)

July 2nd FINAL Exam (3rd Exam) Quiz 3 due before 5p, July 2nd)

*(Quiz 3 will be your final exam, due Wednesday this week before 5p)

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Welcome to class, and this excellent summer semester of learning. I am excited you have chosen to take this class, and have genuinely been anticipating for weeks, our work here together! I greatly enjoy teaching. And I particularly enjoy our professional field of Human Services/the undergraduate degree in Counseling.

The primary focus of this class is LEARNING. It is the most important consideration of our work together. As you are aware summer classes last a little shorter than 5 weeks, so the pace is considerably faster than a traditional semester. Five times as fast in fact. You will not have time to start a new job, travel, or prepare for other major life events. Please be aware that taking summer semester classes will require almost all your time. But, the great news is in exchange for that, you complete a semester's worth of work in under five weeks!

Toward that end, content above is summarized by the following:

1. Prepare for class.
 - Outline each chapter.
 - Read each chapter after outlining.
 - Attempt to reconstruct the key concepts of each chapter.
 - Do this BEFORE the topic is reviewed in class.
2. Attend class (Online, this means active, daily, participation in D2L)
 - This class utilizes experiential learning, and therefore one must be present. In D2L, that means actively reviewing and posting Discussions and Assignments.
 - Actively participating means applying the content you have learned and prepared before class. Assessing main content for the chapter/discussion. Making your hypothesis. And then being brave enough, to explore your thoughts, knowledge, opinions, learning... out loud (in writing) with your peers!

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection 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, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the webpages below.

[Attendance](#),

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

***Please Note:**

Attendance in this course is essential due to the experiential learning format utilized. Work missed for unexcused absences cannot be made up. More than three absences will lower a student's grade by one full letter. More than five absences will prevent a student from passing the course.

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are required to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. Improperly citing or failing to cite a quote or reference is academic dishonesty, and will result in disciplinary action up to and including failing the assignment, and in severe cases, failing the course. If you have questions about requirements or academic integrity, please, always contact your instructor first. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the procedures below: Do utilize our campus writing centers for support and instruction.

Generating papers or assignments from Artificial Intelligence (AI), and representing that work as your own, is academic dishonesty, and will result in a failing grade and disciplinary action up to and including failing this course. Be certain ALL of your assignments, discussions, and or paper are YOUR own work. Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources. 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Undergraduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- 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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



Together, let's make this an excellent Summer Semester! Thanks. Dr. Rusty Fox

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