

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS
AND APPLIED NUTRITION
University of Guelph
FRHD 4020
FAMILY THEORY
Winter 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Erin Watson, MSc

Office: #228 MACS

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

e-mail: ewatso03@uoguelph.ca

** Response within 48 hours. Do not expect a response on weekends.*

***E-mail Communication* As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

CLASSES: Thursdays 7:00 - 9:50 pm MACK 120

Calendar Description

This course highlights the importance of integrating theory in practice and analyses theoretical approaches and concepts in the study of the family.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, the successful student will be able to:

1. Articulate, verbally and in writing, an understanding of what theory is and how it can be used to analyze family experience.
2. Articulate, verbally and in writing, a broad understanding of the theoretical frameworks currently used to understand families.
3. Demonstrate, verbally and in writing, a critical perspective toward family theories in order to identify weaknesses, biases and limitations.
4. Apply, in discussion and for presentation, theoretical frameworks and concepts to substantive family issues, considering family therapy, research, and policy implications.
5. Demonstrate, in discussion, an awareness of one's own conceptual biases and theoretical assumptions.

*******IMPORTANT NOTES*******

1. FINAL EXAM: Final exam is scheduled for Wednesday April 8/2015 from 7-9pm. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE A CONFLICT.**

2. WHEN YOU CANNOT MEET A COURSE REQUIREMENT: When you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, you must advise the course instructor in writing (e-mail or submitted in class) with your name, ID # and e-mail address. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, as soon as possible after the due date. **Note: if the course instructor requires documentation, she will request it from you.**

3. LATE POLICY: Late submission of assignments (group poster contents and self-evaluations) for grading will be accepted in the week following the due date, but with a penalty of one full letter grade (e.g., an A- becomes a B-). Extensions will not be granted on the basis of heavy workload - plan ahead.

4. ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION: See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

*FRHD*4020 Course Outline Winter 2014 2*

REQUIRED READINGS

There is one textbook required for this course. The textbook is available at the bookstore and on reserve at the McLaughlin Library. Any additional readings will be available through the library course reserve system and courselink website.

Textbook: *Smith, S.R., & Hamon, R.R. (2012). Exploring Family Theories (3rd edition). New York: Oxford University Press.*

CLASS FORMAT

During each class there will be both lecture and an emphasis on in-class discussion and group work which enhances learning opportunities. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, to ask questions to extend your own learning and to build on your classmates' ideas.

OUTLINE OF CLASSES

[Readings are from text unless otherwise indicated]

WEEK 2 (January 15, 2015)

Introduction: Family Theory and Course Structure

Family Theory Overview

Introduction (pp.1-10)

Family Systems Theory and Application

Chapter 5: Family Systems Theory

WEEK 3 (January 22, 2015)

Family Development Theory and Application

Chapter 3: Family Development Theory

WEEK 4 (January 29, 2015)

Family Stress Theory and Application - Guest Lecture John Beaton

Chapter 4: Family Stress Theory

WEEK 5 (February 5, 2015)

Symbolic Interactionism Theory and Application - Guest Lecture Andrea LaMarre

Chapter 1: Symbolic Interactionism Theory

WEEK 6 (February 12, 2015)

Midterm (in class)

READING WEEK - NO CLASSES (February 19, 2015)

WEEK 7 (February 26, 2015)

Social Exchange Theory and Application

Chapter 8: Social Exchange Theory

TENTATIVE Poster Workshop (learning services)

WEEK 8 (March 5, 2015)

Conflict Theory and Application and Trauma Introduction - Guest Lecture Cindy Clarke

Chapter 7: Conflict Theory

WEEK 9 (March 12, 2015)

Feminist Family Theory and Application

Chapter 9: Feminist Family Theory

Critical Multicultural Approaches and Application

Reading TBD – see courselink and/or Library Course Reserve

WEEK 10 (March 19, 2015)

***No Class - prep for presentations and work on self-evaluations

WEEK 11 (March 26, 2015)

Poster Presentations & discussion

WEEK 12 (April 2, 2015)

Poster Presentations & discussion and Looking Forward

IMPORTANT DUE DATES:

February 12, 2015 - Midterm (in class)

March 6, 2015 - 40th day of classes LAST DAY TO DROP COURSES

(For regulations and procedures see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>)

March 19, 2015 - Submissions of poster assignment materials due electronically

April 4, 2015 - Self-evaluations due electronically

April 8, 2015 - Final exam

COURSE EVALUATION:

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM (40% of final grade at 20% each)

Will primarily focus on content (readings, lectures, class discussions) through multiple choice questions and application (readings, lectures, class discussions) through short-answer questions and case studies (e.g., define, describe, compare, apply theory etc.). **Midterm (in class) Feb. 12/15 and Final Exam Apr. 8/15 7-9pm.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION (20% of final grade)

will reflect your preparation and contribution to class activities (class discussion, group work). The following will be used to compile this grade:

i. Self-evaluation of class participation. **10%**

ii. Instructor evaluation of overall participation in class activities. **10%**

Self-evaluation will be a one page (single spaced) (12pt font, New Times Roman) reflection of your learning and contributions in the course. Self evaluation is to be submitted by **April 4, 2015**

POSTER ASSIGNMENT (40% of final grade)

This project will demonstrate teamwork, creativity, critical perspective and application of at least two of the theoretical frameworks discussed in class to a family therapy or family policy context. **Posters will be displayed and presented during the last two weeks of class (March 26 to April 2).**

i. Submit photo of poster (use ppt) and word document of all content, as well as reference list¹ for grading (electronic submission **March 19, 2015**).

ii. Assessment will be based on the following (all team members will receive same grade):

In class presentation and creativity *(20% of project grade)*

Critical perspective evident in content (see class materials on critical perspective-taking) (20% of project grade)

Family theories (2) accurately presented and described, references listed in APA format and description of use attached *(30% of project grade)*

Family therapy or research application consistent with theory and designated clinical/research area, presented clearly, references as above *(30% of project grade)*

iii. Written materials prepared as part of your poster presentation must use APA style of referencing (6th ed.) – see APA Style handout available through: http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/assistance/writing_services/resources/handouts.cfm

¹ Reference list includes a minimum of (3 x # team members) references (not text chapters) with 1-2 sentences for each indicating either (i) where this reference is cited on poster; or (ii) how this reference contributed to your planning and conceptualization of poster project.

Grades

2013/14 Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml>

80 - 100 (A) Excellent. An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

70 - 79 (B) Good. A more than adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a thorough grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to organize and examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a good understanding of the relevant issues and a familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

60 - 69 (C) Acceptable. An adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a generally adequate grasp of the subject matter and a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student displays an adequate understanding of the relevant issues, and a general familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

50 - 59 (D) Minimally Acceptable. A barely adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a familiarity with the subject matter, but whose attempts to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner are only partially successful. The student displays some understanding of the relevant issues, and some familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

0 - 49 (F) Fail. An inadequate performance.

Copies of out-of-class assignments Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Academic Misconduct The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs:
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index>