

**Course Syllabus**

COURSE: PSYT- 2335 (200) **Family Systems (3:3:0)**  
 SEMESTER: Summer I 2017  
 CLASS TIMES: 9:00 – 12:00  
 June 5, 2017– July 31, 2017  
 Eight week course

INSTRUCTOR: Mollie McCook-Melton  
 OFFICE: Building 5, Office 514  
 OFFICE HOURS: Before or after class, by appointment  
 OFFICE PHONE: (806) 716-4652  
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 BLACKBOARD: Blackboard is an e-Education platform designed to enable educational innovations everywhere by connecting people and technology. This educational tool will be used in this course throughout the semester.

*"South Plains College improves each student's life."*

**GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the American family from historical and modern perspectives. Emphasis on current issues regarding structures of relationships.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will:
Be able to formulate, analyze, and write a research paper on a selected topic regarding the American family.
Be able to identify significant issues confronting the contemporary American family.
Present a working knowledge of the major theories and modern perspectives of the American family and demonstrate that knowledge on the comprehensive final exam.
<b>Refer to evaluation methods to determine the student's level of achievement regarding the designated learning outcomes.</b>

**COURSE OBJECTIVES - Outline form (correlated to Scans and Foundations Skills)**

1. Describe the changing patterns of intimate relationships in contemporary society. F1, C5, C6, C7.
2. Define family. F10, C15.
3. Describe psychological and social similarities and differences that exist between men and women. F2
4. Describe the impact of sex on intimate relationships. F2, F12.
5. Explain the four stages in the development of an intimate relationship. F2
6. Describe the stages of courtship. F2.
7. Describe the three main types of love. F2
8. Describe the various kinds of marriages. F2.
9. Discuss egalitarian marriages. F2.
10. Explain how stressful events can result in a family crisis. F7.
11. Discuss the impact of divorce of children. F6, F11
12. Explain the myths and challenges of remarriage. R6.
13. Participation in "involvement" exercises. F15, F17, C4, C9, C12, C14.
14. Discuss family violence. F7.

**EVALUATION METHODS**

The student's learning outcomes will be evaluated by the following methods.

- Oral and written essay exams A minimum score of 75
- Assigned research paper A minimum score of 75
- Comprehensive final examination A minimum score of 75
- Class attendance and participation A minimum score of 80

The comprehensive written final exam will include all material covered during the course of the semester and will account for 30% of the student's overall grade.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating** - Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in the office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of coursework. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism** - Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

### **SCANS and FOUNDATION SKILLS**

Refer also to Course Objectives. SCANS and Foundation Skills attached.

**VERIFICATION OF WORKPLACE COMPETENCIES** - This course offers theoretical perspectives on the American family and supports external learning experiences in the field of rehabilitation services.

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## **SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION**

### **TEXT AND MATERIALS**

There is no text for this class.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The student is required to make up any class work missed due to an absence. There are no excused absences. Please refer to the South Plains College General Online Catalog (2016-2017: refer to enrollment in courses) for specific policies on classroom attendance. The advantages of attending every class and reading course material cannot be overemphasized. "Whenever absences become excessive and, in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student should withdraw from the course."

(Refer to the grading policy for additional information)

### **ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

The student will research, present, and submit a report on one area of family and/or marriage. Some suggested topics are, but not limited to, are as follows:

1. The history of the American family.
2. Money and marriage.
3. Does traditional marital therapy work?
4. What is the actual divorce rate and why are couples divorcing?
5. What is a relationship?
6. What is love and is it relevant?
7. Family systems.
8. Family violence.
9. Work, marriage, and family.

10. What is a good marriage and how does one accomplish a sound and successful marriage?
11. What are significant social variables that affect the American family?

Board topic areas related to the family are as follows:

- Abuse and Neglect
- Aging
- Bereavement
- Caregiving
- Children/Child Rearing
- Communication
- Dating
- Divorce
- Family Forms
- Family Interaction
- Finances/family
- Gay Marriage
- Family Theories
- Infidelity
- Marriage/Mate Selection
- Mental Health
- Parenting
- Pregnancy
- Race and Culture
- School/Family
- Social Change
- Substance Abuse
- Family Values
- Work and Family

Topics will be selected and assigned during the first class session. All papers will follow the APA format and are due on July 19, 2017

The student will be required to select a variable related to the American family and conduct class discussions on related research. Each student will be responsible for a minimum of two (2) presentations.

It is expected that each student will come to class prepared to actively participate in lectures and discussions.

**GRADING POLICY** - Grades in this course will be determined using the following criteria:

During the course of the summer session, there will be three (3) examinations. Tests will consist primarily of essay questions, notebook evaluation by instructor, and student presentation of variables related to the American family. THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS.

GRADING POLICY:

EXAMINATIONS: (including student Presentations & completed notebook)	40%
RESEARCH	20%
CLASS ATTENDANCE AND CLASS ASSIGNMENTS	10%
FINAL EXAMINATION	30%
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	100%

Grades are based on the following:

100 – 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 75	C
74 – 70	D

Below 70 - F

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

0 - ABSENCE	105
1 – ABSENCE	100
2 - ABSENCES	95
3 - ABSENCES	90
4 - ABSENCES	80

5 OR MORE ABSENCES 70 OR BELOW, AND THE STUDENT MUST MEET WITH THE INSTRUCTOR TO DETERMINE IF THE COURSE OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

**COMMUNICATION POLICY**

- Electronic communication between instructor and students in this course will utilize the South Plains College “My SPC” and email systems. Instructor will not initiate communication using private email accounts. Students are encouraged to check SPC email on a regular basis.
- The course syllabus, research paper grading rubric, and assignments are available on Blackboard

**STUDENT CONDUCT**

- Students in this class are expected to abide by the standards of student conduct as defined in the SPC Student Guide, which can be viewed at South Plains College online.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Cell Phones** – Cell phones are to be turned OFF during scheduled class periods, unless prior approval has been given from the instructor. This includes text messaging. Cell phones are to be used outside the classroom only.

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Please see attached outline of topics in notebooks presented in class**

FINAL EXAMINATION: July 26, 2017 (Wednesday 9:00-11:00)

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

### DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

### DISABILITIES STATEMENT

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Coordinator of Special Services. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in rooms 809 and 811, Reese Center Building 8, (806) 885-3048 ext. 4654.

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## FOUNDATION SKILLS

### **BASIC SKILLS—Reads, Writes, Performs Arithmetic and Mathematical Operations, Listens and Speaks**

F-1 Reading—locates, understands, and interprets written information in prose and in documents such as manuals, graphs, and schedules.

F-2 Writing—communicates thoughts, ideas, information and messages in writing and creates documents such as letters, directions, manuals, reports, graphs, and flow charts.

F-3 Arithmetic—performs basic computations; uses basic numerical concepts such as whole numbers, etc.

F-4 Mathematics—approaches practical problems by choosing appropriately from a variety of mathematical techniques.

F-5 Listening—receives, attends to, interprets, and responds to verbal messages and other cues.

F-6 Speaking—organizes ideas and communicates orally.

### **THINKING SKILLS—Thinks Creatively, Makes Decisions, Solves Problems, Visualizes and Knows How to Learn and Reason**

F-7 Creative Thinking—generates new ideas.

F-8 Decision-Making—specifies goals and constraints, generates alternatives, considers risks, evaluates and chooses best alternative.

F-9 Problem Solving—recognizes problems, devises and implements plan of action.

F-10 Seeing Things in the Mind's Eye—organizes and processes symbols, pictures, graphs, objects, and other information.

F-11 Knowing How to Learn—uses efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge and skills.

F-12 Reasoning—discovers a rule or principle underlying the relationship between two or more objects and applies it when solving a problem.

### **PERSONAL QUALITIES—Displays Responsibility, Self-Esteem, Sociability, Self-Management, Integrity and Honesty**

F-13 Responsibility—exerts a high level of effort and perseveres towards goal attainment.

F-14 Self-Esteem—believes in own self-worth and maintains a positive view of self.

F-15 Sociability—demonstrates understanding, friendliness, adaptability, empathy and politeness in group settings.

F-16 Self-Management—assesses self accurately, sets personal goals, monitors progress and exhibits self-control.

F-17 Integrity/Honesty—chooses ethical courses of action.

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## SCANS COMPETENCIES

C-1 **TIME** - Selects goal - relevant activities, ranks them, allocates time, prepares and follows schedules.

C-2 **MONEY** - Uses or prepares budgets, makes forecasts, keeps records and makes adjustments to meet objectives.

C-3 **MATERIALS AND FACILITIES** - Acquires, stores, allocates, and uses materials or space efficiently.

C-4 **HUMAN RESOURCES** - Assesses skills and distributes work accordingly, evaluates performances and provides feedback.

### **INFORMATION - Acquires and Uses Information**

C-5 Acquires and evaluates information.

C-6 Organizes and maintains information.

C-7 Interprets and communicates information.

C-8 Uses computers to process information.

### **INTERPERSONAL—Works With Others**

C-9 Participates as a member of a team and contributes to group effort.

C-10 Teaches others new skills.

C-11 Serves Clients/Customers—works to satisfy customer's expectations.

C-12 Exercises Leadership—communicates ideas to justify position, persuades and convinces others, responsibly challenges existing procedures and policies.

C-13 Negotiates—works toward agreements involving exchanges of resources; resolves divergent interests.

C-14 Works With Diversity—works well with men and women from diverse backgrounds.

### **SYSTEMS—Understands Complex Interrelationships**

C-15 Understands Systems—knows how social, organizational, and technological systems work and operates effectively with them.

C-16 Monitors and Corrects Performance—distinguishes trends, predicts impacts on system operations, diagnoses systems performance and corrects malfunctions.

C-17 Improves or Designs Systems—suggests modifications to existing systems and develops new or alternative systems to improve performance.

### **TECHNOLOGY—Works with a Variety of Technologies**

C-18 Selects Technology—chooses procedures, tools, or equipment, including computers and related technologies.

C-19 Applies Technology to Task—understands overall intent and proper procedures for setup and operation of equipment.

C-20 Maintains and Troubleshoots Equipment—prevents, identifies, or solves problems with equipment, including computers and other technologies.



I \_\_\_\_\_ have reviewed a copy of the South Plains College Student Guide. I understand that I must comply with all areas of the Student Guide as a student in the Applied Rehabilitation Psychology and South Plains College.

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Signature

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Date