

FYC 3112 (Section 1461): Contemporary Family Problems and Interventions*
Spring 2017

Class Meetings/Location: MWF 1:55 – 2:45 pm/McCarty Hall B – G086

Instructor: Dr. LaToya J. O'Neal, Assistant Professor
Department of Family, Youth & Community Sciences
Office/Phone: McCarty Hall D 3038-C; 273-3501
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:30 pm and 2:50 – 4:50 pm or by appointment
Email: Canvas or latoyacoleman@ufl.edu

*Note that the instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus as needed. Version provided in footer.

Prerequisites: Because the information that we will be covering assumes that you already have certain knowledge, it is important for you to have already taken the following courses:

- FYC 3001 Introduction to Family, Youth, and Community Sciences
- SYG 2000 Principles of Sociology, AND either
- SYG 2430 Marriage and the Family OR
- FYC 3101 Parenting and Family Development

Course Description (From Catalog): This course focuses on the major social and family problems contemporary families face, including poverty, violence, and care of dependent elders. An emphasis is placed on family strengths and resilience as well as resources that help families withstand and overcome difficulties. This course emphasizes the role of society, race and gender in constructing family problems.

Course Objectives:

When you successfully complete this course, you will:

1. Have a good understanding of modern U.S. family life and the challenges they face.
2. Identify how your beliefs about families and family problems may influence your perspective on other families.
3. Apply theories of family stress, coping and resilience to explain the key processes that enable families to cope with strains, stressors, and hardships in life.
4. Recognize the importance of culture and context on family problems, strengths, and resilience.
5. Apply family interventions appropriately to family examples.
6. Apply knowledge of family problems, family theory, and family interventions to determine how to assist families.
7. Feel more confident about your knowledge base for working with families.
8. Manage assignments to meet set deadlines, follow ethical guidelines, conduct research, and create a final product.

Required Text:

Price, C.A., Bush, K. R., & Price, S. J. (2016). *Families & Change: Coping with Stressful Events and Transitions* (5th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. ISBN: 1483366766 Cover: paperback book

Certificate in Family Life Education

This course counts toward the Area of Specialization in Family Life Education for FYCS majors. Through this area of specialization, students are eligible to receive a UF certificate in family life education and professional certification by the National Council on Family Relations as a provisional Certified Family Life Educator after graduation. If you need more information about becoming a CFLE through FYCS, please contact the instructor or your FYCS advisor.

Course Requirements/Assignments

Quizzes

There will be 12 online quizzes taken from assigned readings. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions as well as some short answer. Your best 10 quizzes will be used towards your final grade (i.e. you have two drop grades). All online quizzes will be available online the Friday before they are due. Quizzes are due by 9:00 am on Mondays. There will be no opportunities to make-up missed quizzes.

Total Quiz Points Possible: 100

Exams

There will be two non-comprehensive, scheduled exams. Each exam is worth 125 points. Exam material will come from assigned reading material, class discussion, and online lecture notes. Items will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions as well as short answer and essay questions. Study guides will not be provided for exams.

Total Exam Points Possible: 250

Individual/Group Assignments

In-Class Assignments

There will be 12 in-class, unscheduled assignments throughout the semester and 10 will be counted toward your grade (two scores will be dropped). Each assignment is worth 10 points. The goal is to help you focus in on important content, have new insights, apply course concepts, make connections between course material and your professional development, and prepare for exams and your final project. To do your best, keep up with the course readings and be prepared to discuss in class, participate in class activities, ask questions of speakers, and knowledgeably answer questions if called upon. Collaboration is a key skill in today's workforce, so be sure to use discussions as an opportunity to practice leading, reporting, and participating with your peers in a positive manner.

Total In-class Assignments Points Possible: 100

Contemporary Family Problems and Intervention Project

Your final project for this class is to present on a contemporary family problem of your choice that will not be covered by the instructor. The project will be divided into four sections. You will receive instructions along with a due date for each written section throughout the semester. You will submit individual assignments on your topic, however your final presentation will be a group assignment. Each four-person group will choose a topic and a day that they will present to the class.

Total Project Points Possible: 150

Extra Credit (Please do not ask for additional extra credit opportunities.)

Getting to know you (GTKY) (may do ONLY ONCE – can add 5 points to your total grade). Please come to meet with me in my office for a 10-15-minute visit and to go over your GTKY paper. Sign up in class for appointments during the first few weeks of class. Let me know if you cannot make any of the available times and I will work with you to set up a time that fits your schedule. To get the extra credit, you must complete this assignment by **March 3**. *If you sign up to attend a session and do not come to the session or arrive late, you might not be allowed to reschedule, so make sure to show up! Please cancel the appointment if you are unable to attend.*

Grading Scale

Letter Grade (%)	Earned Points	Assignments	Total Points Possible
A (94+)	564-600	Quizzes (Best 10 out of 12)	100
A- (90-93.9)	540-563	Exams (2)	250
B+ (87-89.9)	522-539	Individual In-class	100
B (84-86.9)	504-521	Problems and Intervention Project	150
B- (80-83.9)	480-503	Total Points Possible in this Class	600
C+ (77-79.9)	462-479		
C (74-76.9)	444-461		
C- (70-73.9)	420-443		
D+ (67-69.9)	402-419		
D (64-67.9)	384-401		
D- (60-63.9)	360-383		
E (Below 60)	0-359		

Schedule of Course Topics

Part I: CHANGING FAMILIES

January 4-6: Course Overview
 January 9-13: The History of the Family
 January 16-20: The Modern Family
 January 23-27: The Modern Family (continued)

Part II CONTEMPORARY FAMILY PROBLEMS

January 30-February 3: Finances
 February 6-10: Stress
 February 13-17: Chronic Disease
 February 20-24: Chronic Disease (continued)

Part III POLICY, SYSTEMS, AND FAMILY THEORY

February 27-March 3: Family Theories
 March 6-10: Spring Break
 March 13-17: Family Theories, Systems and Policy
 March 20-24: Systems and Policy Change

Part IV CONTEMPORARY SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

March 27-31: Family Resources and Interventions
 April 3-7: Family Resources and Interventions (continued)/Student Presentations
 April 10-14: Student Presentations (continued)
 April 17-19: Student Presentations (continued)/Course Evaluations

Course/University Policies

Classroom Demeanor

Please behave in a manner that is respectful of each other and the instructor.

- Be on time and ready to work; do not leave early. Both of these are disruptive and disrespectful to everyone.
- Keep the dialogue respectful of your peers *and* of the instructor. Be sure to be objective, nonjudgmental, and non-confrontational.
- Put aside distractions and be ready to participate in class. Turn off your cell phone. Keep conversations with others at a minimum during class time. Only use your computer for note taking.
- **Any use of cell phones during exams or quizzes will be considered academic misconduct and may result in an "E" for the quiz/exam.**

NOTE: Poor classroom behavior has several possible results: a warning; a meeting with the instructor; the loss of participation points; referral to the Dean; or removal from class if necessary, per UF policy.

Course Communication

- Check your ufl email and the Canvas announcements page every day for notices about class.
- When emailing, please use the Canvas website and use only your ufl account. We will not respond to emails from g-mail or another server/provider. If you have not received a reply, please email again or see the instructor or the TA for assistance.

Attendance policies

Class attendance is expected. Absences count from the first class meeting. Points will be earned almost every class period for in-class assignments and attendance. Excused absences are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Written, professional documentation (only for reasons approved by the University) is required before your absence or immediately upon return to class. Be sure to review this policy for illness policy, religious holidays, the 12-hour rule, and other policies.

The University's first classes attendance policy is: "If a student does not participate in at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and he or she has not contacted the department to indicate his or her intent, the student can be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will be dropped, however. The department will notify students if they have been dropped from a course or laboratory." Make sure you sign the attendance sheet/turn in worksheets the first week of class.

Late Assignments Policy

Submit your assignments to Canvas and bring a hard copy to class if requested. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is an excused absence approved by the instructor as per UF policy.

Policy on Make-up Work

- Arrange with the instructor to make up material if you have an excused absence. You will receive one week to prepare for any makeup assignment, if circumstances allow it. You are responsible for arranging a make-up exam with the graduate TA and/or instructor within the week that you return to class. If you put off taking the make-up exam longer than a week, you might lose the opportunity.
- You must provide written, professional, verifiable proof of your need to miss the assignment that is consistent with UF attendance policies.

Academic Honesty

The University requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts diminish the process of learning. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, defined in the University Honor Code. “A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: (1) Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution; (2) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.” (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.)

This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times. Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately, following APA guidelines (APA Publication Manual, 6th ed.). Students who do not follow APA guidelines and who violate the University’s plagiarism policy will receive a zero for the assignment and will be referred the Dean of Students Office and the student judicial court.

- All written work should be completed independently.
- All written work must be turned in to Canvas and put through the *Turn-It-In* Anti-Plagiarism software. If you do not submit your written work to Canvas/ *Turn-It-In* by the deadline posted on Canvas, your assignment will not be accepted and you will lose the points for that assignments

Students Requiring Accommodations

The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of registered students with disabilities: “*Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.*”

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the University’s counseling resources. U Matter We Care and The Counseling & Wellness Center provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575
- The University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaint Process

Students wishing to file a complaint about the course should seek help from the appropriate resource located through the following link (for a residential course):

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.