

Military Families in the Community Context
FYC 6117
Fall 2024

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: Zoom or phone, via appointment – please email hliss@ufl.edu to set up an appointment. Questions via e-mail are accepted at any time and are encouraged! It can be intimidating take courses in graduate school, so please feel free to ask any questions you may have along the way, related to the course, grad school, or anything else. I'm also happy to set up a time for us to chat individually via phone or Zoom.

Course Description: This course will provide background about the U.S. military culture and procedures, issues related to service in the military, the impact that military service can have on the individual and family, and services available for military personnel and their families.

Course Goal: Students will gain an understanding of the relevant issues facing military service members and their families in order to better serve this population.

Course Objectives: After completing this course, students will:

- Understand family systems, and how families deal with stress
- Know how the military functions and procedures that affect individuals and their families
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the stressors associated with military service and their impact on individuals and families
- Understand what happens when people leave the military, and how the VA system operates
- Be able to identify the services and systems available to individuals currently in the military and their families
- Become knowledgeable about programs and interventions available for military personnel and their families
- Know about the challenges associated with working with military personnel and their families

Textbook Information: In addition to the following textbook, selected videos and readings will be required for each class, and information about these readings will be posted on the class Canvas site.

Blaisure, K.R., Saathoff-Wells, T., Pereira, A., Wadsworth, S.M., & Dombro, A.L. (2016). *Serving military families: Theories, research and application*, 2nd edition. Routledge.

Grade Determination

1. Written exams: There will be two written exams given online, each worth 100 points. Exam 1 will be made **available on October 5 and will be due on October 11**. Exam 2 will be made **available on November 16 and will be due on November 22**. While the exams will be open book and open notes, **it is not permissible to get assistance from others or content from AI software** (for example, Chat GPT); however, use of AI to assist with grammar and clarity is permitted. **Please use your own words** in completing the exams – cutting and pasting, or copying word-for-word is considered plagiarism.

Total points: 200

2. Reactions: Each module will entail assigned readings, and also will likely include video(s) and/or recorded lecture(s). After reviewing all the materials, please complete the written reaction on Canvas. The reaction will entail a written response to prompts. Each is worth 20 points (see schedule below). You are welcome to work ahead on the modules and reactions, but must submit reactions no later than their due date (during most 2 week periods there will be 2 modules due).

Total points: 120

3. Presentation: Your presentation will entail further research into a topic related to military families that is of special interest to you or helps inform your work, and will include submission of either a video or a PowerPoint with audio commentary. There are several deadlines related to this presentation: the topic choice is due on **September 30** (10 points), the reference list is due on **October 30** (10 points), the full presentation must be submitted by **December 4** (50 points). Criteria regarding the structure of your presentation, as well as rubrics for grading are provided in Canvas.

Total points: (10 points for topic, 10 points for reference list; 50 points for presentation)

4. Introduction: You will be asked to submit an approximately 1-2 minute video introduction of yourself so that the instructor can get to know you! Please include: your name, what graduate program you are in, why you are interested in this course and how it might apply to your work, any background you might have related to the military, and a little information about what you like to do outside of school/work (hobbies) and/or anything interesting/special about you that you might want to share. The video is due **September 4**.

Total: 10

Breakdown of points

	<i>Points</i>
Written Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	200
Reactions (6 @ 20 points each)	120
Presentation total	70
Introduction	10
Total	400

Grade	%	Points needed
A	94%+	374+
A-	90-93%	358-373
B+	87-89%	346-357
B	84-86%	334-345
B-	80-83%	318-333
C+	77-79%	306-317
C	74-76%	294-305
C-	70-73%	278-293
D+	67-69%	266-277
D	64-66%	254-265
D-	60-63%	238-253
E	Below 60%	237 or lower

Below are the current course module and assignment due dates. Modules and assignments are due by 11:59pm on listed dates; feel free to turn in earlier if it is more convenient:

Week	Dates	Topics	Reaction due	Other assignment due
Orientation	8/22-23	Course introduction		
Weeks 1-2	8/26-9/6	Families and stress; Military service	9/9	Intro video due 9/4
Weeks 3-4	9/9-20	Children and military; Deployment cycle	9/23	
Weeks 5-6	9/23-10/4	Mental health and PTSD; Injuries and death	10/7	Topic due 9/30; Written Exam 1 opens 10/5
Week 7	10/7-11	Work on Written Exam 1		Written Exam 1 due 10/11
Week 8-9	10/14-25	Abuse/violence; Addictions	10/28	
Week 10	10/28-11/1	Special considerations: Gender, sexual assault, and LGBTQ+	11/4	References due 10/30
Weeks 11-12	11/4-15	Retirement/working with military; Systems of care/programs	11/18	Written Exam 2 opens 11/16
Week 13	11/18-11/22	Work on Written Exam 2		Written Exam 2 due 11/22
Week 14	11/25-29	Enjoy Thanksgiving ☺		
Week 15	12/2-4	Finish!		Presentation due 12/4

Other Information:

Are you hungry?

During my college years I struggled with finances, and sometimes I would run out of money for food. Being hungry can make it hard to do your best in school! Luckily for those here on the UF campus there is the Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry, which is a place that offers free food for those who need it, whether student, staff, or faculty. To learn more, check out their website:

<https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

For those who are not local to Gainesville, here is some information on how to find free local food:

https://foodfinder.us/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIvKjkjqC-6gIVA-21Ch0A5AE_EAAYASAAEgITivD_BwE

The University of Florida requests that we provide the following content (including language used):

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

Online Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available

at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Honesty

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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) 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.

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.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Helping Resources

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).