

Military Families in the Community Context
FYC 6117
Fall, 2017

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: By appointment only. Please e-mail to set up an appointment to meet.

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 textbooks, selected readings will be required for each class, and information about these readings will be posted on the class Canvas site.

Beder, J. (2012). *Advances in social work practice with the military*. New York, NY: Routledge.

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

Grade Determination

1. Essays: There will be two sets of essays given online, each worth 150 points. Essays 1 will be made **available on October 9 and will be due on October 13**. Essays 2 will be made **available on November 27 and will be due on December 1**. While the essays will be open book and open notes, **it is not permissible to get assistance from others**, and doing so would constitute academic dishonesty, and would lead to referral to the Dean of Students Office. **Please use your own words** in completing the essays – cutting and pasting, or copying word-for-word is considered plagiarism, and incidents of this type will also be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Total points: 300

2. Written Summaries and Comments: Each module will entail assigned readings, and also will likely include video(s) and/or recorded lecture(s). After reviewing all the materials, please write a summary of what you learned from the materials, and make sure to touch on each of the items provided, as well as your thoughts about this information, and how it relates to any populations you might engage with in your work. This will be due weekly on Canvas on Tuesdays by 11:59pm, and each summary is worth 25 points. You are welcome to work ahead on the summaries. HOWEVER, every week **you also will need to log in and provide commentary** on at least 3 other students' summaries, and that can only be done on the Wednesday to Friday of the week that the module is due. Commentaries are worth 5 points each (15 points for all 3; you can't earn more points for additional commentary, but please feel free to comment on more if you wish!). **It will not be possible to provide commentaries if you do not provide a summary!** The total available points for each weekly module will be 40 points. Rubrics will be provided to help you with these assignments.

Total points: 440

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 19** (10 points), the reference list is due on **October 31** (20 points), the presentation must be submitted by **November 17** (90 points), and feedback on at least 3 other students' presentation must be provided by **December 6** (10 points each, total 30 points). Criteria regarding the structure of your presentation, as well as rubrics for grading are provided in Canvas.

Total points: 150 (10 points for submitting the topic, 20 points for the reference list; 90 points for the presentation, 30 points for feedback on others' presentations)

4. Introduction: You will be asked to submit an approximately 1 minute video introduction of yourself so that the instructor and classmates 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 1**.

Total: 10 points

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 (except commentary):

Week	Dates	Topic	Summary due	Response to others due	Other assignment due
Week 1	8/21-25	Course introduction			Work on introductory video
Week 2	8/28-9/1	Families and stress	8/29	9/1	Introductory video due 9/1
Week 3	9/4-8	Military service	9/5	9/8	
Week 4	9/11-15	Children and military	9/12	9/15	
Week 5	9/18-22	Deployment cycle	9/19	9/22	Topic due 9/19
Week 6	9/25-29	Mental health and PTSD	9/26	9/29	
Week 7	10/2-6	Injuries and death	10/3	10/6	
Week 8	10/9-13	Work on Essays 1 this week (10/9-13)	None	None	Essays 1 due 10/13
Week 9	10/16-20	Abuse/violence	10/17	10/20	
Week 10	10/23-27	Addictions	10/24	10/27	
Week 11	10/30-11/3	Gender and LGBT	10/31	11/3	References due 10/31
Week 12	11/6-10	Systems of care/programs	11/7	11/10	
Week 13	11/13-17	Retirement/working with military	11/14	11/17	Presentation due 11/17
Week 14	11/20-11/24	Enjoy Thanksgiving ☺	None	None	
Week 15	11/27-12/1	Work on Essays 2 this week	None	None	Essays 2 due 12/1
Week 16	12/4-6	Commentary on others' presentations due	None	None	Commentary due 12/6

Breakdown of points:

	<i>Points</i>
Essays	300
Written Reflections and Comments	440
Presentation	150
Introduction	10
Total	900

Grading Scale

94% +	= A
90 - 93%	= A-
87 - 89%	= B+
84 - 86%	= B
80 - 83%	= B-
77 - 79%	= C+
74 - 76%	= C
70 - 73%	= C-
67 - 69%	= D+
64 - 67%	= D
60 - 63%	= D-
Below 60%	= E

Attendance and Make-Up Work

The good news is that this is an online course, which allows for quite a bit of flexibility to you as the student! However, given the nature of the course, and the fact that there is a dependency on others providing their information on time in order for students to progress, I will need to insist that all work be submitted on time, and late assignments will not be accepted except under the most dire (and documentable) of circumstances. 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

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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.*”

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation

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

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. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*

Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library, and Wellness Coaching

- *Career Resource Center*, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/