

SOCW 6331-00288382

Theories of Family

FALL 2013

Thursday, 8:00am – 10:50am – SWC-A 316

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Office Hours: Thursdays 11:10am-12:30pm (and by appointment)

This course addresses the following Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) requirements for Core Competencies and Practice Behaviors:

Educational Policy 2.1.1—Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.

[Social workers serve as representatives of the profession, its mission, and its core values. They know the profession's history. Social workers commit themselves to the profession's enhancement and to their own professional conduct and growth. Social workers:]

- a) Engage in career-long learning.

Educational Policy 2.1.2—Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice. [Social workers have an obligation to conduct themselves ethically and to engage in ethical decision-making. Social workers are knowledgeable about the value base of the profession, its ethical standards, and relevant law. Social workers:]

- (a) Recognize and manage personal values in a way that allows professional values to guide practice.
- (b) Make ethical decisions by applying standards of the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics² and, as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles.
- (c) Tolerate ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts; and
- (d) Apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

Educational Policy 2.1.4—Engage diversity and difference in practice. [Social workers understand how diversity characterizes and shapes the human experience and is critical to the formation of identity. The dimensions of diversity are understood as the intersectionality of multiple factors including age, class, color, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. Social workers appreciate that, as a consequence of difference, a person's life experiences may include oppression, poverty, marginalization, and alienation as well as privilege, power, and acclaim. Social workers:]

- (a) Recognize the extent to which a culture's structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
- (b) Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
- (c) Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.

Educational Policy 2.1.6—Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research. [Social workers use practice experience to inform research, employ evidence-based interventions, evaluate their own

practice, and use research findings to improve practice, policy, and social service delivery. Social workers comprehend quantitative and qualitative research and understand scientific and ethical approaches to building knowledge. Social workers:]

- (a) Use research evidence to inform practice.

Educational Policy 2.1.7—Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment.

[Social workers are knowledgeable about human behavior across the life course; the range of social systems in which people live; and the ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving health and well-being. Social workers apply theories and knowledge from the liberal arts to understand biological, social, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development. Social workers:]

- (a) Utilize conceptual frameworks to guide the processes of assessment, intervention, and evaluation.
- (b) Critique and apply knowledge to understand person and environment.

Educational Policy 2.1.9—Respond to contexts that shape practice. [Social workers are informed, resourceful, and proactive in responding to evolving organizational, community, and societal contexts at all levels of practice. Social workers recognize that the context of practice is dynamic, and use knowledge and skill to respond proactively. Social workers:]

- (a) Continuously discover, appraise, and attend to changing locales, populations, scientific and technological developments, and emerging societal trends to provide relevant services.

I. Description of the Course Content:

SOCW 6331- Theories of the Family reviews a variety of theoretical approaches useful in understanding the family. Implications for practice at the policy, community, and interpersonal levels are discussed.

II. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course students will have attained a grade of B or better on written and oral assignments as follows:

1. Examine, apply, and illustrate theories, concepts, and empirically-based knowledge related to various family theories.
2. Examine special issues and problems related to family health and well-being.
3. Examine, apply, and illustrate ways in which social systems promote or block the achievement and maintenance of family health and well-being.
4. Distinguish among families in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, and how a particular family is related or not to each area.
5. Distinguish among the codes and values in the NASW code of ethics which ones relate directly to human diversity and regard for worth and dignity of all families. Students will be able to assess and discuss what they think about these requirements for all social workers and how they plan to apply them in their social work practice to families who are different from them.
6. Analyze the needs of contemporary families and propose a set of plans for communities to promote and empower family well-being.

III. Pre-Requisites: SOCW 5301 and 5317

IV. Required Textbooks and Other Course Material:

Smith, Suzanne R., Hamon, Raeanne R., Ingoldsby, Bron B., Miller, J. Elizabeth. (2008). *Exploring family theories*. (3rd ed.) New York: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Texts:

Walsh, F. (2003). *Normal family processes: Growing diversity and complexity*. (3rd ed.) New York: Guilford Press.

Congress E. P. & Gonzalez, M. J. (2005). *Multicultural perspectives in working with families*. (2nd ed.) New York: Springer Publishing Company.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American psychological association*. (6th ed.). Washington: Author.

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

V. Course Outline, Topics, and Readings:**Week 1 – August 22nd**

Introduction to Course
What Is Theory And Family Theory?

Week 2 – August 29th**SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM THEORY (Smith et al, 1)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Symbolic Interactionism in Grounded Theory Studies: Women Surviving with HIV/AIDS in Rural Northern Thailand," *Areewan Klunkin and Jennifer Greenwood*

Week 3 – September 5th**STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM THEORY (Smith et al, 2)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "The Theoretical Importance of Love," William J. Goode

Week 4 – September 12th

Video – This Boy's Life
Video discussion / activity

Week 5 – September 19th**FAMILY DEVELOPMENT THEORY (Smith et al, 3)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Work-Family Stage and Satisfaction with Work-Family Balance," *James M. White*

Week 6 – September 26th**FAMILY STRESS THEORY (Smith et al, 4)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts

- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Ambiguous Loss and the Family Grieving Process," *Gabrielle Betz and Jill M. Thorngren*

Week 7 – October 3rd**FAMILY SYSTEMS THEORY (Smith et al, 5)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "The Costs of Getting Ahead: Mexican Family System Changes after Immigration," *Martica L. Bacallao and Paul R. Smokowski*
- **Assignment #1 – Major Paper Outline Due**

Week 8 – October 10th**HUMAN ECOLOGICAL THEORY (Smith et al, 6)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Revisiting the Virginia Tech Shootings: An Ecological Systems Analysis," *Jun Sung Hyunkag Cho, and Alvin Shiulain Lee*

Week 9 – October 17th**CONFLICT THEORY (Smith et al, 7)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Why Welfare?", *Karen Seccombe*

Week 10 – October 24th**SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY (Smith et al, 8)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Power and Dependence in Intimate Exchange," *Arnout van de Rijt and Michael W. Mucy*

Week 11 – October 31st**Video – Joe the King
Video discussion / activity****Week 12 – November 7th****FEMINIST THEORY (Smith et al, 9)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Feminist Visions for Transforming Families: Desire and Equality Then and Now," *Katherine R. Allen*

Week 13 – November 14th**BIOSOCIAL THEORY (Smith et al, 10)**

- History / Assumptions / Terms and Concepts
- Research and Application / Critique
- **Group Analysis / Discussion - Reading:** "Biosocial Perspectives on the Family," *Alan Booth, Karen Carver, & Douglas A. Granger*

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| Week 14– November 21 st | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Week 15 – November 28th | Class Presentation of Final Paper |
| Week 16 – December 5 th | Class Presentation of Final Paper (Continued) Evaluations & wrap-up Assignment #2 – Major Paper / Family Assessment Due |

VI. Descriptions of Major Assignments with Due Dates:

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| 1. Major Paper Outline: | 20 points |
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Each student will prepare an outline for their major paper (Family Assessment). The purpose of this assignment is to ensure students have considered all the criteria necessary for successful completion of the major paper assignment. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor for clarification or questions.

1. Your outline should clearly describe the direction of your Major Paper. It is suggested but NOT required that students use the criteria listed in the Major Assignment – Family Assessment as a template for their outline.
2. A Culturagram and Genogram of the family you will assess is required as part of your outline (refer to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genogram> for genogram).
3. This paper will be 4 – 5 double-spaced pages in length and follow APA format.
4. References are not required for the outline.

Due October 10th at the beginning of class.

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| 2. Major Paper – Family Assessment: (Learning outcomes 1-6) | 40 points |
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The object of this paper is to demonstrate your ability to apply the theoretical knowledge presented in this class in assessing family processes. This paper will be 20 – 25 double-spaced pages in length.

1. Select a family with which you have worked (or are familiar...may be the family next door). Examples of family forms - traditional, separation / divorce, teen parents, immigrant, childless couple, gay or lesbian, blended, fostering families.
2. Complete an assessment on the family.
 - Arrange to meet the family to learn more about them and provide a brief description of your contacts with the family.
 - Identifying information: names and ages, marriages, religion, race, cultural background, living situation, occupations, socio-economic status, roles, communication, values and norms, decision making patterns, family life-cycle, etc.
 - Identify an issue(s) such as parent-child conflict, financial, addiction, abuse, chronic illness or disability, etc.
 - Coping and adaptive mechanisms, strengths / barriers.

3. Review the literature on both the family form and the issue(s) they are experiencing. Consider micro and macro perspectives.
 - Cite a brief demographic of the family form and issue.
 - Identify special needs, issues/problems of individual family members.
 - Discuss how issues might vary over class, ethnicity, and income.
4. Apply at least three theories that apply to the family you are assessing.
 - Use terms and concepts to help explain your use of the theory – these should be supported by specific examples.
 - Describe resources (agencies, services, programs) that this family or any of its members are currently using or speculate about community support needed by the family to maximize well-being. Provide a rationale for their use including potential and realized benefits.
 - Identify indicators of successful improvements in family well-being.
5. Include a discussion of the implications and how your use of theory relates to social policy, economic and social justice, promotion of health and well-being, social work ethics and values, practice and policy.
 - Conclude your paper with a critique discussing the usefulness of the theory in understanding families including diverse families.
6. Students are expected to cite all sources used, as they are applied, in the text of the paper using APA format. A minimum of 10 references are required (maximum one on-line resource and minimum of 5 journal articles).

Due December 5th at the beginning of class.

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| 3. Case Study Analysis / Discussion: (Learning Outcomes 1-6) | 30 points |
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Individually or in groups (at most 2 persons), students will present, in class, a case study from the text. Students will be expected to facilitate a discussion about their case study as it relates to:

1. Various family theories.
2. Special issues and problems related to family health and well-being.
3. Ways in which social systems promote or block the achievement and maintenance of family health and well-being.
4. Identify issues facing families in terms of race, ethnicity, national origin, social class, religion, physical and mental ability, and sexual orientation.
5. Assess and discuss ethical issues and how they might address them in their social work practice with families who are different from them.
6. Analyze the needs of contemporary families and propose a set of plans for communities to promote and empower family well-being.

Presentations should be no longer than 45 minutes. They will begin on August 29th and continue each week throughout the semester. You or your group must provide me with an outline of the presentation including appropriate documentation and accompanying references as well as the PowerPoint the day before the presentation day.

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| 4. Attendance / Participation / Professionalism: | 10 points |
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Attendance, participation and professionalism are essential. Since it is impossible to participate in class discussion if you are not present, attendance will be taken during each class. See attendance policy (VIII).

Attendance, participation and professionalism represent 10 points of your entire grade. Any absence from class, for any reason, will forfeit the points assigned to that day for attendance, participation and professionalism. More than three absences may result in the student being asked to drop the course or could receive a failing grade. The instructor reserves the right to add up to five 5 additional points to the final grade for strong attendance and participation if those points would make a difference between letter grades in the final total. If a student has missed more than one class period for any reason, the student will not be eligible for the extra points.

In the event that a student is unable to attend class due to illness, emergency or special circumstance, he or she is expected to notify the instructor. If at all possible, notification should occur prior to the particular class session the student will be missing. It is the student's responsibility, whether present or absent, to keep abreast of assignments.

It is expected that students refrain from text messaging, writing email messages or engaging in other activities in class that are discourteous to the instructor and classmates.

VII. Final Grade Calculations and Grading Policy:

Grading Criteria: Presentations and papers must follow the content requirements listed in the description of the assignment. Students are to respond completely not cursorily to these assignments. Clarity, organization, substance, and APA format will be assessed.

All assignments must be turned in on the scheduled due date, at the beginning of class. Late papers will be assessed a 4 point deduction for each calendar day or part of a day that the paper is late. Late assignments will be accepted only with the prior approval of the instructor and negotiated due date.

Additionally students should expect to:

1. Integration of outside reading and classroom material with experiential parts of the assignment.
2. Use of outside reading, classroom material, and case material to demonstrate a clear understanding of theories and issues.
3. Logic, clarity and conciseness of paper/project including ability to separate emotion from reason, opinion from fact.
4. Creativity in the use of ideas in both written materials and oral presentations and classroom participation.
5. Implications for social work practice and policy specifically stated, with emphasis on diverse populations, social work values, economic and social justice, promotion of optimal health and well-being.

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| Major Paper Outline | 20% |
| Major Paper – Family Assessment | 40% |
| Case Study Analysis and Discussion | 30% |
| Attendance, Participation, Professionalism | 10% |

Class grades will be based on the following:

3.85 – 4 A
3.60 – 3.84 A-

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| 3.25 – 3.59 | B+ |
| 2.90 – 3.24 | B |
| 2.60 – 2.87 | B- |
| 2.25 – 2.50 | C+ |
| 1.90 – 2.24 | C |

Final Grade:

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| 93 – 100 | A |
| 90 – 92 | A- |
| 87 – 89 | B+ |
| 83 – 86 | B |
| 80 – 82 | B- |
| 77 – 79 | C+ |
| 73 – 76 | C |
| 70 – 72 | C- |

Form and Format: Written and/or oral presentations/participation is considered excellent (A) when it meets all the above criteria; above average (B) when some of the above criteria is met, and average (C) or below when little or no of the above criteria is met.

VIII. Attendance and Class Responsibility Policy:

Your grade in this area will be a response to the following: punctuality; respecting and encouraging the opinions of your peers, even if they do not represent your own; demonstrating the ability to read carefully and think critically; demonstrating the ability to speak up when you have a point to make, a question to pose, or an

alternative perspective to present; being prepared to give and accept feedback; being prepared to work with your colleagues. Please become familiar with the NASW Code of Ethics, it establishes the foundation for respect of each other and the evolving perspectives we possess and might share throughout the semester.

Arriving late and departing early is disruptive to the class. Regular attendance for the entire class is expected. Being late or leaving class early may result in an absence being recorded for that class period.

IX. Drop Policy

To avoid receiving a failing grade due to absences, it is the student's responsibility to drop the class according to university guidelines and time frames. Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

X. Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. Instructors at UTA are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

XI. Academic Integrity:

At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

XII. Student Support Services Available:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

XIII. Librarian to Contact:

John Dillard in our Social Work Electronic Library, room A-111.

Web Page: <http://libraries.uta.edu/dillard/>

Ph: 817-272-7518; E-mail: dillard@uta.edu

XIV. E-Culture Policy:

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after

graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

XV. Grade Grievance Policy:

See Graduate Catalogue and MSSW Handbook.

XVI. Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

XVII. Final Review Week:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

XVIII. Bibliography:

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