

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

Child Care & Adolescent Worker Programme

CCW 504-3 Family Dynamics I

INSTRUCTOR: Anne O'Connor, M.S.W.

TIME: Monday - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

DATES: September 19, 1983 to December 12, 1983

PRE-REQUISITE: Social Problems & Group Dynamics I

COURSE OUTLINE: This course will provide an overview of the family as a system. Interactions between its members will be explored. These interactions will also include the physical and social environment to which the family is linked. The individual family member will be analyzed as a unit and the family as the larger environment with which he or she transacts. Like any system, the family needs to be flexible enough, yet have firm boundaries, to survive the challenges of many social problems and to offer constancy, support and identity.

The course's primary objective is to study the family system within the sociological perspective. The exploration of sociological problems of the contemporary family such as mobility, divorce, economy, poverty, marital adjustment, unemployment and changing roles will be studied.

COURSE CONTENT:

1. Objectives: At the end of this course the student will be able to:
  - a) Discuss the structure and function of the family.
  - b) Identify the changes in family forms taking place in our society and the needs and problems that arise from these changes.

- c) Identify the sociological factors that influence the modern family and the needs and problems that arise.
- d) Describe the family using Systems Theory.
- e) Discuss the issues facing the child care worker in responding to the needs and problems of families.

TEXT: Understanding Us, by Patrick J. Carnes, Minneapolis:  
Interpersonal Communications.

EXPECTATIONS:

The course requirements for Family Dynamics I include:

- a) Read the text and other material as required.
- b) Regular class attendance and participation.
- c) Lead one class seminar. Topics will be distributed and dates of presentation will be sorted out during class. The seminars will be one hour in length, including a group discussion.

or

Complete one essay (12 pages) on a subject related to the course content and approved by the instructor. This paper is due on October 31, 1983.

- d) Submit an annotated bibliography of 6 to 8 readings from periodicals of interest to child care workers. This is due on November 28, 1983.
- e) Assignment #1 is due on October 1, 1983 (see attached). Assignment #2 is a follow up to this assignment to be distributed at a later date and is due on December 5, 1983.
- f) All written assignments must be legible (if not typed), double spaced and grammatically correct. Late papers will lose points.

GRADING & EVALUATION

Assignments #1 and #2 - 25%  
Annotated Bibliography - 25%  
Seminar or Essay - 25%  
Class Attendance and Participation - 25%  
  
Total - 100%

COLLEGE GRADING SYSTEM

80% - 100% = A

70% - 79% = B

60% - 69% = C

I - Mid-Term Only

R - Repeat

X - (Incomplete due to extenuating circumstances)

Topics for Seminar or Essay

Family Forms

1. Blended Families
2. Single Parent Families
3. The Dual work Family - Two working parents and the effects on child rearing.
4. The Nuclear Family - How is it changing?

Factors Influencing Families

5. Unemployment
6. The Changing Role of Women
7. Divorce or Marital Breakdown
8. Sexuality issues influencing the family.
9. Religion and its influence in family life.
10. Family Violence - Child Abuse
11. Family Violence - Wife Battering
12. Media and the family

Life Events Significant to Families

13. Pregnancy and Childbirth
14. Marriage
15. Aging
16. Illness
17. Death
18. The impact of Crisis on the family.

\* or a topic of your choice made in conjunction with the instructor.

Assignment #1

Choose a novel that you have read in the last year. Describe one family in the novel answering the following questions.

1. Give an introduction to the novel including the name, author and the location of the story in space and time.
2. How is this family organized? What does each member give to and receive from this family?
3. What does this family give to and receive from the community in which they live?
4. What social problems does this family face?

This paper should be limited to four pages.