

Critical Issues in Family and Consumer Sciences

Spring 2012

FACS 499 – Section 700

Course number #37323

Instructor: Adam R. West, LMSW, CFLE

E-mail: adam.west@wku.edu (the best way to contact me)

Office: AC 410D

Office Phone: 270-745-5138 (rarely check during the summer)

Office Hours*: By appointment (see note below)

***Please request an appointment via e-mail. That e-mail message MUST include at least three hour-long blocks you are available to meet during the week from which I can choose a mutually convenient time. Please also indicate which course (i.e., the course number) you are enrolled in.**

Meeting Time: Online course

Required Text: Butterfield, A.K., Rocha, C., & Butterfield, W.H. (2010). *The dynamics of family policy*. Chicago, IL: Lyceum Books.

Recommended Text: Bogenschneider, K. (2002). *Family policy matters: How policymaking affects families and what professionals can do*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Course Web Page: Blackboard (<http://blackboard.wku.edu>)

Note: You may order your books from the WKU Bookstore at www.bookstore.wku.edu or by phone at 1-800-444-5155 or 270-745-2466.

Course Web page: We will use Blackboard as our course Web site. All course announcements, assignments, exams, additional readings, and video clips, necessary changes to the course schedule, corrections or clarifications on assignments, grades for assignments will be posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for staying up-to-date on any materials posted on Blackboard. Also, please keep your email address accurate and current so that I can send email messages throughout the semester.

Course description

An examination of the place of family and child studies in the context of broader themes, such as public policy and varying social and economic climates. This course is designed to integrate research, theory, and practice, applying former education to a variety of family and child issues.

Course Objectives

Student that successfully completes the course will be able to:

- Demonstrate a better understanding of the definitions, approaches, and issues involved in family policy analyses across the life cycle
- Interpret current societal trends as they relate to the need for public policies addressing the child and family
- Identify current research and theoretical foundations of various child and family issues
- Participate in sharing various viewpoints of specific child and family issues
- Analyze processes for formulating, implementing, and evaluating public policy and the role of family and consumer sciences professionals in these processes
- Evaluate public policy issues effecting children and families
- Think critically and improve their ability to develop and express clear logical arguments to policymakers, practitioners and the public
- Identify and assess programs in governmental and private agencies that are designed to address the needs of families and consumers
- Explore what roles professionals can play in building family policies that support families across the life cycle

Course requirements

See Blackboard course site for detailed grading rubric.

Total Points: 320 points (100%)

A	=	288 or above
B	=	256 - 287
C	=	224 - 255
D	=	192 - 223
F	=	191 or below

- Your final grade is based on the amount of points you earn. They are not based upon, for example, how hard you believe you worked, your performance in other classes, your assessment of improvement in the course, etc. If you earn an A, then you will receive an A grade. You will have to work hard and participate online in order to earn an A. Students who earn an F grade also work hard to achieve it. Please do not be one of these students who work hard to achieve an F. I would be happy if all students worked hard and earned an A grade.
- Grades will not be curved (e.g., 255 points = C). The course is based on points and not percentages. Thus at the end of the semester you may have earned 277 points, which is equivalent to a B letter grade. If the class was based on percentages, then the percent would be 89.6. Again, the class is based on points and not percentages.
- Do not approach the instructor after the semester to beg for points. Seriously. If you want to be certain that you will earn an A (or B, etc.), then be certain that your final course score is at least 288 points (or 256 points for a B, etc.). (see section heading, END OF SEMESTER GRADES)

Assignments

See Blackboard course site for detailed syllabus.

Course Policies

Religious Holy Days: A student who needs to miss an examination or online assignment for the observance of a religious holy day may complete the work issued within a reasonable time after the absence, if proper notice has been given. Proper notice in this course is defined as notifying the instructor in writing at least **one week** in advance of the absence for observance of a religious holy day. During this time, you and I will establish new assignment due dates to accommodate your observance of the religious holy day(s).

Withdrawal from the Course: Withdrawal from the course is governed by the general university policy. Please see the undergraduate catalog for more information.

Assignments: All assignments are due on the specified due dates listed on your course schedule unless as a class we agree to change a specific due date. All assignments must be submitted online before the end of the day, which for this course is 11:59pm. Any assignment collected after this time will be considered late. Students may request to receive detailed feedback from the instructor about the grading of assignments. Otherwise, general feedback about the grading of assignments may be given to the entire class.

Late and Missed Assignments: Late assignments will only be accepted if accompanied by legitimate and official documentation that clearly states why you were unable to turn in your assignment in on the assigned due date. No exceptions. If you know you are going to miss class on any particular assignment due date, it is your responsibility to make the extra effort to submit your assignment ahead of time. Late assignments that are accepted will receive a deduction of 20% each day they are late. After five days, late assignments will not be accepted (see section heading, EXAMS).

Disputing Assignment Scores: Students who desire to dispute an assignment score have exactly **one week** from the date the scores are posted on Blackboard. Any questions of grading after this one week period will not be honored. It is your responsibility to contact me within one week to dispute your scores. No exceptions.

End of Semester Grades: Inquires at the end of the semester about grades will go unanswered. For example, a student may want to contact the instructor to indicate that they are only a couple of points away from the next letter grade. Another example is a student wanting to discuss an exam or assignment grade past the one week time limit. These inquiries will not be responded to. Of course, if there has been a grading error on my part, it will be addressed (e.g., grade posted incorrectly on Blackboard).

I only look at the final grades after the final assignment scores are posted. Even then, please do not contact me and try to beg for a few extra points. At this point in the semester it is too late. Students should contact me early in the semester to discuss ways to improve their grades. It is simply not fair to give “a few points” to some students and not the entire class. Thus, please do not contact me to beg for a few points. My best suggestion is to earn enough points throughout the course so that you are not in the position to need to beg for additional points at the end of the semester.

Email correspondence rules: The nature of our relationship is a professional one. As such, I expect you to demonstrate a certain amount of respect for that relationship. When you email me, that email must follow standard professional correspondence protocol. Please put the course title in the subject line (e.g., FACS 499). You should begin your email with a salutation (e.g., Dear Mr. West). The text of your note should contain complete sentences, be grammatically correct, and follow standard sentence structure. This is not a text message and please do not write your email as one. Finally, please include your name at the end of your email (i.e., a complimentary closing). Failure to send a professionally crafted email will result in me simply replying with the above information. It is important to learn and utilize the ability to send a professionally and respectfully crafted note in appropriate settings (as it is for all correspondence in a university setting).

Student Code of Honor

Do your own work. Academic dishonesty **will not** be tolerated. Your honesty is a crucial part of the learning environment in our class. Honesty is of utmost importance to me and I expect and assume that you will have perfect honesty in all you do in this class. All students who cheat in this class will automatically receive a zero grade on the assignment. Students may also receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action and expulsion. Visit <http://www.wku.edu/StuAffairs/index.htm> for more information.

Academic Dishonesty: Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

Plagiarism: To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. Students who plagiarize on an assignment will automatically receive a failing grade for that assignment and may receive a failing grade for the course. Referral to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action and expulsion may also occur.

Cheating: No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an assignment, essay, or other project which is submitted for purposes of grade determination. **DO YOUR OWN WORK.**

Equal Treatment of Students

“Western Kentucky University is committed to providing truly equal educational opportunities for all students. An important component of that commitment is to insure that all students, regardless of gender, race, religion, or ethnicity, feel welcome on campus, in the classroom, and in their interactions with faculty and staff. The Council of Academic Deans affirms this commitment and reinforces the expectation that all faculty and staff will conduct themselves in such a manner that all students feel they are treated equally and fairly at the university. Students who believe they have experienced any discrimination at Western should feel free to report it to a faculty member, a department head, a dean, or to any administrative official.”

Students with Disabilities

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS) in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004; TTY is 270-745-3030. Per university policy, please **DO NOT** request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

Drop Dates

The last date to drop the course without possible academic or financial penalty is **January 30, 2012**. The last day to drop the course for academic reasons or change from credit to audit is **March 16, 2012**.