



Chaminade University OF HONOLULU

PSYCHOLOGY 480: PARENTING AND FAMILY DIVERSITY

Fall 2002

M, W, F 9:00 - 9:50

Behavioral Science 102

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kathleen M. Adams

OFFICE: Behavioral Science 103

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 - 9, 11 - 1 or by appointment

The best way to reach me is by e-mail. I check my e-mail daily, even when I am not on campus. If you need to get a message to me, e-mail is better than voice mail.

REQUIRED:

- Text: Bigner, J., (2002) Parent Child Relations: An Introduction to Parenting (6th Edition) Prentice Hall
- Other: 3" x 5" file cards, and a double pocket report folder (heavy paper or light cardboard, not plastic)
- An inquisitive, open mind
- A desire to learn and grow

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course:

- provides an introduction to parenting practices and family relationships across cultures.
- use family systems theory to examine the evolution of the family and parenting practices, the stages of family system development, and the parenting challenges faced by all types of families.
- will explore a broad range of issues including multiracial /multiethnic families, divorce, adoption, step families, gay and lesbian parents, and family therapy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

"Chaminade University, true to its foundation in the Catholic Christian faith and the Marianist tradition of community, nurtures a unique environment encompassing people from diverse cultural origins who hold a variety of religious beliefs. Chaminade University students participate not only in the formal processes of education, but also gain insights, understanding, and tolerance from being members of a small community of learning characterized by love, cooperation, self-discipline, and mutual respect." Chaminade University Institutional Identity Statement

The characteristics of a Marianist education, and the corresponding course objectives are:

- ***a balance of reason and faith***
Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the benefits and the limitations of **the scientific method and its relationship to research in the field of family studies**
- ***education of the whole person***
Students will be able to apply **family systems theory and parenting skills** to their own families and to the parenting of their own children
- ***family spirit/community***
Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of **family systems and healthy parenting styles and skills**
- ***service, justice, and peace***
Students will be able to demonstrate the use of **critical thinking skills** in critiquing, discussing, and writing about parenting, particularly with regard to issues of **diversity, justice, and plurality**
- ***adaptation to change***
Students will demonstrate knowledge of the **historical changes in parent-child relations**

Preparation:

- Students are expected to read the assigned readings and to complete assignments before class.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and assignments.

Participation:

- Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions and activities.

Attendance:

- **Class participation is 30% of your final grade** (see below.) **You must be in class to participate.** Students are expected to attend and to participate in class regularly.
- Attendance will be taken.
- There will be many in class assignments that will be graded and that cannot be made up.
- I do not carry extra class materials / handouts etc., to each class. Ask another student to get class materials for you when you must miss class. Every student is encouraged to find a another student in class to partner with for this purpose.

- The only "excused absences" allowed will be those that are discussed with the professor before the end of the first week of classes. Absences in this category include those that are more than a few days and are due to participation in other University activities such as athletics, study trips, etc. Individuals who arrange "excused absences" with the professor during the first week of classes will be able to "make up" missed class assignments.
- Any other absences, be they for illness, family emergency, etc. need not be discussed with the professor. In class assignments missed for these reasons may not be "made up." One or two missed classes due to unforeseen events will not strongly influence your grade.

GRADES:

- Final grades will be based on the total number of points accumulated during the semester.
- The total number of the most points accumulated will equal 100%.
- Grades will be determined on the following percentage basis:

90 - 100%	A
80 - 89%	B
70 - 79%	C
60 - 69%	D
< 60%	F...

50% of final grade: EXAMS:

- **Missed exams may not be made up.**
- Exam Grading -
 - The total number of the most points accumulated will equal 100%.
 - At the end of the semester, with the exception of the Final Exam, each student's lowest exam score will be dropped.

30% of final grade: ASSIGNMENTS:

- For the purpose of generating critical thinking and discussion, there will be many in-class assignments during the semester. **In-class assignments will be unannounced and may not be made up.**
- In class assignments will include quizzes on the assigned readings.
- There will also be assignments for completion outside of class time.
- Assignments will not be accepted after due dates.

20% of final grade: GROUP PRESENTATIONS:

- Each student will be a member of a study group. Twice during the semester, each study group will make a presentation on an assigned topic. Students will participate equally in the preparation and presentation of this project. Guidelines for these projects will be presented and discussed in class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a TENTATIVE schedule for this course. Dates and topics may change as we work.

Date	Topic	Assignment
Monday, August 26	Introduction Review Syllabus	
Wednesday, August 28 Friday, August 30	Dimensions of Parenthood	Chapter 1 Wednesday, 8/28: Turn in completed course contract attached to syllabus
Monday, September 2	LABOR DAY NO CLASS	
Wednesday, September 4	Dimensions of Parenthood (cont)	
Friday, September 6	EXAM I	Exam on Chapter 1
Monday, September 9 Wednesday, September 11 Friday, September 13	Parenting Strategies	Chapter 3
Monday, September 16 Wednesday, September 18 Friday, September 20	Theoretical Perspectives	Chapter 4
Monday, September 23 Wednesday, September 25 Friday, September 27	EXAM II The Transition to Parenthood	Exam on Chapters 2 and 3 Chapter 5
Monday, September 30 Wednesday, October 2 Friday, October 4	Childbirth and the Newborn	Chapter 6
Monday, October 7	EXAM III	Exam on Chapters 5 and 6
Wednesday, October 9 Friday, October 11	Ethnic Diversity of Contemporary Families GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Chapter 2
Monday, October 14	DISCOVERER'S DAY NO CLASS	
Wednesday, October 16 Friday, October 18	GROUP PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS	

Monday, October 21	EXAM IV	Exam on Chapter 2
Wednesday, October 23 Friday, October 25	Parenting Infants and Toddlers	Chapter 7
Monday, October 28 Wednesday, October 30 Friday, November 1	Parenting Young Children	Chapter 8
Monday, November 4	EXAM V	Exam on Chapters 7 and 8
Wednesday, November 6 Friday, November 8	Parenting School Age Children	Chapter 9
Monday, November 11 Wednesday, November 13 Friday, November 15	Parenting Adolescents and Young Adults	Chapter 10
Monday, November 18	EXAM VI	Exam on Chapters 9 and 10
Wednesday, November 20 Friday, November 22	GROUP PRESENTATIONS Single Parenting, Stepfamilies, High Risk Families	Chapters 11, 12, 13
Monday, November 25 Wednesday, November 27	GROUP PRESENTATIONS Single Parenting, Stepfamilies, High Risk Families	Chapters 11, 12, 13
Friday, November 29	THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS
Monday, December 2 Wednesday, December 4 Friday, December 6	Special Challenges in Parenting	Chapter 14
FINAL EXAM DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED	EXAM VII	Exam on Chapters 11 - 14

Group Projects

Two group projects are part of this course.



Objective: To work with others to learn more about parenting and family diversity and to communicate what you have learned to others in the class.

- Develop a presentation (15 to 20 minutes) on the chosen topic according to the rubric below.
- Be creative - You may make a video presentation, do role plays, get the whole class involved in a demonstration, etc.
- The first project will be on the family characteristics, stereotypes and myths, parenting, and the strengths and challenges faced by members of the different ethnic groups that make up who we are here on the islands, and will be presented on **October 11th, 16th, and 18th**.
- The second project will be the presentation of a "Position Paper" on a parenting topic, and will be presented on **November 22nd, 25th, and 27th**.

More specific information about project requirements and structure will be discussed in class. A detailed grading rubric will also be discussed.