

**MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Welcomes You To:**

**HSE 242.95  
Family Systems  
3 Credit and 3 Contact Hours  
TERM: Fall 2007**

**Course Description**

This course introduces the concepts of family structure as a system and includes the impact of contemporary society on the family. Topics include systems theory, family structure, blended families, divorce, adoption, and the elderly. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of families as a system and the impact of change on family structure.

**Prerequisites: PSY 150 or SOC 210**

**Corequisites: None**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Misti W. Silver, MSSW  
Office Location: PS 2  
Telephone Number: 828-765-7351 ext 412  
E-mail Address: msilver@mayland.edu  
Office Hours: M, W 8:30a-10:00a, M 11:30-4:30 and by appointment

**Course Information**

Course Meets: Internet

Required Text(s): Understanding Generalist Practice with Families  
Grafton H. Hull, Jr. and Jannah Mather

**LRC Resources: None**

**Required supplies: None**

**Mandatory Orientation**

You must attend ONE of the following orientation sessions to enroll in this course:  
Tuesday, August 21 from 3-4pm in Room 216 OR Wednesday, August 22 from 5-6pm in Room 216.

**Technology Requirements:**

Because this is an Internet course, you will need access to a computer with Internet capabilities. You must also be able to access your Mayland LEO account as the entire course will be conducted through LEO. Windows 98 or higher is the preferred operating software. Microsoft Word in the Office 2003 or 2007 suite is also preferred. If you have a different word processing program or an earlier version of Word, please let me know.

**Course Objectives/Competencies:**

1. Gain knowledge of family practice models and theories.
2. Understand how to engage families in practice settings.
3. Gain knowledge of the diversity of families in contemporary society.
4. Identify appropriate models of intervention with families.

### **Grading Criteria/Tests/Projects:**

***Please note that ALL of the following requirements for this course MUST be completed in order to pass this course. Failure to complete any of the following requirements will result in a failing grade regardless of performance on other requirements.***

#### Message Board 160 pts

Each week students will be required to find a current event that relates to families or issues facing families. These current events must be located from a documented outside source (i.e. newspaper, television news program, magazine, reliable internet site, etc). Each week, students are required to **post their news** (and their source) as well as **respond to other students' postings**. This will replace traditional discussion that happens in a seated class and will represent your attendance in class.

#### Assignments 450 points

Each week, students will be given various assignments that relate to readings from the text. These may include answering chapter questions or other exercises related to information learned in the text. Assignments are due by 11:55 pm on each due date. Late assignments will not be accepted. In the case of an emergency, the instructor can make exceptions. However, an emergency does NOT include lack of planning or computer malfunctions. Because technology can be unpredictable at times, please do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit assignments. It has been my experience that students who wait until the last minute to complete and submit assignments do NOT perform well in internet courses. Assignments should be submitted via LEO, not through personal email. If you have an emergency that requires an assignment to be hand-written, please contact me. This exception will ONLY be allowed in a rare emergency situation and should be approved PRIOR to the assignment date by the instructor. Please remember that campus computers are always available should you encounter personal computer problems.

#### Exams 300 points

Students will complete 3 chapter exams during this course. Exams will be completed electronically and will not require attendance on campus. You will be allowed to use your textbook and other notes during the exams HOWEVER exams will be timed. An electronic counter will begin at the time you answer the first question and will stop the exam when the time limit is elapsed regardless of whether or not you have completed the entire exam. Therefore, you must complete the entire exam at one sitting. You will be graded on the ENTIRE exam (not just the questions you complete). Please realize that it will be nearly impossible for you to complete the entire exam in the time allotted if you have not read the material prior to the exam.

### **Grading Scale (Points):**

**A = 819-910 points**

**B = 728-818 points**

**C = 637-727 points**

**D = 546-636 points**

**F = 545 and below**

**Inclement Weather Procedures:**

Because this is an Internet course and does not require travel to the campus, there will be no cancellations of this course. Please anticipate that inclement weather can sometimes lead to power outages and interrupted Internet service (another reason not to wait until the last minute!!) Power outages will not be accepted as an excuse for not submitting an assignment on time unless the outage lasts for an extended period of time. In that case, please contact the instructor in person or via phone PRIOR to the assignment deadline.

**Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:**

Students will maintain behavior consistent with a good learning environment. Academic dishonesty which includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating or collaborating on a test, or submitting the academic work of another as one's own, is prohibited and may result in failing the course.

**Withdrawal Dates: Fall 2007**

End of Unconditional Withdrawal

Tuesday, September 25

End of Conditional Withdrawal

Thursday, November 1

**Administrative Withdrawal**

If a student has not been in contact with the instructor and has not participated in class for a consecutive two-week period, an administrative withdrawal will be submitted by the instructor.

**ADA statement**

Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.

**Tentative Course Outline/Text readings- Please see LEO for specific dates**

Ch 1	Working With Families
Ch 2	Understanding Family Theories
Ch 3	Engaging Families
Ch 4	Family Assessment Considerations
Ch 5	Assessing Family Functioning
	Exam 1
Ch 6	Planning
Ch 7	Implementation
Ch 8	Evaluation, Termination and Follow-up
Ch 9	Interventions with Select Family Situations
	Exam 2
Ch 10	Additional Interventions with Select Family Situations
Ch 11	Specialized Family Interventions

Ch 12

Community Focus on Families

Ch 13

Families and Social Policy

Exam 3

**\*\*the above syllabus is subjected to change at the discretion of the instructor**