EPSY 5113: Developmental & Family Theory
Mondays 5:30pm – 8:20pm
Wooten Hall 213
Department of Educational Psychology
University of North Texas

Instructor: Cynthia A. Frosch, PhD, IMH-E®(IV)
Office: Matthews Hall 322-C
Phone: 940-369-8369
Email: cynthia.frosch@unt.edu
Office Hours: Mondays: 9:30-10:30am; Tuesdays 9:30-12:30; Wednesdays 4:00-6:00pm
or by Appointment

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


COURSE DESCRIPTION
Developmental and Family Theory. 3 hours. Survey of classic and contemporary theories in the fields of human development and family studies, including the role of theory in empirical investigation, conceptual frameworks, strategies of theory building, and an examination of theoretical perspectives useful in the study of behavior.

COURSE OBJECTIVE
The objective of this course is to familiarize the student with the major theories of human development and family studies, as well as to explore and appreciate their differences and adequacy and challenge the assumptions and tenets of each.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. **In-Class Contribution**: Students are expected to attend each class and fully participate in class discussions. In addition, students will be asked to participate in a variety of activities that will help me to assess student learning. Arriving to class more than 5 minutes late or leaving more than 5 minutes early from class will negatively impact your grade, unless approved prior to class by the instructor. Please bring your syllabus and the assigned readings to class each day, along with paper and a pen (for completing in-class activities). Students may miss 2 classes without penalty. Lack of attendance will negatively affect your grade if more than 2 (excused or unexcused) classes are missed. There are no make-ups for in-class activities. (100 points).
2. **Discussion Board Posts:** Students are required to post thoughtful, relevant, and detailed comments about EACH of the assigned readings on the class discussion board (e-learning) **before** 5:30pm on Sunday afternoon, one full day before the readings are to be discussed.* Your comments/questions will form the foundation for our class discussions. Late posts (5:31pm on Sunday or later) will negatively impact your grade. Although there will be more opportunities this semester, only your highest ten discussion board posts will count towards your final grade. I will provide feedback on your first post to help you gauge whether your post is appropriate in length, detail, and content. You must proofread your posts to be sure that they are free of errors and easily readable by your fellow classmates. Posts that are not proofread will result in a lower grade. **(10 opportunities @ 20 points each = 200 points).** Be prepared to discuss your post during class. *EXCEPTION: The discussion board post for 10/31 is due by the end of class that evening -- 8:30pm.

3. **Discussion Leadership:** Each student will take the lead for two class periods and will be responsible for co-facilitating a discussion of the day’s topic. Your role will include: (1) providing an appropriate review of the topic, (2) reading and synthesizing students’ comments and questions about the topic (from the Discussion Board) and (3) planning and facilitating an activity that extends students’ learning. You must coordinate with the instructor at least **ONE FULL WEEK** prior to your Leadership date. Following your discussion leadership, you will complete a self-assessment to further support your personal and professional development. Completed self-assessments are due no later than 5:30pm one week following your leadership. **Late self-assessments will not be accepted. (2 @100 points = 200 points).**

4. **Final Integration Assignment:** In lieu of a final exam, this writing assignment will assess students’ understanding of course content, including the ability to integrate and apply information across theories. Toward this end, students will be asked to chose an issue relevant to educational psychology and examine it from both a developmental and a family theory perspective. Typed, stapled, APA-formatted, and proofread assignments are due by DECEMBER 12th at 5:00PM. Use 1” margins and 11/12 point font (Times New Roman font or similar). Detailed information will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard. **(200 points)**

    **Student Presentations:** Students will have an opportunity to briefly discuss their areas of interest, along with the two different theoretical perspectives (one developmental; one family) they will be focusing on in their papers. Be prepared to summarize key findings from two peer-reviewed articles related to your topic (one for each theory selected).

**Final Grades.**  
A = 90% and above (630 points), B= 80-89% (560 points), C= 70-79% (490 points), F= below 70%. +/- may be given at the discretion of the professor. If at any time you have concerns about your grade or a particular aspect of the course, please schedule an appointment to talk with me.

**Summary of Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Contribution</td>
<td>/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts</td>
<td>/200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Leadership (2 @ 100 pts)</td>
<td>/200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Integration with In-Class Presentation</td>
<td>/200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Total</td>
<td>/700</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
COURSE/UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COURSE TECHNOLOGY POLICY. Refrain from using cell phones during class. Except for students who require audio recordings of course lectures due to documented learning differences, students are not permitted to audio record class without prior approval from the instructor. To maximize in-class learning, students are encouraged to use a pen/pencil and paper for note-taking. If you choose to use your laptop in class and are using it for non-course purposes that detract from the integrity of the learning environment (social media; watching movies, etc.), you will not be permitted to use your computer for the remainder of the semester. Staying focused will help you succeed!

QUALITY OF WORK. The final integration assignment must be proofread, typed, stapled, and on-time. Students will lose one full letter grade per day that the paper is late. All discussion board posts should be proofread for coherency and typographical errors. High-quality writing is expected and students should consult The Learning Center for additional support. https://writinglab.unt.edu/graduate-tutoring

RESPECT FOR OTHERS IN CLASS. The University of North Texas values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution, responsive leadership and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, the University of North Texas is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success.

It is expected that students listen to and respect each other’s insights during class. During class sessions, students may be asked to work in pairs or small groups. It is expected that students will work in a collegial manner. Any problems or difficulties should be brought to the course instructor for resolution.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR. Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct
ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT. Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward your email: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES. UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS. Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html

STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTION. Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

SUCCEED AT UNT. The University of North Texas endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grown. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here’s how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to www.success.unt.edu/
KEY LINKS

Blackboard:  https://learn.unt.edu/

Library:  http://www.library.unt.edu/
If you are unfamiliar with the UNT library system, electronic databases, etc., consider attending a library tour and orientation. Please check the UNT library website for scheduled times:  www.library.unt.edu.

Student Counseling Services:
http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/individual-counseling  (Individual Counseling)
http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-testing-services#programs  (other programs and services)

Student Learning Center:
https://learningcenter.unt.edu/  (general)
https://learningcenter.unt.edu/graduatestudentservices  (graduate services)

IMPORTANT DATES

9/13  Beginning this date a student who wishes to drop a course must first receive written consent of the instructor.

10/7  Last day for student to receive automatic grade of W for nonattendance.
Last day for change in pass/no pass status.
Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the semester with a grade of W for courses that the student is not passing. After this date, a grade of WF may be recorded.

10/8  Beginning this date instructors may drop students with a grade of WF for nonattendance.

11/7  Last day to drop with either W or WF.
Last day for a student to drop a course with consent of the instructor.

11/14  Beginning this date, a student who qualifies may request an Incomplete, with a grade of I.

11/23  Last day to withdraw (drop all classes).
Last day for an instructor to drop a student with a grade of WF for nonattendance.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date of Class</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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| 1    | 8/29         | Miller/ 1 - Introduction  
|      |              | Smith/Hamon 1 - Introduction |
| 2    | 9/5          | Labor Day |
| 3    | 9/12         | Miller/2 - Piaget’s Cognitive Stage Theory |
| 4    | 9/19         | Miller/3 - Psychoanalytic Theory |
| 5    | 9/26         | Miller/4 - Vygotsky and the Sociocultural Approach  
|      |              | Miller/6 – Social Learning Theory |
| 6    | 10/3         | Miller/5 – Biological Approaches  
|      |              | Miller/7 – Ethology and Evolutionary Theories |
| 7    | 10/10        | Miller/8 - Ecological Theory  
|      |              | Smith/Hamon 6 – Human Ecological Theory |
| 8    | 10/17        | Smith/Hamon 1 - Symbolic Interactionism  
|      |              | Smith/Hamon 2 – Structural Functionalism |
| 9    | 10/24        | Smith/Hamon 3 - Family Development |
| 10   | 10/31        | Miller/9 – Theories Today; Miller/10 - Reflections  
|      |              | Smith/Hamon - Epilogue  
|      |              | MOVIE NIGHT: Theory in Film |
| 11   | 11/7         | Smith/Hamon 4 - Family Stress |
| 12   | 11/14        | Smith/Hamon 5 – Family Systems Theory |
| 13   | 11/21        | Smith/Hamon 7 – Conflict Theory  
|      |              | Smith/Hamon 8 – Social Exchange Theory |
| 14   | 11/28        | Smith/Hamon 9 – Feminist Theory  
|      |              | Smith/Hamon 10 – Biosocial Theory |
| 15   | 12/5         | From Theory to Research to Practice |
| 16   | 12/12        | INTEGRATION PAPERS DUE |

Assignment Due

**MOVIE NIGHT:** DISCUSSION BOARD POST due on 10/31 by 8:30pm

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

5:00 PM

**** Topics and assignments are subject to change throughout the semester. Instructor will announce all changes in class and post these to Blackboard.****