
Childhood Studies/Early Learning & Child Care

Fall 2012

Instructor:

Linda Black

202A

780.715.3900

linda.black@keyano.ca

Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4-5pm

Fridays, 9-12

Hours of Instruction:

Fridays, 2:30-4:30pm

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the family in today's society. The focus is on the ecology of the modern family with particular reference to influences on and challenges facing the family.

2 Credits, 30 hours

Prerequisites: ELCC Certificate or permission of the Program Chair

Required Resources:

Shimoni, R., and Baxter, J. (2008). *Working with Families, 4th Ed.* Toronto: Pearson Canada Inc.

Course Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Extend knowledge of the systems and ecological approaches to understanding families.
2. Understand and realize how to support the socialization role of the family.
3. Be aware of the influences on the family including government policies (local, provincial and national) and societal trends such as the women's movement.
4. Develop sensitivity to challenges facing the modern family such as: separation and divorce, blending families, single and teenage parenting, special needs parenting, poverty, death, violence and abuse.

The class will proceed throughout the semester according to the needs, skills and interests of the group. Each group of people presents a unique blend of

personalities and abilities. Accordingly, the course content will reflect the needs and nature of the group and the individuals within the group.

Evaluation: *The minimum standard for passing this course is a grade of D (50%).*

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

A. Attendance and Participation **Value: 40%**

Class sessions will be participatory to provide opportunities to share readings and family stories, explore new ideas with colleagues, and to relate course content to practice. You will be acknowledged for being ready for class, participating thoughtfully, and for contributing to a positive learning environment.

B. Course Assignments

	<u>Value</u>
1. Dynamics of My Family	20%
2. Family Challenges	20%
3. Lab Assignment—Policies	20%

Each project will be reviewed in class and a criteria sheet will be provided. It is the responsibility of the individual student to access missed information or further clarification out of class.

Project 1: Report on Family Dynamics **Value: 20%**

Choose Project 1A or 1B

1A. The Dynamics Of My Family

Applying the concepts introduced in your text and/or class discussion, explain and reflect on the dynamics of your family of origin:

- Family composition
- Definition of family
- Functions of the family
- Characteristics of healthy families
- Open/closed system
- Family balance
- Family subsystems
- Boundaries
- Family members & roles: mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents
- Family rules
- Microsystem (of your family)
- Exosystem (of your family)
- Macrosystem (of your family)

Write your analysis in report format, and incorporate specific examples from your own family to demonstrate your understanding of each concept and how it applies to your family of origin. Conclude your report with your reflections on how awareness of the dynamics of your own family will help you understand and support the families in your care.

Your word-processed report will be 5-6 pages in length and will demonstrate appropriate standards of written English (i.e. spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence & paragraph construction).

1B. Understanding a Family's Dynamics

Based on your review of topics studied in the text, and/or class discussions, create a list of relevant and well-worded questions to guide your study of a family that you know. Create your questions by rewording each of the concepts into plain language which will elicit meaningful information about the family.

The family you study could be a family in your care, or the family of a close friend or relative. Use your questions to have a "conversation" about families and share your own examples with the person, your "informant". Alternatively, you could study an excellent example of family dynamics from literature, a movie or a TV show you know well. Use the questions to guide your review of the family and/or discuss the family with someone else who has read the book/watched the movie or show.

Write up your analysis of your focus family in report format, incorporating specific examples about the family to demonstrate your understanding of each concept and how it applies to the family. Conclude your report with your reflections on how awareness of the dynamics of a family will help you understand and support the families in your care.

Your word-processed report will be 5-6 pages in length and will demonstrate appropriate standards of written English (i.e. spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence & paragraph construction). Add your questions and notes in your appendix.

Check the criteria sheet to ensure you have met the requirements for your goal grade.

Project 2: Family Challenges

Value: 20%

The purpose:

This ongoing project has two purposes: to extend your learning and the evaluation of your learning. Your goal should be to use the assignment to really understand the key aspects of the current challenges which face families in care, and to demonstrate your understanding to your instructor.

What you will do:

Choose two topics from in your textbook, or a topic discussed in class. Focus on challenges which one or more families in your program are presently facing.

After thoroughly studying the text chapter, access and review a range of additional current sources.

Then prepare an organized informative handout for the class summarizing your findings. **DO NOT** forget to document your sources.

You will be required to lead a class discussion on your project which will be part of your grade.

Project 3: Lab Assignment

Value: 20%

The purpose:

Your goal should be to use the assignment to understand the key aspects of the current policies and benefits available to families using federal, provincial and municipal resources. This assignment will help you not only be aware of resources and benefits available to help you assist families that you work with, but it will also aid in research skills you may need to acquire this information in the field.

What you will do:

You will have access to a computer in the computer lab, and be given a significant amount of time to find one relevant resource in all three branches of government.

A chart will be placed on the board for students to list the resource they will focus on in order to avoid duplication of resources. This will allow for each student to walk away with a wider array of information as we will be sharing our finding with each other.

It will be important to access and review a range of additional current sources.

DO not forget to document your sources.

You will be required to lead a class discussion on your benefits which will be part of your grade.

Legend			
Percentage Scale	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Descriptor
94-100	A+	4.0	Excellent
	A	4.0	
90-93	A-	3.7	
86-89	B+	3.3	Good
80-85	B	3.0	
75-79	B-	2.7	
70-74	C+	2.3	Satisfactory

65-69	C	2.0	
60-64	C-	1.7	
56-59	D+	1.3	Poor
50-55	D	1.0	Minimum Pass
0-49	F	0.0	Failure

Performance Requirements:

Course assignments have set due dates to manage both instructor and student workloads. Changes to due dates may occur to adjust overall student workload based on class consensus.

The department policy (revised 2009) regarding student evaluation states that:

- Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of the class on their respective due dates. If a student is absent from class, the assignment will be considered late.
- Individual extensions require students to contact and ask permission from the instructor prior to the assignment due date. In addition, a signed request for extension, including the extenuating circumstances, must be submitted at that time or as soon as possible.
- For assignments that are late without written permission:
 - a grade will be deducted for assignments up to 3 days late, e.g. a B assignment will become a B-.
 - an additional grade will be deducted for assignments that are 4 - 7 days late, e.g. a B assignment now becomes a C+.
 - no assignments will be accepted after 1 week past the due date.
 - ***no assignments will be accepted after the beginning of class on the final due date of the course. The final due date for ELCC 303 is December 14, 2012.***
- Since final exams are not a component of ELCC or EA courses and because learning is participatory, attendance and participation is part of the course grade. ***80% attendance, and word-processed assignments when required by the instructor, are necessary to achieve a final grade of B or higher in ELCC and EA courses.***
- A grade of B on an assignment recognizes that the student has met the basic requirements and knows the applicable content thoroughly enough to be able to apply it. A grade of less than B brings attention to the student that there are gaps in understanding the content and skills required for that assignment. Students should use the criteria for assignments to guide assignment work.
- A grade of B+ or higher acknowledges excellence in quality and quantity of work. The student's assignment is above the basic requirements.

NOTE!! If you quote information or ideas that are not general knowledge, you **MUST** provide correct documentation. Failure to do so is **PLAGIARISM**. Plagiarism is literary theft and is a serious offence.

Please note the following dates for Fall, 2012:

<p><u>September</u> Tuesday, 4 Wednesday, 5 Thursday & Friday, 6,7</p> <p>Monday, 11</p> <p>Tuesday, 18</p> <p>Friday, 21</p>	<p>Orientation Day Fall semester begins</p> <p>St. John 1st Aid</p> <p>Last day to add courses for academic programs. Tuition for Fall semester is due. Late fee of \$100 charged on any outstanding balance after this date.</p> <p>Last day to drop courses for academic programs. Last day to waive health and dental benefits.</p> <p>Fall Awards application deadline</p>
<p><u>October</u> Monday, 8 Friday, 12 Friday, 26</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Day, <i>College closed.</i> Last day to withdraw from courses with 50% refund of tuition fees. Last day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty, courses dropped after this date will be graded "WF".</p>
<p><u>November</u> Monday, 12</p> <p>Tuesday, 27</p>	<p>In observance of Remembrance Day, <i>College closed.</i></p> <p>Keyano College Student Awards ceremony</p>
<p><u>December</u> Thursday, 13</p> <p>Friday, 21</p> <p>Saturday, 25 to Tuesday, Jan. 1 (inclusive)</p>	<p>Last day of Classes for Childhood Studies programs.</p> <p>Fall grades due to Registrar by 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><i>College closed.</i></p> <p>**Winter term Classes resume on Monday, January 7, 2013</p>

Academic Regulations

Please use this link to view Keyano College's Academic Regulations:
<http://keyano.ca/sites/default/files/academic%20regulations.pdf>

Academic Schedule

Scroll down to page 9 of this document to review the academic schedule:
http://keyano.ca/sites/default/files/a_files/calendars/keyano.calendar.credit%282012-2013%29.pdf

Proposed Topics:

- Intro/Overview
- Knowing ourselves and each other
- Be Proactive
- Think Win-Win
- Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood
- Nonviolent Communication: What is it?
- Observation w/o Evaluation
- Feelings in communication
- Universal Needs
- Expressing Requests
- Receiving Empathically
- The Power of Empathy and Self-Empathy
- Expressing Appreciation

Specialized Supports & Duty to Accommodate:***Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program***

If you have a documented disability or you think that you would benefit from some assistance from a Disabilities Counsellor, please call or visit the Disability Supports Office 780-792-5608 to book an appointment (across from the library). Services and accommodations are intended to assist you in your program of study, while maintaining the academic standards of Keyano College. We can be of assistance to you in disclosing your disability to your instructor, providing accommodations, and supporting your overall success at Keyano College.

Specialized Supports and Duty to Accommodate

Specialized Support and Duty to Accommodate are aligned with the office of Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program (LAP) guided by federal and provincial human rights legislation, and defined by a number of Keyano College policies. Keyano College is obligated by legislation to provide disability-related accommodations to students with identified disabilities to the point of undue hardship.

Authorization:

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

Linda Black, Instructor

Sherry Duncan, Chair

Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:

Instructor
Registrar's Office