

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Master of Arts in Child and Family Education (One-year Full-time) A1M089, (Two-year Part-time) C2M021 Master of Education Programme (One-year Full-time) A1M043, (Two-year Part-time) C2M001
Course Title	: Understanding Families in Educational and Community Settings
Course Code	: ECE6175
Department	: Early Childhood Education
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction:	English
Level	: 6

Part II

1. Synopsis:

Educators and community service providers often have frequent contact with families. The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the literature on family studies, and to link such knowledge to practical issues that educators and community service providers often face when dealing with different types of families. Using both social ecological and family systems perspectives as overarching frameworks, the course helps students understand different family subsystems (e.g., marital, parent-child, sibling) as contexts where children and adolescents learn skills and develop competencies. The emphasis is on how these subsystems operate in reciprocal ways, and how they afford opportunities for and place constraints on the development of children and youth of different ages. Particular attention is also directed to the unique situations in Hong Kong, including the pervasive influence of Chinese culture, the intense conflict between work and family, and the common involvement of grandparents and domestic workers in childrearing. Finally, the course explores practical applications of research to the real world, and discusses how macro factors may affect the

functioning of families with different sociocultural backgrounds (e.g., low-income, immigrants, ethnic minorities).

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO_s)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- CILO₁ Recognize global and local demographic changes and their implications for family relationships and youth adjustment
- CILO₂ Explain how different family subsystems may afford opportunities for and place constraints on children and youth at different stages
- CILO₃ Evaluate the utility of theories and research in the local setting and examine how the role of culture (across countries and class) in understanding family dynamics
- CILO₄ Integrate theories and research and design effective programs/services to meet the needs of parents, children and youth in educational and community settings

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Important theories of family studies	CILO ₂	Lectures, problem-based learning, collaborative group work, experience sharing and case (vignette and video) studies
Socio-emotional development in childhood and adolescence, particularly how youth of different ages may respond to family influences in different ways	CILO ₂	
Global and local changes in family structure	CILO _{1,3}	
Growing up in Chinese settings	CILO _{1,3}	
Roles of parents, siblings, grandparents, and other caretakers in youth development	CILO _{2,3}	
Working with diverse families: Immigrant, ethnic minority, and low-income families	CILO _{1,3}	
Practical issues: Family-school-community partnerships	CILO ₄	
Practical issues: Need analysis and	CILO ₄	

action plans		
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4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
<p><i>a. Group presentation:</i> Students analyze hypothetical vignettes in groups. Using different theories, students analyze how different macro (e.g., subsistence patterns) and micro (e.g., parental and child characteristics) factors may affect family relationships and youth adjustment, and propose programs and services to address the needs of the families.</p>	30%	CILO _{1,2,3}
<p><i>b. Individual essay:</i> Each student interviews a family with children and in special circumstances. Using different theories, the student analyzes how different macro (e.g., subsistence patterns) and micro (e.g., parental and child characteristics) factors may affect family dynamics and child adjustment, and proposes programs and services to address their needs.</p>	70%	CILO _{1,2,3,4}

5. Required Text(s)

Nil

6. Recommended Readings

- Cherlin, A. J. (2012). *Public and private families: A reader* (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Cox, M.J., & Paley, B. (1997). Families as systems. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 48, 243-26.
- Darling, N., & Steinberg, L. (1993). Parenting style as context: An integrative model. *Psychological Bulletin*, 113, 487-496.
- Demo, D. H., & Buehler, C. (2013). Theoretical approaches to studying divorce. In M. A. Fine & F. D. Fincham (ed.), *Handbook of family theories: A content based approach* (pp.263-279). New York: Routledge.
- Dunn, J. (1983). Sibling relationships in early childhood. *Child Development*, 54, 787-811.

- Fingerman, K. L., Cheng, Y., Wesselmann, E. D., Zarit, S., Furstenberg, F., & Birditt, K. S. (2012). Helicopter parents and landing pad kids: Intense parental support of grown children. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 74*, 880-896.
- Huston, T. L. (2009). What's love got to do with it? Why some marriages succeed and others fail. *Personal Relationships, 16*, 301-327.
- Lau, S. (Ed.) (1997). *Growing up the Chinese way: Chinese child and adolescent development* (2nd ed.). Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.
- Longmore, M. A., Manning, W. D., & Giordano, P. C. (2013). Parent-child relationships in adolescence. In M. A. Fine & F. D. Fincham (ed.), *Handbook of family theories: A content based approach* (pp. 28-50). New York: Routledge.
- McHale, S.M., Updegraff, K.A., & Whiteman, S.D. (2012). Sibling relationships and influences in childhood and adolescence. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 74*, 913-930.
- Skolnick, A. S., & Skolnick, J. H. (2010). *Family in transition* (16th ed.). New York: Pearson and Allen/ Bacon.

7. Related Web Resources

Global Family Trends:

<http://globalfamilytrends.com/>

The Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong:

http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/so20_tc.jsp

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service:

<http://2011.hkcss.org.hk/index2011.asp>

The Social Welfare Department of Hong Kong:

<http://www.swd.gov.hk/tc/index/>

8. Related Journals

Journal of Family Psychology

Journal of Marriage and Family

9. Academic Honesty

The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University's policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89>).

Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil