CFS 494 -- Parenting Strategies
*Tentative*

For a detailed syllabus, please refer to Blackboard. A detailed syllabus is offered for students who are enrolled in the course.

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Western Kentucky University Information Number: 745-4845 (School closing information due to weather)

Textbooks and Readings

Course Description
This course explores various aspects of parent-child relations through childhood.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: Student Disability Services
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

PLAGIARISM POLICY: Plagiarism is a serious offense and is considered an act of Academic Dishonesty. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanction.

Course Objectives
1. Cover the fundamental tasks and issues in child rearing
2. Provide a working definition of parenting, descriptive roles for parents and review environments in rearing children
3. Determine what barriers parents face
4. Determine how society influences the role of parenting
5. Provide students with the opportunity to evaluate several parenting styles
6. Review child development as it applies to parental choices

Course Topics
1. Parental barriers
2. Establishing emotional relationships with children
3. Becoming parents: The first year of life
4. Toddlerhood: The years from one to three
5. The preschool years
6. The elementary years
7. Early adolescence
8. Parenting and working
10. Parenting in times of trauma
11. Child abuse
12. Parenting children with special needs

Instructor’s Responsibilities
I am here to help you learn. I will be prepared for each class and will provide you with enthusiastic instruction. I will be fair with you and will be as clear as I can about my expectations concerning course requirements. I approach my teaching from the perspective that every student already has some knowledge from his or her own experience, is willing and open to furthering that learning, and is responsible for their learning. I respect your knowledge and I expect to learn from you.

If there are things that trouble you about the course (for example, if something is confusing, if you feel stuck, if your expectations are not being met, or if there is something bothering you about the course), I will provide an opportunity for you to present your issues in class or in private. I will listen to you when you tell me about it, and respectfully consider your opinion. I will respond to your comments or questions. Although I welcome feedback from you at any time, I will nonetheless provide an opportunity for you to evaluate anonymously both my teaching and this course.

Course Policies
1. It is in the best interest of the student to attend all classes; therefore students are expected to attend all classes. If an absence is unavoidable, (a) students are expected to contact the instructor, prior to the class session or as soon thereafter as possible, and (b) students are expected to take responsibility for all missed information and materials.
2. Students are responsible for all assigned readings and are expected to actively participate in class discussions based on information from the readings and experiences in the field.
3. Course announcements will be made via electronic mail. Students are required to have an operational WKU email address and to check email frequently for information pertaining to the class. Email accounts other than a WKU email address cannot be used.
4. The course schedule, topics, and procedures are subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor or in the case of extenuating circumstances.
5. Late assignments will result in a reduction of 5 points per day late. Make-up quizzes will not be given.
6. It is expected that all written assignments will conform to standards of documentation, organization, mechanics, and spelling. Assignments not meeting these standards will result in a lower grade.
7. Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodations from the Office for Student Disability Services.
8. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the professor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanctions. WKU Undergraduate Catalog, 2002-2003 defines plagiarism as representing written work taken from another source as one’s own (p.27). Cheating is defined as receiving or giving assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, lab report, problem
assignment or other project which is submitted for the purposes of grade determination (p. 27).

A. **Policy on late assignments:**
Each day an assignment is late, 5 points will be removed from the grade of the assignment.

B. **All assignments with multiple pages must be stapled together.**
The instructor has the right to refuse accepting the assignment if the pages are not stapled together. This is due to the possibility that pages not stapled together could be lost. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure assignments are stapled together.

C. **If you are sliding an assignment, either late or on-time, under my office door…**
The assignment must be in a manila envelope (the 8 x11 size brownish colored envelopes) and the pages must be stapled together. Again, this is to ensure that pages are not lost while sliding them under the office door. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure assignments are turned in on time, are complete, and the pages stapled together.

**Email Etiquette:**
Since email is a popular form of communication, it is important that respect and manners be demonstrated through email messages. These things should be part of an email to professors at WKU:

* A greeting (Dear Dr., Etc.)
* (A) Clearly written paragraph(s) indicating the question or concern you have
* End the message (thanks, have a great day, best wishes, etc.)
* Be sure and type your name at the end!!

Emails that display hostile attitude, those that are inappropriate or those that contain rude messages will be returned to the student with no answer. Please be respectful of your colleagues and professors. In this class, you are looked upon by the instructor as both professionals and colleagues; respect will be given to you and is expected in return.