

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2025
Syllabus
CDFS 3300-0001: Family Theories – 3hrs

Department of	Child Development and Family Studies, School of Behavioral Health and Human Services
Instructor Name	Dr. Crystal Benjamin, CFLE
Office Location	DAL 1 Suite 105A
Office Phone	972-338-1350
Email Address	Crystal.benjamin@untDallas.edu
Office Hours	Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST
Virtual Office Hours	Thursdays 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST Zoom Information Meeting ID: 864 7846 9221 Passcode: 470197
Course Format/Structure	Face to Face using Canvas as an instructional tool
Classroom Location	DAL 1 236
Class Meeting Days & Times	Wednesdays 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time No Class Meeting on the Following Dates Week 5 – Sep. 24 th , 2025 Week 9 – Oct. 22 nd , 2025 Week 14 – Nov. 26 th , 2025 Week 16 – Dec. 10 th , 2025
Course Catalog Description	Theoretical perspectives of the family are explored. Major theories include Social Exchange, Life Course, Family Systems, Human Ecology and Symbolic Interactionism.
Prerequisites	Completion of university core courses.
Corequisites	N/A

Required Text:	Smith, S. R., & Hamon, R. R. (2022). <i>Exploring family theories</i> (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.
Recommended Reading & Reference	American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.
Access to Learning Resources:	<p>UNT Dallas Library: Phone: (972) 338-1616; Website: http://www.untdallas.edu/library Email: library@untdallas.edu</p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore: Phone: (972) 780-3652; Website: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore Email: untdallas@bkstr.com</p>
<p>Canvas Resources</p> <p>Supported Browsers: Chrome</p> <p>Supported Devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPhone • Android • Chromebook <p><i>Note: Tablet users can use the Canvas app)</i></p> <p>Screen Readers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoiceOver (Safari) • JAWS (Internet Explorer) • NVDA (Firefox) <p><i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i></p>	<p>Getting Help with Canvas:</p> <p>Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634</p> <p>Canvas Help Resources:</p> <p>Canvas Student Guide - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701</p> <p>For additional assistance, contact UNT Dallas Distance Learning: DAL 1, Rm 157 email: distancelearning@untdallas.edu</p> <p><i>If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, please keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.</i></p> <p><i>If you have a course-related issue (e.g. course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me during office hours or by email.</i></p>

Course Overview

Course Goals/Overview:

The goal of this course is to examine family theories and their varying perspectives on family functioning. This includes internal family dynamics and the family's relationship to external systems. Theories will be evaluated based on their major tenets, basic assumptions, strengths and limitations.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will

1. Develop a beginning knowledge of prominent family theories.
2. Establish a historical context of family theories/family theory building and explain their development over time.
3. Compare and contrast major family theories.
4. Describe the usefulness of family theory in practice.
5. Discuss literature and research findings regarding family theories
6. Evaluate and apply family theory to various family structures

Course Outline and Discussion Topics

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Timeline	Topic	Readings/Activities/Assignments
Week 1 Wednesday, Aug. 27 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Course and Syllabus• Team Meetings Self-Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Introductions• Review Course Syllabus• Students will join teams and facilitate their first team meeting.• Students will sign and submit Syllabus Agreement and Group Responsibilities
Week 2 Wednesday, Sep. 3 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 1: Symbolic interactionism Theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Class Discussion on Chapter 1• In Class Team Learning Activity• Students will identify journal

		article review #1 • Students will add content to theory chart • Team Virtual Service-Learning Agency Identification information is due on Wednesday Sep. 3 at 11:59pm
Week 3 Wednesday, Sep. 10 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	• Chapter 2: Family Development Theory	• In Class Discussion on Chapter 2 • In Class Team Learning Activity • Students will add content to theory chart • Quiz 1 in Canvas based on Chapters 1 & 2 is due on Sunday, Sep 14 at 11:59pm
Week 4 Wednesday, Sep. 17 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	• Chapter 3: Family Stress Theory, Social Learning Theory/video • Life Course Theory	• In Class Discussion on Chapter 3 & Video • In Class Team Learning Activity • Students will add content to theory chart

Week 5 (No Class) Wednesday, Sep. 24	• Chapter 4: Family Systems Theory	• Scholarly Journal Article Review #1 is due on Wednesday, Sep. 24 at 11:59pm • Quiz 2 based on Chapter 3 & 4 is due on Sunday, Sep. 28 at 11:59pm
Week 6 Wednesday, Oct. 1 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	• Chapter 5: Ecological Systems Theory	• In Class Discussion on Chapter 5 • In Class Team Learning Activity • Students will add content to theory chart
Week 7 Wednesday, Oct. 8 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	• Chapter 6: Conflict Theory	• In Class Discussion on Chapter 6 • In Class Team Learning Activity • Students will add content to theory chart

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Virtual Service-Learning Project due on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 11:59pm
Week 8 Wednesday, Oct. 15 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Social Exchange Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Discussion on Chapter 7 • In Class Team Learning Activity • Students will add content to theory chart • Students will identify journal article review #2
Week 9 (No Class) Wednesday, Oct. 22 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8: Attachment Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will add content to theory chart

Week 10 Wednesday, Oct. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9: Feminist Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarly Journal Article Review #2 is due on Wednesday Oct. 29 at 11:59pm • Quiz 3 based on Chapters 5 – 8 is due on Sunday Nov. 2 at 11:59pm
Week 11 Wednesday, Nov. 5 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Biosocial theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Discussion on Chapter 10 • In Class Team Activity Teamwork • Students will add content to theory chart
Week 12 Wednesday, Nov. 12 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing Theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Team Comparative Analysis Chart Presentations in Class • Team Comparative Analysis Chart Canvas Upload due on Wednesday, Nov 12 at 11:59pm

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 4 based on Chapter 9 & 10 is due on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 11:59pm
Week 13 Wednesday, Nov. 19 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying Theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class Team Application Paper Presentations in class • Team Application Paper due in Canvas and to colleagues on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2024 at 11:59pm
Week 14 (No Class) Wednesday, Nov. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Thanksgiving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Thanksgiving
Week 15 Wednesday, Dec. 3 8:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. Central Standard Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying Theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Peer Review of Presentation & Paper in class • Team Peer Review Paper due on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 11:59pm
Week 16 (No Class) Wednesday, Dec. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas Course Shell Closes

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

1. Class Attendance and Participation

Active participation and attendance are essential for your success in this course. Engaging in group and class discussions enhances your learning experience and contributes to a dynamic classroom environment. Your contributions are valuable, and important content and discussions occur during our class sessions.

Points Allocation:

Full Points: Attending class on time and actively participating in discussions.

Late Arrival Penalties:

5 minutes late: 5 points deduction

10 minutes late: 7 points deduction

15 minutes or more late: 10 points deduction

Expectations:

- **Timeliness:** Arriving on time shows respect for your peers and helps you stay engaged with the material and activities.
- **Engagement:** Participation includes contributing to discussions and group activities, which aids in deepening your understanding of the course content.

Lowest Grade Drop:

The lowest participation grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. This policy allows for flexibility and acknowledges that occasional absences or late arrivals are sometimes unavoidable.

Communication:

If you are running late or unable to attend class, please inform both the instructor and your team members as soon as possible. This practice helps you develop a strong work ethic and ensures that everyone stays informed.

Absences Due to Illness or Major Events:

In cases of illness or major events, please provide documented evidence (e.g., a doctor's note) within 2 business days of the missed class. Arrangements can be made to make up missed participation points.

Support:

Your participation is crucial to our classroom dynamics, and I am here to support you. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance or participation, do not hesitate to reach out.

2. Chapter Quizzes

Chapter quizzes are designed to assess your understanding and retention of the course readings. These quizzes will help ensure that you are prepared for our class discussions.

Details:

- **Number of Quizzes:** There will be 4 quizzes on assigned text chapters throughout the semester.
- **Lowest Grade Drop:** The lowest quiz grade out of the 4 will be dropped to accommodate any occasional difficulties you may encounter.
- **Access:** Quizzes will be available under the **Assignments** tab in Canvas and must be completed online through the Canvas platform.
- **Preparation:** Be sure to read each chapter in its entirety and take thorough notes to perform well on the quizzes.

Your preparation and participation are essential to making the most of our course discussions. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please reach out.

No late assignments are accepted if it does not meet the student policy criteria for missed assignments. In essence, to complete a missed quiz, students are required to submit documented evidence of illness or major event (e.g. doctor's note) within two business days. Attached is the link to the policy.

<https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1347&public=true>

3. Virtual Service-Learning Project - Team

The Team Virtual Service-Learning Project involves researching a local agency related to Child Development/Family Studies to understand its services, funding, and community impact. In this project, teamwork is essential as it allows students to leverage each member's strengths to produce high-quality work. Each team will write a reflection paper detailing their findings,

- (A) including the agency's contact information,
- (B) funding sources, population served,
- (C) volunteer opportunities, and community needs, while integrating course concepts.

This collaborative effort enhances understanding of community service and prepares students for real-world applications in their field. Students will inform the instructor of their selected service-learning project by the end of week 4 of this course. **The Grading Rubric will be uploaded to Canvas. No late assignments are accepted if it does not meet the student policy criteria for missed assignments. In essence, to submit a missed assignment, students are required to submit documented evidence of illness or major event (e.g. doctor's note) within two business days. Attached is the link to the policy.**

<https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1347&public=true>

4. Scholarly Journal Article Review

Reviewing scholarly articles pertaining to research in family science is a great way to increase your knowledge of individuals, families, groups, communities and society regarding family theories. In addition, it helps you stay current with the latest trends and fosters critical thinking skills which are important for your career. For this assignment, you will review peer reviewed journals covering **empirical research** on family

theories topics.

Assignment Instructions:

Ensure that you paraphrase the information and avoid writing information from the article verbatim. You will select one (1) article of your choice discussing topics within the area of family theories you find most interesting. The selected article dates must be from 2019- 2024. The article selected must also be research studies conducted over factors associated with family life. Your article should include the following information: 1) Reference source, 2) purpose for conducting the research, 3) research question(s), 4) a description of the subjects, 5) sampling procedures (discuss how the researcher recruited individuals to participate in the study), 6) data collection strategies (describe how the researcher collected the data), 7) data analysis (discuss how the researcher analyzed the data), 8) discuss the findings that emerged from the research, and 9) provide your critique of the research study. Please download the Journal Article Review template from Canvas and fill in the appropriate information. Develop your article review document exactly as presented in the article review guide. Also include the article used to conduct the review with your submission. Students who do not submit a pdf document with the full journal article in addition to their article review will not earn full points. **Links to the journal article are unacceptable.**

Article Review 1-Topic: Family Systems Theory. Students show instructor a copy of their journal article #1 by week 2 of this course.

Article Review 2- Topic: Feminist Theory. Students show instructor a copy of their journal article #2 by week 8 of this course.

The library staff is a great resource for you. Please see the following link to book your appointment <https://library.untDallas.edu/staff>.

The Grading Rubric will be uploaded to Canvas. No late assignments are accepted if it does not meet the student policy criteria for missed assignments. In essence, to submit a missed assignment, students are required to submit documented evidence of illness or major event (e.g. doctor's note) within two business days. Attached is the link to the policy.

<https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1347&public=true>

5. Theory Comparative Analysis and Presentation - Team

Creating a theory chart is an excellent way for students to deepen their understanding of family theories. In this assignment, student teams will create a 1–2-page document that outlines the ten (10) theories discussed in class and covered in the textbook. For each theory, students will include at least 3 major tenets, 2 assumptions, 2 strengths, and 2 limitations. Additionally, students will select 2 theories to compare and contrast in a 2-3 paragraph analysis. This assignment will culminate in an in-class presentation where teams will share their findings with the class. **The theory chart template and grading rubric will be uploaded to Canvas. No late assignments are accepted if it does not meet the student policy criteria for missed assignments. In essence, to submit a missed assignment, students are required to submit documented evidence of illness or major event (e.g. doctor's note) within two business days. Attached is the link to the policy.** <https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1347&public=true>

6. Final Assignment - Team Theory Application Paper and Presentation

Final exams provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate and showcase their knowledge acquired throughout the course. As part of your final exam, you will view a television show or movie and evaluate the families depicted. Your evaluation will be conducted through the lens of one or more family theories discussed in class. Following your viewing, you will write a 3–5-page application paper that applies these family theories to the dynamics observed in the show or movie.

In addition to the paper, you will create a short presentation summarizing your analysis, which you will present to the class using Canva or PowerPoint. Details and a list of approved television shows or movies can be found in Canvas.

Team Peer Reviews

Working in teams, students will provide constructive feedback on another team's assignment. This peer review will be submitted by one team member through Canvas.

Final Exam Submission

The final exam, which assesses your comprehension of course readings, class discussions, and assignments, will be completed at the end of the course. Upon completion, you are required to upload your final exam to the designated area in Canvas. Please note that no makeup final exams will be permitted except in the case of documented emergencies, as outlined (See Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <https://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>).

GRADING MATRIX

Instrument Total Points

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

Instrument	SLO	Value	Total
Attendance & Participation		11 classes @ 25 points each	275 pts
Chapter Quizzes	1,2,3,4,5	3 quizzes @ 25 points each	75 pts
Scholarly Journal Article Review	1,2,3,4,5,6	2 article reviews @ 50 points each	100 pts
Theory Comparative Analysis Presentation - Team	3	1 theory chart @ 100 points each	100 pts

Theory Application Paper & Presentation - Team	4,6	1 paper @ 100 points each	100 pts
Theory Application Paper Peer Review - Team	1,4, 6	1 paper @ 50 points each	50 pts
Virtual Service Learning Project - Team	1,2,3,4,5	1 service learning project @ 100 points each	100 pts
TOTAL			800 pts

GRADE DETERMINATION:

The following grading scale will be used to determine your final grade for the course:

A-90 % -100 % (720-800 pts)

B-80 %- 89 % (640-719 pts)

C-70 %-79 % (560-639 pts)

D-60 %- 69 % (480-559 pts)

F- 59% and below (479 pts and below)

Need tutoring services or just some help with a particular assignment? For tutoring that empowers students to achieve success, schedule an appointment with the Learning Commons today at <https://www.untDallas.edu/learning/schedule-appointment/>.

Course-Specific Policies

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1347&public=true>.

Technology Use Policy

Technology is a tool. In this course, technology is expected to support your learning, not interfere with your accountability. Technical issues (e.g., Wi-Fi problems, laptop crashes, file errors) are not valid reasons for missing deadlines unless explicitly stated by the professor (such as during inclement weather). Please plan ahead—submit early, back up your work, and ask for help in advance if something isn't working. Learning to manage these challenges is part of becoming a responsible professional.

Late & Wrong Assignment Submission Policy

Deadlines matter. Meeting deadlines is a critical professional skill, and as such, **late assignments are not accepted in this course**. This policy is intended to help you develop the time management and accountability skills expected in the workplace. Submitting the wrong file or the wrong assignment will not

be excused—it is **your responsibility** to follow instructions carefully and double-check your submissions.

Exceptions to this policy will only be made in the case of documented emergencies, such as hospitalization or the death of an immediate family member. In such cases, appropriate documentation must be submitted within **2 business days** of the missed deadline.

Communications With Professor

Developing strong written communication skills is crucial for your professional journey. Adhering to these communication guidelines will help you cultivate desirable career-ready skills. Please use Canvas messages for all course-related inquiries. The instructor will respond to messages within two (2) business days. Note that the instructor is unavailable after 5 pm on weekdays, as well as on weekends and holidays. Messages sent during these times will receive a response on the next business day.

For a timely and organized communication process:

- Use Canvas messages exclusively for contacting the instructor. Emails sent to the instructor's untDallas.edu email will not be answered.
- Regularly check Canvas for important updates, assignment descriptions, grading criteria, and to submit your assignments.
- Canvas and Zoom will serve as our primary communication platforms throughout this course.

The instructor is committed to responding to all messages promptly and appreciates your understanding and cooperation.

Assignment Policy:

Assignment Submission Instructions and Requirements - You are expected to actively participate in the learning process. This course will utilize various methods to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Methods may include activities, presentations, audiovisuals, case analysis, simulation exercises, films, and a general exchange of ideas. Please note that if a student chooses to work ahead on a module and submits an assignment, the assignment submitted is the assignment that will be graded. The instructor will not go back and clear assignments for students to resubmit. Students are responsible for submitting the correct assignments. Students, please be careful when submitting assignments. Be sure to submit the correct assignment into the correct module and the correct week.

Assignment format:

All posted writing assignments must be typed in 12-inch font, using either Times New Roman or Arial font (APA guidelines). Handwritten assignments in any part are not acceptable. All assignments must be in complete sentences and checked for spelling, mechanics and grammar. **Include a standard cover page** with all written assignments, except responses to discussion board questions and syllabus upload. In Canvas, I have shared a Cover Page template that I would like students to use for this course. The Cover Page was adapted from the APA 7th edition publication manual guidelines for student paper. Assignments **missing a cover page will receive a 5-point deduction**. Students are responsible for all course assignments and notices posted on the course home page, announcements and all messages sent to students via Canvas. Having problems with the computer and/or printer or failing to view the assignment are unacceptable reasons for failing to complete an assignment on the due date. **No Late Assignments, Quizzes, Discussion Boards, Projects, or Final Accepted unless you have made arrangements with the instructor.**

Requirements:

APA 7th edition publication manual standards including but not limited to: cover page, headings, three (3) in-text citations in each half page, include page numbers, and include a reference section/page. Avoid using quotations, I encourage you to practice paraphrasing. You may utilize other scholarly resources to support any assignment (journal articles, books, etc.). Please avoid .com websites or Wikipedia resources in this class. Please insert any outside scholarly information correctly and reference properly.

Use of Canvas: It is good practice to log onto the course several times per week to review announcements, course updates, or other related course correspondence. Due to the amount of content and the assignments scheduled for the course, I recommend you log onto the shell four (4) to five (5) times per week, if possible. Modern technology has made it possible for you to log onto the course shell and complete assignments using smart phones, tablets and other mobile devices anywhere at any time. However, keep in mind that depending on your mobile device(s), when you access Canvas using mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, some of the images may be distorted, or you may have limited access to browse around the course shell. Despite the mobile device used to access the course, you are expected to submit assignments by the due date and according to the established guidelines per assignment. Students must have a media player downloaded on their computers. To find out how to download a media player (and other software) on your computer, you may contact the Canvas Helpdesk. It may be necessary to download an older version of Realplayer to be able to view the videos. Please test the videos immediately to be sure you can open them, if you cannot open the videos, please send me a Canvas message as soon as possible I would be happy to help.

General Assignment Submission Guidelines Checklist

- Writing and referencing should conform to the writing style and reference guidelines found in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*.
- Double space using Word files using an appropriate 12-point, black color font, Times New Roman or Arial writing style and one-inch margins.
- Use a Cover Page and make it APA style with assignment/project title, your name, the date, the course (see Canvas from the Cover Page template you will use in this course, this may vary based on the instructor).
- Add page numbers to your assignments as per APA 7th ed. guidelines (top right hand corner of each page).
- Always write an introductory paragraph and a final concluding (i.e., synthesizing, evaluative) paragraph; always include a references section page, per APA 7th ed.
- Please be careful and attend to issues of good grammar, spelling, and presentation.
- DO NOT USE CONTRACTIONS in academic writing (e.g. write there is instead of there's). This course's writing is academic and scholarly.
- Be very careful to maintain consistency in use of verb tense and voice (e.g., third, second-, or first-person voice) throughout papers.
- An important note about plagiarism as it pertains to this course, avoid writing more than 2 or 3 consecutive words of anything that might be borrowed from another source without citing. When in doubt, cite the source. Realistically, until the conclusions are being drawn and the reflective thoughts are being conveyed, chances are that most students' thoughts and writings are drawn from reliable and valid sources. Therefore, citing appropriately, sentence by sentence, adds credibility to the writer's work. Furthermore, do not copy either by physically typing or by simply pasting from another source's website or article and call it your own work by failing to cite the material as a direct quotation. The instructor has been known to sleuth out plagiarism (within

minutes of detecting a possible problem with a document) despite any desire **to not find** the evidence. One key way to avoid problems with plagiarism is to submit assignments informally and early by a date upon which has been mutually agreed. The instructor will return the document with feedback and make suggestions for how to better engage in source citations and how to avoid inappropriately handled quotations. **Also, students who make such efforts tend to earn higher grades.**

- Do not cite using Wikipedia, Answer.com, Ask.com, About.com, or any other non-scholarly or non-academic Websites. The instructor will critically grade the use of such reference choices to the disadvantage of the student who uses such.
- No assignment should be submitted as pdf file, Microsoft Works, Publisher, or WordPerfect, etc. Assignments are due on different dates throughout the semester. I recommend you download the course syllabus; pay attention to assignment instructions and due dates. **All assignments scheduled for this course is due on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sunday by 11:59 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED unless an arrangement has been made with your instructor.**

Turnitin: Turnitin software may be used to ensure the originality of your work. As you draw on research information publicized as journal articles, books, websites, etc, be sure to use your own words by paraphrasing the author's work and including a citation. Limit the use of quotations. As a rule of thumb, use quotations sparingly. Your work should reflect a scholarly dance between your voice and the voice of other authors for which you used to develop the research paper. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. I recommend you purchase the APA 7th ed. publication manual that clearly define and explains what plagiarism is and how to avoid committing plagiarism.

Required Filename Format for Word Attachments Submitted Online:

For this course, all written assignments created as Word or PDF documents and submitted to Canvas must be saved utilizing the following filename format:

Example: YourLastNameFirstInitial_Name of Assignment
BenjaminC_Journal Article Assignment (your filename attachment should look like this example. Do not use my name as the filename, use your name)

To save your work according to the correct filename format follow the instructions below.

- 1). Open a word or PDF document
- 2). Click on save as; Title/save the document according to the require filename format.
- 3). Example: BenjaminC_Journal Article
- 4).Then click the save as button.

Failure to save and submit your document according to the guidelines will result in an automatic 3 points deductions from the total points earned. No assignments will be accepted via email unless otherwise noted. On occasion, Canvas (and some email programs) have problems with file attachments that include symbols in the filename. Avoid use of periods, hyphens, ampersand &, slash marks / \, pound sign, at sign @, etc.

Communications With Professor

Developing strong written communication skills is crucial for your professional journey. Adhering to these communication guidelines will help you cultivate desirable career-ready skills. Please use Canvas messages for all course-related inquiries. The instructor will respond to messages within two (2) business days. Note that the instructor is unavailable after 5 pm on weekdays, as well as on weekends and holidays. Messages sent during these times will receive a response on the next business day.

For a timely and organized communication process:

- Use Canvas messages exclusively for contacting the instructor. Emails sent to the instructor's untDallas.edu email will not be answered.
- Regularly check Canvas for important updates, assignment descriptions, grading criteria, and to submit your assignments.
- Canvas and Zoom will serve as our primary communication platforms throughout this course.

The instructor is committed to responding to all messages promptly and appreciates your understanding and cooperation.

To log directly into Canvas, go to. untDallas.instructure.com. You will need to use your EUID and password. **For more information on accessing Canvas** go to - [Accessing Canvas](#). Be sure to format your Canvas message communications using the following guidelines below:

1. In the subject line of the Canvas message state the course name and the purpose for the email. (Example: CDFS 3300 Family Theories - Question about an assignment).
2. Include salutation. Example: Dr. Benjamin. Do not state Mrs. or Ms. Benjamin because these prefixes are not the professor's professional title.
3. In the body of your email state your question and comments. Be clear and specific.
4. Make sure messages are free of spelling, grammatical and capitalization errors close the email by including your first and last name and student ID #.

SAMPLE Canvas Message

Subject: CDFS 3300 Family Theories - Question about an assignment

Dr. Benjamin,

I had a question about the Journal Article Review, where can I find journal articles for this assignment?

Yours sincerely,

Renee Clarke

Student ID#: 23456789

Canvas messages or emails not correctly formatted will not receive a response from the professor. When communicating with classmates, please exercise courtesy and respect whether you are sending a classmate a direct email or responding to discussion assignments.

Notifications: Any changes to the course schedule will be posted on Canvas Announcements. Periodically, announcements may appear in the course to provide general information, make special requests, or notify you of any changes. These announcements can be accessed from Canvas by clicking "Announcements" listed in the menu on the left side of the screen.

Grading: While I will do my best to have your assignments grading in a timely manner, which will not always be possible. I may take up to 2 weeks to grade any assignments and will post grades to the Grade Center. I usually include comprehensive feedback on assignments, I encourage you to review all my comments and feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Grade Inquiries: Students are encouraged to inquire about their academic performance in class throughout the semester. All grade inquiries will be reviewed, and responses provided within 3 business days of the initial inquiry. Students with questions about their grades and scores should contact the instructor within 5 days after the grades have been posted. After this deadline, scores and grades on assignments will not be reviewed or changed.

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities: Each week you must access Canvas and the materials in this course in order to be successful. Read the Learning Modules and assigned readings in order to make a contribution to weekly course activities such as discussions, exercises, activities, and/or tests. Carefully review the "Assignments" folder in each module for a description of required assignments.

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities: Several times a week, you must access Canvas and the materials in this course in order to be successful. Review the Learning Modules and assigned readings in order to contribute to weekly course activities such as discussions,

assignments/activities, and/or finals. Carefully review the "Discussion Board" and "Assignments" folder in each module for a description of required discussion boards and assignments. Discussion Boards and Assignments are due by the dates and times provided in the course timeline. **Please note there will be no late assignments accepted or extensions given if the student's rationale does not align with Student Policies at UNT-Dallas.** Attached is the link to the policy.

https://president.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/7.005_student_attendance.pdf Modules will close after the due date time of each assignment.

Cameras

Cameras must be on during office hours or meeting times. Students must be on time to their scheduled meetings. Students must be in a secure place while receiving instructions. Students must not be in their beds. Students must not be at a place where they cannot actively participate in the class. Students must not be driving during the course period time. Students must contact the instructor if there are issues with their camera or if they do not have a camera.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Disabilities Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO 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 accommodation at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delays in implementation. Note that a student must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu on the first floor of the Student Center.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring that online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. The Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is provided at <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>.

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the UNT Dallas Academic Integrity Policy in the appropriate Catalog at <http://dallascatalog.unt.edu>.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy Statement:

In this course, AI tools such as ChatGPT may be used for ideation and brainstorming, but all submitted content must be written in your own words. Properly cite any information or ideas derived from AI tools to avoid plagiarism and be sure to fact-check AI-generated information as it is not always accurate. Direct copying of AI-generated content is prohibited and will be considered a violation of academic integrity. Ensure that your submissions reflect your original thinking and understanding, demonstrating respect for academic honesty and intellectual property. Inaccurate information and poor or lacking citations will result in poor grades for assignments. I do not recommend relying heavily on AI-generated content.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom etiquette:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate (UNTD Policy 7.001 found at <https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1278&public=true>

Classroom Disruption:

Students are expected to always engage with the instructor and other students in this class in a respectful and civil manner to promote a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave class due to disruptive behavior is not permitted to return to class until the student meets with a representative from the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Dean of Students before class meets again and to provide the instructor confirmation of the meeting. A student who is directed to leave class will be assigned an unexcused absence for that class period and any other classes the student misses because of not meeting with the Dean of Students. The student is responsible for material missed during all absences, and the instructor is not responsible for providing missed material. In addition, the student will be assigned a failing grade for assignments, quizzes or examinations missed and will not be allowed to make up the work.

The Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (UNTD Policy 7.001 found at

<https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1278&public=true>) describes disruption as the obstructing or interfering with university functions or activity, including any behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff access to an appropriate educational environment. Examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a student being directed to leave the classroom include but are not limited to: failure to comply with reasonable directive of University officials, action or combination of actions that unreasonably interfere with, hinder, obstruct, or prevents the right of others to freely participate, threatening, assaulting, or causing harm to oneself or to another, uttering any words or performing any acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual's rightful actions, and harassment. You are encouraged to read the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct for more information related to behaviors that could be considered disruptive.

Course Evaluations:

Student evaluations of teaching effectiveness are a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester via your campus email, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I (as the instructor) will not have access to the results of the evaluations until after final grades have been posted. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking

UNT Dallas is committed to creating a safe learning environment for all members of our community, free from gender and sex-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, in accordance with Title IX, Texas laws and University Policies. Please note that all employees are mandated reporters and must report all instances of sexual misconduct, dating violence, sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has experienced any form of sex or gender-based discrimination or violence and wish to speak to the Title IX Coordinator, you can email them at titleix@untdallas.edu or file a report [here](#).

Pregnancy, Pregnancy Related Conditions and Parenting Modifications Under Title IX

UNT Dallas is committed to compliance with Title IX, and to supporting the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions. If you are a pregnant, have pregnant related conditions or a parenting student (child under one-year needs documented medical care) who wishes to request reasonable related modifications from the University under Title IX, please email the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@untdallas.edu. The Title IX Coordinator will work with your professors and academic unit to provide reasonable modifications needed to be supportive of your education while pregnant or as a parent under Title IX.

Bad Weather Policy:

Campus facilities will close, and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information, please refer to <http://www.untdallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes:

Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Technology Assistance: To successfully access the materials in Canvas, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you have trouble accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor.

If the problem is still not resolved, call Distance Learning at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups.

For more information see:

- UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>
- Canvas Instructure Support & Unsupported Operating Systems: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>

Syllabus Agreement

By signing below, I certify that:

- ☐ I have read the syllabus in its entirety and understand the course requirements and expectations.
- ☐ I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to ask questions during class, via Canvas message, or during office hours if I need clarification on any aspect of the course.
- ☐ **I understand that Dr. Crystal Benjamin is not available after 5 PM on weekdays, nor on weekends and holidays**, and that any messages sent during these times will be responded to on the next business day.
- ☐ **I am aware that no late assignments will be accepted unless due to illness or an emergency**, and that documented evidence, such as a doctor's note, is required within two business days of the missed deadline. (See Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <https://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>).
- ☐ I understand that the UNT Dallas Library is available to assist with finding journal articles, books, and other resources needed for assignments.
- ☐ I acknowledge that the Learning Commons is available to support me with writing, proofreading, and other academic needs.
- ☐ I am aware that the Experiential Learning Office is available to assist with service-learning projects and related activities.
- ☐ I understand that Canvas has a 24/7 hotline for any technical issues related to assignment uploads or access to the platform.
- ☐ I recognize that all team members have responsibilities outside of school, and I understand the importance of communication and time management in completing group assignments.
- ☐ I understand that if I do not communicate and/or contribute to group assignments, I will not receive a grade for those assignments.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

