

HDFS 4900.704:

Special Problems in Human Development and Family Science

COURSE TOPIC: FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Instructor Contact

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

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Office Hours: Mondays 8:30-10:30 AM, Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 PM, and Fridays 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

(Also available by appointment)

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Communication Expectations: You may email me, message me via Canvas, or post a question to the “Course Questions” discussion board. Students can expect to hear back from the instructor within 24 hours *(excluding weekends)* of sending an email/message/discussion post.

Course Meets: Online, Asynchronous, with regular meetings scheduled between instructor and student.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

Open to advanced students capable of developing a problem independently. Problems chosen by student and developed through conferences with the instructor.

The practice and process of family life education and training of professionals in the child development and family field. Curriculum and program development and evaluation. Teaching strategies and professional responsibilities.

Course Structure

The course will be primarily online distance education and administered through the Canvas Learn system at UNT. Content will primarily be communicated from textbook readings and online materials. The online content provides students with considerable flexibility in how they approach and process the material. Students can review content at any point and as often as desired. As this is a Special Problems course, students will be primarily responsible for their independent learning and course task completion.

Students and the instructor will interact via email, online discussions, and conferences as scheduled/needed.

Course Prerequisites

HDFS 2033; Junior or senior standing.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Trace the development of family life education as a professional field, identify the current status of the profession, discuss current issues and changes in the field, and develop a comprehensive working definition of family life education.
2. Become aware of content, educational objectives, and methods of program delivery for family life education programs.
3. Explain the theoretical frameworks behind the development of family life education programs including content research, learning theory, social change, communication, program planning and development, teaching methods, evaluation, and ethics.
4. Analyze the various audiences for family life education and compare their characteristics relative to such elements as their need for education, their learning style, values, cultural characteristics, etc.
5. Identify the various settings in which family life education occurs, the organizations responsible for family life education programs and initiatives and their characteristics, their impact on the programs themselves, and the different roles of family life educators in diverse settings.
6. Apply understanding of theory, content, audience/learner characteristics, methods, and professional ethics to observations, reviews, and evaluations of family life education programs.

Required Textbook:

Darling, C. A., Cassidy, D., & Ballard, S. M. (2022). *Family life education: Working with families across the lifespan* (4th ed.). Waveland Press, Inc.

➤ Other supplemental readings are available on Canvas

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

Please visit <http://lis.unt.edu/technology-requirements> to gain a clear understanding of the technology requirements you will need for most all online Canvas-based courses, including this one.

To be successful in this course, you will need to have access to the following technology:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Students should be able to comfortably implement basic computer operations, including using email, navigating an internet browser, and attaching and downloading files. Students who cannot comfortably do these things should not take this course, or their final grade will likely suffer. Students are specifically referred to Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>).

If you would like to improve basic computer skills on your own time, the resource below is a free tool available to you at your own discretion. This is not required for this course, but the skills presented here will be helpful in completing this course successfully: <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers>

Be aware that Canvas is known to have issues when opened in Internet Explorer. Using Mozilla Firefox is a reliable alternative to use when taking quizzes and exams.

Do not anticipate an extension for computer problems (e.g., hard drive crashes, disc errors, printer problems, etc.). Be sure to leave yourself extra time in the event you experience computer problems. Ample time to complete assignments has been provided. Begin today. Do not wait until the night before, encounter an unexpected problem, and expect more time to be provided.

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (<https://aits.unt.edu/support>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

See Help Desk site for information about hours for Walk-ins and phone/chat support.

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Course Requirements

1. Family Life Education Workshop Planning Checkpoints (5 x 30 points = 150 points): You will complete 5 assignments that contribute to the planning, creation, and evaluation of your Family Life Education Workshop. Each assignment has specific instructions and requirements that are available on Canvas. **The Family Life Education Workshop Planning Checkpoints are due on various dates throughout the semester:**
 - **Introductory Topical Issue Analysis due 9/7 by 11:59 PM**
 - **Workshop Topic & Objectives due 9/14 by 11:59 PM**
 - **Topic Significance/Needs Assessment due 9/21 by 11:59 PM**
 - **Workshop Evaluation Plan due 10/5 by 11:59 PM**
 - **Workshop Outline due 10/26 by 11:59 PM**
 - **Workshop References/Research due 11/23 by 11:59 PM**
2. Observation of Community-Based FLE (50 points): You will identify and attend a meeting, training, workshop, or presentation that is related to one of the 10 family life education content areas and complete an observation form and reflection about your experience. The event you observe must be approved in advance by the instructor. Detailed assignment instructions and rubric are available on Canvas. **Your Community Event Observation is due on Sunday 11/2 by 11:59 PM.**
3. Ethical Decision-Making Exercise (50 points): You will utilize the ethical decision-making principles and process outlined by the National Council on Family Relations and Certified Family Life Educator Code of Ethics to make an informed recommendation about an ethical dilemma presented

in a case study. Detailed assignment instructions and rubric are available on Canvas. **Your Ethical Decision-Making Exercise is due on Sunday, 11/16 by 11:59 PM.**

4. Family Life Education Workshop Marketing Artifact (50 points): Individually, you will create a marketing artifact (social media campaign, video, infographic, brochure, etc.) that provides information about your workshop topic and informs people about your workshop. The objective of this exercise is to develop translational research skills. Translational research fosters the multidirectional and multidisciplinary integration of basic research with the long-term aim of improving the health/well-being of individuals and families. Detailed assignment instructions and rubric are available on Canvas. **The Family Life Education Workshop Marketing Artifact is due on Friday, November 7th by 11:59 PM.**
5. Family Life Education Workshop Presentation (100 points): The Family Life Education Workshop Presentation is designed to help you practice skills such as: identifying and utilizing reliable resources; simplifying, analyzing, and interpreting findings; and presenting educational material in a creative and coherent manner. You will create and present an hour-long family life education workshop on a topic of your choice. Students will have the opportunity to either present their workshop to an audience of UNT peers or put on their workshop for a community audience. Detailed assignment instructions and rubric are available on Canvas.
 - **Workshop Presentations will be scheduled for weeks 16 & 17 of the semester.**
6. Family Life Education Workshop Manual (100 points): In addition to your presentation, you will create and submit a manual for your workshop. The manual should be written in a manner that allows others to replicate your workshop. Think of this manual as a facilitator's guide to your workshop. Your manual will include details about planning, workshop design, teaching & learning activities, program evaluation, and content resources. Detailed assignment instructions and rubric are available on Canvas. **The Family Life Education Workshop Manual is due Friday, December 12th by 11:59 PM.**

Summary of Course Requirements:

Workshop Planning Checkpoints	150 points
Community Event Observation	50 points
Ethical Decision-Making Exercise	50 points
FLE Workshop Marketing Artifact	50 points
FLE Workshop Presentation	100 points
FLE Workshop Manual	100 points
<u>Total Possible Points:</u>	500 points

Grading

The following grading scale will be used:

A =	450 – 500 points
B =	400 – 449 points
C =	350 – 399 points
D =	300 – 349 points
F =	Below 300 points

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to “attend class” by engaging with the online course content, participating in any scheduled course meetings or conferences, and completing work as assigned.

Class Participation

Students are expected to fully participate in the course. Appropriate participation consists of keeping up with readings, engaging in class discussions and activities, and always exhibiting respectful behavior.

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.

Communications Policy

- **Check for announcements often**
- Contact your instructor (by email at payton.birlew@unt.edu or via message on Canvas) for questions about the course that cannot be answered by reading the syllabus or Canvas (i.e., requirements, assignments, exams, or grades).
- During the week I aim to respond to questions within 24 hours. On the weekends, expect to wait 48 hours for a response. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.
- Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Come visit me! I encourage you to connect with me for support. Your success is my goal.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not acceptable. You must keep up with your work and turn it in on time. If you need to submit an assignment late and want to avoid a point deduction, you **MUST** communicate with the instructor *BEFORE the assignment is due* to request an extension. The instructor reserves the right to reject your request for an extension on assignments. **There will be a point penalty for any work that is submitted late and has not been granted an extension prior to the due date:**

Late Work Point Penalties:

Immediately after due time – 24 hours late: 20% point deduction

24 hours – 48 hours late: 40% point deduction

48 hours – 72 hours late: 60% point deduction

72 hours – 96 hours late: 80% point deduction

More than 96 hours late: assignment will not be accepted; automatic zero.

Assignment Policy

All assignments will be submitted to Canvas unless completed in-class. Assignments should be submitted prior to the due date to avoid any technical issues that may arise. Employment, time management, and computer problems are examples of excuses that are not valid. Follow instructions on Canvas and/or call the student IT help line if a technical problem arises. A windstorm and lack of electric power is an example of a verifiable excuse for lack of computer access.

All written assignments should be professional in appearance and in APA formatting. Your work is expected to be written at the level of a professional in the field and well-edited. Written work should be spelling, grammar, and typographical error-free. Points will be deducted for any assignment not meeting these expectations. Be sure to follow the formatting guidelines provided for each assignment in this course.

Assignments must be submitted in Word (.doc/.docx) or PDF (.pdf) format, unless specifically otherwise noted in assignment instructions. Do not submit assignments in Pages (.pages) format. Do not submit assignments by providing a Google Doc or other link. Assignments submitted in an incorrect file format will be considered late until the proper file type is submitted.

Syllabus Change Policy

All dates/assignments are subject to change at discretion of instructor. Changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. **SPOT Evaluations will be open from November 11th – December 4th.**

Important UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Subsequent academic integrity violations will result in harsher penalties, up to and including automatic failure of the course. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students/Office of Academic Integrity, 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.

ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT is committed to the safety and security of the campus community and recognizes the value of maintaining university operations. However, in the event university operations are disrupted due to an emergency or other hazardous conditions threatening the safety, health, or welfare of the campus community, UNT may be required to cancel classes, suspend operations, or close campus in its entirety.

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students 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). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas 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 Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational

Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

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. The survey will be made available during weeks 14, 15, and 16 [November 11 – December 4, 2025] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- Individual Counseling (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

**UNT eulDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)

- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Food Pantry (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

HDFS 4900.704/Family Life Education Course Calendar – Fall 2025			
Week	Topic	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1 (8/18-8/24)	Course Overview – How to Succeed in HDFS 4413	- Syllabus - Textbook Appendix A (The Family Life Education Framework) p. 383-398	
2 (8/25-8/31)	What is Family Life Education?	Chapter 1	
3 (9/1-9/7)	- Family Life Education as a Profession - Settings in Family Life Education	- Chapter 2 - Chapter 4	Introductory Topical Issue Analysis due Sunday 9/7 by 11:59PM
4 (9/8-9/14)	- Understanding Your Audience - Program Design in Family Life Education	- Chapter 3 - Chapter 5	Workshop Topic & Objectives due Sunday 9/14 by 11:59 PM
5 (9/15-9/21)	- Implementation of Family Life Education - Teaching Skills & Tools in FLE	- Chapter 6 - Readings on Canvas	Topic Significance/Needs Assessment due Sunday 9/21 by 11:59 PM
6 (9/22-9/28)	Evaluation of Family Programs	- Chapter 7 - Appendix E (p. 415-417)	
7 (9/29-10/5)	Approaches to Sexuality Education	- Chapter 9 - Readings on Canvas	Workshop Evaluation Plan due Sunday 10/5 by 11:59 PM
8 (10/6-10/12)	Approaches to Relationship and Marriage Education	- Chapter 10 - Readings on Canvas	
9 (10/13-10/19)	Approaches to Parenting Education	- Chapter 11 - Readings on Canvas	
10 (10/20-10/26)	International Perspectives on Family Life Education	- Chapter 12 - Readings on Canvas	Workshop Outline due Sunday 10/26 by 11:59 PM
11 (10/27-11/2)	Marketing Family Life Principles, Practices, and Programs	Readings on Canvas	Community Event Observation due Sunday 11/2 by 11:59 PM
12 (11/3-11/9)	Ethics in Family Life Education	- Appendix C (p. 409-412) - Readings on Canvas	FLE Workshop Marketing Artifact due Friday 11/7 by 11:59 PM
13 (11/10-11/16)	Becoming a Certified Family Life Educator	- Appendix B (p. 399-407) - Appendix D (p. 413-414)	Ethical Decision-Making Exercise due Sunday 11/16 by 11:59 PM
14 (11/17-11/23)	Workshop Preparation & Practice		Workshop References/Research due 11/23 by 11:59 PM

15 (11/24-11/30)	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
16 (12/1-12/7)	Workshop Presentations		Handout due with presentation
17 (12/8-12/12)	Workshop Presentations		Handout due with presentation FLE Workshop Manual due Friday, 12/12 by 11:59 PM

KEY SEMESTER DATES:

Last day to drop a course to no longer appear on the official transcript	Aug 29
Drop with a Grade of W begins	Aug 30
Last day to change to pass/no pass grade option	Sept 26
Last day for a student to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W	Nov 7
First day to request a grade of Incomplete	Nov 8
Reading Day – No Classes	Dec 5

Syllabus Addendum

The following are important tips/guidelines/requirements that will ensure your success in this class:

1. DO read the syllabus and the assignment guidelines carefully. I do my best to lay everything out for you all in those documents. If you read and follow them carefully, you will successfully complete all the major requirements for the course. Everything you ever needed to know about the class (i.e., course schedule, my office hours, my office location) is provided in the syllabus. All the information you need regarding how to submit your papers is provided to you in each of the assignment documents.
2. If you ever have any questions about anything in the assignment guidelines or other course documents, ASK! I want to help you do well in this class and providing clarification to you all is one way for me to do that.
3. **DO check your UNT email and Canvas. I will send class emails to your UNT account and post announcements to Canvas so you either need to access that email account regularly or forward your email to another account that you use. You will miss extremely important information if you do not check the emails I send.**
4. At the end of the semester, do NOT ask me to change your grade. That would be unethical and unfair to every student that has earned his/her given grade.
5. Submit your papers in a WORD OR PDF DOCUMENT (make sure it is a .doc, .docx, or .pdf format so that I can actually open it). If I cannot open your paper, I cannot grade it. **I cannot open .pages or other Mac-specific file types.**
6. I will return your papers and feedback to you through the assignment dropbox. When I do this, DO look at them. I will provide feedback on why you received that specific grade. Make sure to look at that feedback before asking me what you did wrong. If I deducted points, I will tell you why. Use that feedback to make improvements on future papers so that you do not get points counted off again for a similar mistake.

Course Policy about Artificial Intelligence

Recent advances in artificial intelligence have provided a number of tools that can be used (or misused) for many purposes. However, much of the writing we do in this class requires **personal reflection** – no matter how sophisticated a computer is, **it can't read your mind** to recount your experiences as a developing human, examine your future plans for professional practice, or elaborate on your own convictions on important issues. This class also **prepares you to teach human development and family science content to the community** – in order to effectively teach the material to others, you must have a solid understanding of the concepts yourself.

1. **AI-Assisted Original Work:** AI (e.g., ChatGPT) may be helpful for initial research on a topic, understanding elements of the genre in which you will be writing, and grammar/language guidance. However, it is unacceptable to submit an assignment entirely completed with or by AI. **Any work submitted must reflect your own understanding and knowledge. You should not use AI-generated content as your own without appropriate understanding and processing of the information.** This includes AI-created essays, solutions to problems, or any other assignments that are not the result of your own intellectual efforts.
2. **AI and Plagiarism:** Your credibility as a writer and student relies on both generating your own ideas in your own words and giving attribution (credit) to sources. AI is increasingly available and will undoubtedly be part of your career. Therefore, understanding its uses without depending on it is an essential skill. That distinction, and strong writing itself, relies on critical thinking and employing strategies to develop ideas and assess arguments. That's what this course is about. So, while some assignments may invite the use of online tools, the core expectation for our class is that the work you submit is your own original writing. **Using the work of someone else including AI and without citing it is a form of cheating/plagiarism.** Just as copying information from websites or other resources without giving proper credit is plagiarism, using AI-generated content without due acknowledgement or understanding is also plagiarism. **You should not represent AI-generated content as your own original work.**

Cases involving academic dishonesty, including misuse of AI, may be handled by the instructor or may be referred to the administration. **Consequences may include but are not limited to:** receiving a zero for an assignment where AI has been misused, receiving an alternate assignment that must be handwritten in person, completion of a training on appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI before any more assignments may be attempted, additional monitoring of student work, or automatic failure of the course (please see course Academic Integrity policy [p. 7-8] for additional details).