



School of Human Ecology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES

Recent/Upcoming Course Descriptions

Brief course descriptions are given below for the HDFS course offerings. For more information, meeting dates/times, prerequisites, locations, see: http://registrar.wisc.edu/class_search.htm

HDFS 362**Development of the Young Child**

Web-Based Course (via Learn@UW) w/evening exams on campus. Basic foundation for understanding development from conception to middle childhood; includes theoretical foundations, research findings & practical applications. The family context is emphasized. (3 cr)

HDFS 363**Development from Adolescence to Old Age**

Web-Based Course (via Learn@UW) w/ initial meeting & evening exams on campus. This lifespan course covers the more interesting aspects of human developmental continuity and change between adolescence and old age. Physical, cognitive, personality, and social development are discussed from the stand-point of theory, research, and practical application. (3 cr)

HDFS 425**Research Methods in HDFS**

Students will learn the basics of research design used in studying family dynamics and individual development over the life course. The course will cover quantitative and qualitative research designs, participatory action research, and evaluation research. We will explore how research informs intervention & prevention programs. Students will learn to summarize and evaluate published research reports and will be introduced to the analytical strategies commonly used in HDFS research. (3 cr)

HDFS 465**Families and Poverty**

Students will learn the basics of research design used in studying family dynamics and individual development over the life course. The course will cover quantitative and qualitative research designs, participatory action research, and evaluation research. We will explore how research informs intervention & prevention programs. Students will learn to summarize and evaluate published research reports and will be introduced to the analytical strategies commonly used in HDFS research. (3 cr)

HDFS 469**Family and Community Influences on the Young Child**

This course examines the development of parents' relationships with their children across the life course, beginning with the transition to parenthood. Other topics to be covered are parenting and work, step parenting, single parenting, and parenting children with special needs. Parent education and support programs will also be discussed. (3 cr)

HDFS 471**Parent-Child Relations**

This course examines the development of parents' relationships with their children across the life course, beginning with the transition to parenthood. Other topics to be covered are parenting and work, step parenting, single parenting, and parenting children with special needs. Parent education and support programs will also be discussed. (3 cr)

HDFS 474**Racial Ethnic Families in the U.S.**

This course will examine how contexts of race, ethnicity and culture affect families across the lifespan, and how contemporary family life is rooted in historical experiences. We will look at socio-political contexts, cultural image, expressions of ethnicity and family, and the diversity of experience within groups. (3 cr)

HDFS 516**Stress and Resilience in Families Across the Lifespan**

This course will examine family stress and coping across the life cycle. Topics focus on normative and non-normative stress and strains, family coping, repertoire, protective factors in families and resiliency—How families recover from adversity. Students will become familiar with theory, research and how to use knowledge of families under stress. (3 cr)

HDFS 517**Couple Relationships**

Romantic relationships are universally desired, and individuals around the globe agree about what successful intimacy entails: we all want to be loved, supported, and cared for by partners we hold in high esteem. Nevertheless, intimate relationships can be difficult to form and maintain. This course covers a range of theoretical perspectives and methodologies to understand how it is that intimate relationships develop, thrive, or deteriorate over time. The course will also connect intimate relationship science to real life experiences. (3 cr)

HDFS 535**A Family Perspective in Policymaking**

The focus of this course is how policies shape the context in which families live and, in turn, influence human and family development. Students will assess the effectiveness of several current policies & programs from a family perspective. Different roles professionals can play in influencing policy development will also be examined. (3 cr)

HDFS 650**Parent Education and Support Programs**

The course examines the types of programs that provide parenting education and/or support, the evidence for their effectiveness, and the principles underlying their practices. The course also teaches specific skills for parenting education and support. (3 cr)

HDFS 663**Developmental and Family Assessment**

This course introduces students to family-focused developmental assessment with children. It is designed for students who intend to work with families in a variety of settings, such as home visiting, nursing, early intervention, family support programs, education, childcare, etc., or students who plan on going to graduate school in HDFS, psychology, counseling, applied child development, or related fields. This course is skills-focused, and students will apply their understanding of child development and family processes in a number of ways. This course has a required Service Learning component (3 hours per week for 10 weeks required). (3 cr)

HDFS 725**Theory and Issues in Human Development**

This course covers both classic and contemporary theories, providing students with a firm grounding in the theoretical perspectives that have shaped and are shaping understandings of human development across the life-span. The course explores the historical roots of contemporary perspectives and examines the development of theoretical conceptualizations both within and across theoretical perspectives. (3 cr)

HDFS 763**Aging and the Family**

This course examines the psychological and social aspects of aging. The course explores the interaction of aged individual with the family and larger social systems. Topics covered include developmental principles, methodological considerations, theoretical/empirical issues, and findings. (3 cr)

HDFS 766**Health, Happiness and Well-Being: Positive Human Development**

This graduate seminar focuses on theory, research and prevention-intervention practices related to understanding and promoting optimal human development. What defines health, happiness and a meaningful life? Over the semester we will explore human strengths (such as generosity, compassion, equanimity, mindfulness), positive emotions, mind-body relationships, positive relationships, and strategies for promoting resilience and well-being.

HDFS 766**Children of Incarcerated Parents**

HDFS 766**Mass Media and Cognitive Development**

HDFS 865**Family Theory**

Theorizing about families involves conceptualizing the lived experiences of people within their own families as well as developing explanations of the social role of families as an institution in society, and tracking demographic changes over time, and identifying ideologies and social forces that influence families. This course will survey a variety of theories and frameworks in which families are a major unit of analysis, including: life span, structural-functionalism, family systems theory, feminist theories of the family, multicultural family theories, critical multiracial feminist family theories, community-based family theories, family programs and interventions. The interdisciplinary field of family studies has liberally borrowed from sociological and psychological theories, and has used variable analysis, anthropological, historical, philosophical, and interpretive methods to develop its greater understanding of the topic "family". (3 cr)

HDFS 872**Bridging the Gap**

This course addresses some of the critical skills and methods needed to gather and apply research-based knowledge and theory to issues of practice and policy in the behavioral and social sciences. Strategies for conducting research that has relevance for social policy, programs, practice and the general public will be explored. In addition, techniques for applying and communicating research-based knowledge to these audiences will be addressed. (3 cr)