

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

REL3851.E1 Family Relations
Fall, 2023

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

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COURSE INFORMATION:

REL3851.E1 Family Relations
Level: Undergraduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, Sept 9, 2023
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, Nov 16, 2023

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, Sept 9, 2023.

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: THE FAMILY: A Christian Perspective On The Contemporary Home
Author: Jack and Judith Balswick, Thomas Frederick
Publisher: Baker
Year Published: 2021
Edition: Fifth Edition, Paperback
ISBN: 13: 9781540963000
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Title: The Blessing
Author: Gary Smalley and John Trent
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Year Published: 1990
Edition: Paperback
ISBN: 13: 9780671737436
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Title: The Bible, any common version (RSV, NIV, ASV, NKJV)
Author:
Publisher:
Year Published:
Edition:
ISBN: 10: or 13:
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Amberton University has an agreement with eCampus.com to provide a full-service online bookstore to students. The Amberton University Virtual Bookstore is accessible through the University's website, www.Amberton.edu. There is also a bookstore link in the Student Portal.

The AU Virtual Bookstore provides an easy to use interface, online buyback of books, and same day shipment of most titles with an average delivery time of 2-3 days depending on the student's location. Textbook options include new, used, rental, and electronic media as available.

Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping. Be certain you are enrolled in the course before purchasing your book(s). All textbook information (Title, Author, ISBN, etc.) is available in the course syllabi so students can shop competitively. Most textbooks can be purchased from many different textbook vendors. Some textbooks may only be available on the University's Virtual Bookstore. Students should be careful to obtain the exact resource(s) required for the course.

APA Requirement

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The following represents the course competencies for this class. Competencies are equivalent for all lecture and distance learning courses. Following each competency is the assignment used to gain mastery of this area of study.

The course involves a study of contemporary family life from a Christian perspective and presents psychological and behavioral principles that are essential in building and maintaining healthy family relationships.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Understanding the value of Christian principles in building healthy family relations.
2. Identifying basic human needs from a Christian perspective.
3. Understanding the deepest meaning of love as illustrated by biblical images of divine love.
4. Discussing the family as a system, including family systems theory, and the traits of both dysfunctional and functional families.
5. Describing factors that influence mate selection.
6. Understanding the nature of marriage from a Christian perspective and the value of covenant to help maintain a healthy and lasting marriage.
7. Discussing the role of communication in the home.
8. Understanding healthy conflict resolution in the home.
9. Discussing the concepts of sex and healthy sexuality in the home.
10. Describing the role of parents and children in the home, based on Christian principles.
11. Discussing adolescence as well as common problems including alcohol, drugs, sex, social pressure, eating disorders, etc.
12. Discussing divorce and remarriage and their effects on the family.
13. Identifying the various forms of non-traditional families represented in today's culture.
14. Discussing aging and its effects on family relations.
15. Evaluating how families are undermined by the "bondage to commodities," and how to break free.
16. Discussing how churches should respond to the numerous challenges faced by families today.

COURSE POLICIES:

Assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate assignment Drop Box in the Moodle system. Specific directions and guidelines for submission of assignments are located on-line in the "Communication Guidelines" of the e-course. Due to compatibility issues, Office 2007 files cannot be read by earlier versions of Microsoft Office. Before submitting an exercise file, confirm the file is in the proper format for grading by the instructor. Each assignment should begin with either a visible header or cover page, with the student's name, course name, and assignment number. For Question-and-Answer assignments, single spacing is acceptable. Questions must be included with the answers, separated from answers by one space. All answers should be stated in complete sentences and paragraphs, not phrases or single words. Questions must be presented as they appear in the assignments. Do not change the numbering.

Each assignment should be saved with a file name bearing the student's last name, first initial and the number of the assignment (e.g., SmithB3). Assignments must be submitted one at a time on or before the due date, but no earlier than seven days before the due date.

The first seven assignments consist of questions that proceed in order through the primary text book by Jack and Judith Balswick. Page numbers are provided to allow the student to locate the exact location of pertinent material. The length of expected answers varies from a couple of sentences to a long paragraph.

The Blessing Project is based on the book THE BLESSING by Gary Smalley and John Trent. This involves reading the second textbook, plus engaging in a practical application of the principle called "the blessing." The project should commence during the first week of the course by reading pages 11-53 of Smalley & Trent, and then extend over several weeks culminating in a written report (Assignment 8). One or more individuals (family members or close friends) should be selected at the start to be the recipient(s) of your blessing. This assignment is NOT a book report, but a report on how you personally carried out the steps of THE BLESSING in your practical project. Notes should be kept along the way to be used in writing Assignment 8.

Late Assignments:

Assignments submitted after midnight (Moodle 11:55 pm) of the posted due date are considered late. The first late assignment will receive a deduction of ten points. A second late assignment will receive a 20-point deduction. A third late assignment will receive a 30-point deduction. Further late assignments will not be accepted and a score of zero will be entered in the grade book.

Late assignments should be completed soon after they are due, to avoid getting too far behind. No more than one late assignment may be submitted in the final week of the term, and it must be submitted by 11:55 pm on the posted due date for all late work. Ignoring these instructions can result in course failure. No make-up work or revisions are accepted.

Student's Responsibilities

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be dropped at the discretion of Amberton University.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin “Draft Coach” is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach, helps address errors and improve the quality of student’s writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
Wk. 1 Sept 10-16	Read Introductory documents and watch welcome video. Begin readings in textbook for Assignment 1	No assignment due. Please note that all assignments are due on Sunday night (first day of calendar week) and the following six days are dedicated to next assignment. The stated topic corresponds to the due assignment.		
Wk. 2 Sept 17-23	Theological and social perspectives on family life	Assignment 1 (Monday begin work on next assignment)	1,3,4, 6	Sunday, Sept 17, Midnight
Wk. 3 Sept 24-30	Marriage as foundation of family life.	Assignment 2 (Monday begin work on next assignment)	1 & 5	Sunday, Sept 24, Midnight
Wk. 4 Oct 1-7	Parenting as the expansion of family life	Assignment 3 (Monday begin work on next assignment)	3	Sunday, Oct 1, Midnight
Wk. 5 Oct 8-14	Sexuality and	Assignment 4	9	Sunday, Oct 8,

	personal identity in family life	(Monday begin work on next assignment, plus begin preparation for Assignment 8, the Blessing Project.)		Midnight
Wk. 6 Oct 15-21	Communication as the heart of family life	Assignment 5	7 & 8	Sunday, Oct 15, Midnight
Wk. 7 Oct 22-28	The social dynamics of family life.	Assignment 6	11, 12, 13	Sunday, Oct 22, Midnight
Wk. 8 Oct 29- Nov 4	Family life in postmodern society	Assignment 7	14, 15, 16	Sunday, Oct 29, Midnight
Wk. 9 Nov 5-11	Adapting the ancient concept of blessing to modern family life	Conduct activities for Blessing Project and begin writing report/essay		
Wk. 10 Nov 12-18		Assignment 8 Also, remainder of week to complete and submit any late assignments, deadline midnight, Wed, Nov 15.	1, 2, 3	Sunday, Nov 12, Midnight.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Assignments 1-7 (Textbook Questions) and Assignment 8 (The Blessing) will receive scores based on the standard 100 point scale. The final course grade will be an average of those eight scores, meaning that each Assignment will contribute 12.5 % of the final grade.

Undergraduate

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

A successful distance learning experience requires a flow of communication between instructor and student throughout the session. Instructor comments are considered essential to the learning process. Therefore, each assignment/exam submitted will be reviewed, graded, and returned to the student in a timely manner along with the appropriate commentary. Students should carefully review all comments.

Final grades are processed approximately one week after the last day of the session and may be located in the My Grades section of the online registration portal as well as being emailed to the student's Amberton University email. Amberton University staff will not release grades over the phone. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in *Professor Information* area.

Incomplete Grades

An "I" (incomplete grade) is given at the discretion of the professor and may be given only when an emergency or illness prevents the student from completing course requirements. Should an "I" be granted, the student has 30 days from the end of the session to complete the conditions of the incomplete. An "I" which is not properly removed within 30 days following the session enrolled will become an "F" grade.

How To Withdraw From a Course

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is offered as a distance-learning course through the Moodle Learning Platform. Amberton's distance learning courses, called e-Courses, are identical to classroom courses in terms of learning outcomes, competencies, and instructor expectations. A student choosing to take an e-Course must have the following skills and technical capabilities:

1. Access to the Internet
2. General knowledge in:
 - Internet browser settings and configuration
 - e-mail and file attachments
 - Uploading and downloading files
 - Using a word processing package
3. Ability to conduct on-line research

Students who have not mastered these skills should not enroll for this course but should consider enrolling in MIS2110 Computer Concepts and Internet Technologies for instruction in these areas.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

Through the Amberton University Student Portal

Students enrolled in distance learning courses using the Moodle Learning Platform may access the course through the Amberton University Student Portal. The site may be accessed through the University's main page (<http://www.Amberton.edu>) or at <http://apps.Amberton.edu>. After selecting the "Student Portal" link, you will be prompted for a Username and Password.

Use your assigned **username and password** (AUID) as described below to enter the AU Student Portal:

Username = your capitalized firstname **initial**+lastname+last 3 digits of your SSN.

* Use your name exactly as it is listed on the University's records, including any suffixes or hyphenations, such as Jr, Sr, or II, as a part of your username.

For example: James Jones, Jr. SSN: 123-45-6789
Username: JJonesJr789

Password = your Amberton University ID# (AUID) **including the dashes**

For example: 04-999-999

Once your login has been validated, you may select from a variety of menu options, including your individual E-Course, email account, Remote Research, General Tools, all Syllabi, Research Tutorials and Electronic Instructor Folders (FTP).

If you are accessing the Student Portal from a public or shared computer, close the browser completely when finished, or click on the Logout button. For security purposes, no other person should have access to

your Username or Password. If you feel your information has been compromised or if you experience technical difficulties, contact the e-course system administrator at: e-sysop@amberton.edu

If you have lost or do not know your Amberton ID#, please contact the Student Services Office 972/279-6511 or advisor@Amberton.edu for a replacement AUID card. You must know your Amberton ID# to gain access to the course and to send email to your professor.

Through the Amberton University Moodle Website

Students enrolled in distance learning courses using the Moodle Learning Platform may also access the course by going to: <http://moodle.Amberton.edu>

For those utilizing Moodle for the first time, the **username and password** for the Moodle Learning Platform will be emailed to the student's University email account prior to the start of the course. For those returning to Moodle who do not remember their username and password, click on the link "*Forgotten your username or password*" available on the Moodle log in page (<http://moodle.Amberton.edu>). Otherwise use the same username and password as previous session.

Moodle Tutorial:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a *Student Moodle Tutorials* course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the *Student Moodle Tutorials* and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

Each student enrolled is assigned an Amberton email account, which gives the student access to the Amberton email system (my.Amberton.edu). This email account is provided by Google Apps for Education. Students are encouraged to check their email regularly for University news, notices, and to communicate with instructors.

The student's assigned email address would be Username@my.Amberton.edu

Example: LJones-Smith789@my.Amberton.edu

The student Username is determined by:

firstname initial+lastname+last 3 digits of student ssn.

For example: Linda Jones-Smith SSN: 123-45-6789

Email Address = LJones-Smith789@my.Amberton.edu

Students will be prompted for a Username and Password when accessing their email account. Use the Username portion of the email address as the username (Example: LJones-Smith789) and your Amberton ID# (including the dashes) as the password.

If you already have a Google gmail account, you might be prompted to add this account to your current account. Click 'Yes' and you will be logged into your my.Amberton.edu email account. It will be a separate email account from your personal gmail account.

If you need assistance with your email account, please visit <https://support.google.com/mail>

Students are responsible for reviewing the "Communication Guidelines" provided on the individual E-Course for specific instructor requirements.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate assignment Drop Box in the Moodle system. Specific directions and guidelines for submission of assignments are located on-line in the "Communication Guidelines" of the e-course. Due to compatibility issues, Office 2007 files cannot be read by earlier versions of Microsoft Office. Before submitting an exercise file, confirm the file is in the proper format for grading by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Each session, all Amberton students are provided with the opportunity to evaluate their courses and instructors. The evaluation process is an important one and provides students with an anonymous and confidential way to give meaningful feedback to the University. Summary information and comments are provided to faculty after the close of the session. All information provided is anonymous.

The Instructor/Course Evaluation will be open for completion during week 9 of the session. An evaluation assignment will be placed in week 9 of the Moodle course, along with the instructions on how to complete the evaluation. Prior to week 9, the University will send out an email containing instructions and dates for the evaluation period.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Library provides access to full-text, and peer reviewed articles, and digital research tools. Students can search Library holdings through the online catalog and databases search engines available on the Library website or browse the physical library space and holdings located at the Garland campus.

Research items not contained in the Amberton Library collection can be located through interlibrary Loan (ILL) or through the TexShare program with the help of the Library staff. Students with questions about available services, resources, or research, may contact the Library via email at Library@amberton.edu.

RESEARCH ACCESS:

Databases can only be accessed by authorized users, and students at Amberton must enter their Amberton ID credentials-same as Moodle login-to gain access when off-campus. Use an Amberton website, such as the University site (Amberton.edu) or the library site (Library.amberton.edu) to find links to databased and digital books. Online resources are available all day, every day.

Library Live Chat Feature

Library staff are available to assist students with research problems or questions during Library hours through a live online chat feature, telephone, email, "How-to" videos, or in person. The library telephone is (972-279-6511 ext. 185. You can email questions to library@amberton.edu or visit the library in person on the Garland campus for assistance.