

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

HBD6767.E1 Family Studies
FALL 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Dr. Stacy Page, PsyD
Amberton Extension: 972-279-6511 ext. 242
Amberton Email: **SPage@amberton.edu**

COURSE INFORMATION:

HBD6767.E1 Family Studies
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 12, 2026.

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

PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: The Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships In A Changing Society
Author: Theodore F. Cohen and Bryan Strong
Publisher: Cengage Learning
Year Published: 2021
Edition: 14th
ISBN: 13: 9780357378229 (Textbook) or 9780357710432 (eBook)
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Students should verify enrollment in course before purchasing textbooks. Textbook information and ordering options are available through the Amberton Virtual Bookstore. 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.

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 course focuses on child and family studies and human development. The course addresses issues affecting families and their relationships with other institutions and to society in general. Students will develop an understanding of the complexities of family roles, relationships, interactions, and changes throughout the lifespan. Activities include defining structures and functions of families, describing societal impacts on the family, and discussing policy issues related to family issues and social problems.

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

1. Defining structures and functions of families.
2. Determining the leading theoretical approaches to studying the family.

3. Exploring the history of the American family and the effect of demographic trends.
4. Examining the emergence of the modern concepts of sexuality and the forming of partnerships through dating, courtship, and cohabitation.
5. Analyzing the persistence and change in the institution of marriage.
6. Describing the impact of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and culture on the private and public family.
7. Examining the impact of socio-economic factors on family well-being and decision making.
8. Identifying how families allocate resources to meet their goals.
9. Explaining the impact of parenting practices and processes in the socialization of children.
10. Examining the changing parenting roles over the Life Cycle.
11. Exploring laws and public policies that affect families as members interact with each other and with society.
12. Discussing the development, formation, implementation, and application of policy issues related to family issues and social problems.
13. Explaining the general philosophy and broad principles of family life education.
14. Examining the formation of values within the family unit.
15. Discussing family dynamics in single-parent and blended families.
16. Understanding the impact of artificial intelligence on family life and dynamics.

ACQUIRED SKILLS

1. Family Resource Allocation & Goal Setting
2. Cultural Competence
3. Family Services

COURSE POLICIES:

The learning environment is one of mutual respect between the professor and student. Please be mindful to adhere to all course policies and procedures.

Students are expected to submit all course assignments on time. Assignments are to be submitted on the due date by 11:59 PM (Central Standard Time) via Moodle. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Failure to respond to the discussion questions by the due date will result in no points earned for the assignments. Students are expected to submit the exams by the due date. Make-up exams will be determined on an individual basis and will only be allowed under extenuating circumstances. The paper is to be submitted by the due date. Late papers will not be accepted, and no points will be earned for the assignment. Extra credit is not allowed for the course.

STUDENTS' 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. A Student in a lecture course missing more than 20% (two class periods for weekday classes or one class period for Saturday classes) of the class meetings may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

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 assigned a grade of an “F” or withdrawn 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.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

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:

This course will focus on the student’s academic, personal, and professional growth. The classroom activities will include textbook reading, discussion questions, exams, and a paper. These activities are designed to help students acquire knowledge, increase learning, and master course content.

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	The Meaning of Marriage and the Family Studying Marriages and Families	Read Chapters 1 and 2 View Video: Different Kinds of Families Introduction and Syllabus Quiz Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	September 19, 2026
2	Variations in American Family Life Gender and Family	Read Chapters 3 and 4 View Video: What Is Gender Socialization? Discussion Question 1 Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	September 26, 2026
3	Intimacy, Friendship, and Love Understanding Sex and Sexualities	Read Chapters 5 and 6 View Video: Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation Discussion Question 2 Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	October 3, 2026
4	Communication, Power, and Conflict	Read Chapter 7 View Video: Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Exam 1 Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	October 10, 2026
5	Marriages in Societal and Individual Perspective Unmarried Lives: Singlehood and Cohabitation	Read Chapters 8 and 9 Discussion Question 3 Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	October 17, 2026
6	Becoming Parents and Experiencing Parenthood Marriage, Work, and Economics	Read Chapters 10 and 11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	October 24, 2026

7	Intimate Violence and Sexual Abuse Coming Apart: Separation and Divorce	Read Chapters 12 and 13 View Video: Predicting Divorce Paper Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	October 31, 2026
8	New Beginnings: Single-Parent Families, Remarriages, and Blended Families	Read Chapter 14 Exam 2 Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	November 7, 2026
9		Discussion Question 4 Due	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	November 14, 2026
10	Course Conclusion			November 19, 2026

GRADING CRITERIA:

Syllabus Quiz	5 points	5%	
Discussion Questions	20 points	20%	(4 discussion questions worth 5 points each)
Exam 1	25 points	25%	
Exam 2	25 points	25%	
Paper	25 points	25%	
Total	100 points		

Graduate

92 – 100	A
82 – 91	B
72 – 81	C
62 – 71	D
Below 62	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. 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 granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

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 delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:**SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY:**

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial 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.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION:

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

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 must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.