

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

REL3851.E1 Family Relations
FALL 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: JERRY VAN HAMME
Amberton Extension: Please use email
Amberton Email: Jvanhamme@amberton.edu

COURSE INFORMATION:

REL3851.E1 Family Relations
Level: Undergraduate
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.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: : THE POWER OF THE BLESSING: 5 KEYS TO IMPROVING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS
Author: John Trent, Gary Smalley

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

Year Published: 2024
Edition: 1
ISBN: 10: or 13: 9781400338771

Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>
Title: World English Bible. This is a free, online, non-copyrighted, public domain, modern English, Bible. It is available at this website: <https://ebible.org/web/index.htm>

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 course is a study of Christian marriage and Christian family relations. Topics include understanding Christian principles, basic human needs from a Christian perspective, and the meaning of love as described by biblical images. Activities include discussing and describing core concepts and the implications of religious thought in family relations.

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. Describing factors that influence mate selection.
5. Discussing the role of communication in the home.
6. Understanding healthy conflict resolution in the home.
7. Discussing the concepts of sex and healthy sexuality in the home.
8. Describing the role of parents and children in the home, based on Christian principles.
9. Discussing adolescence as well as common problems including alcohol, drugs, sex, social pressure, eating disorders, etc.
10. Discussing divorce and remarriage and their effects on the family.
11. Discussing aging and its effects on family relations.
12. Discussing how churches should respond to the numerous challenges faced by families today.
13. Examining how religious beliefs and ethical frameworks can inform our understanding and use of artificial intelligence.

Acquired Skills:

1. Conflict resolution.
2. Critical thinking.
3. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in various family relations scenarios.

COURSE POLICIES:

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and written assignments by the scheduled due date.

GRADING LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments are generally graded the morning after the due date. If an assignment has not been submitted by that time it will not be graded, simply because no assignment has been submitted to be graded.

If an assignment is submitted late and a grade is desired right away, please email the instructor when the late assignment is submitted to inform the instructor that the assignment has been submitted, so the instructor will know to grade the assignment.

LATE PENALTY: If a written assignment is not turned in by the scheduled due date, the student will be penalized one grade for each week (or portion of a week) the assignment is late.

Written assignments should not exceed the length limitations set forth by the instructor. The professor will not read any material exceeding the length limitations applicable to the assignment and the assignment will be graded as if the excess content did not exist.

Students are expected to make a clear distinction between the student's writing and that of a third party. Citations can be placed at the end of the cited sentence or section, in footnotes or in endnotes.)

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. 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.

Please see below for instructions.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

1. QUIZ

An open-book, open-notes, open-video true/false, multiple choice quiz will be given every week beginning with week one. A total of ten (10) quizzes will be given over the ten-week course. Each quiz will cover the lecture videos and the assigned readings for that week.

2. OBSERVATION

Post an Observation on the Moodle Observation and Response Forum about anything from that week’s readings or lectures that you found interesting.

Each student shall post one observation on the Moodle Observation and Response Forum each week. The observation may relate to anything from that week’s readings or lecture materials and should be no less than one paragraph in length. The observation must be posted no later than 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) each Wednesday.

3. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION

Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the Moodle Observation and Response Forum.

Each student shall post a response to an Observation posted by another student on the Moodle Observation and Response Forum. Only respond to one student’s Observation, not to all the Observations posted that week. The response should be no less than one paragraph in length. The instructor will post an Observation folder on the Discussion Forum each week. Please post the response to an observation in the same folder as the Observations. The response must be posted by 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) each Saturday, except the last week. See the Course Outline and Calendar below.

4. REVIEW OF “THE POWER OF THE BLESSING: 5 KEYS TO IMPROVING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS”

Submit a written review of “The Power of the Blessing.” The review shall be no less than two (2) pages in length and no more than three (3) pages in length. It is due by 11:59 p.m., Friday, of Week 9.

Please answer the following questions in your review:

- a. What did you like about the book
- b. What did you not like about the book
- c. What do you think should have been added to the book
- d. What do you think should have been deleted from the book

- e. Would you, in your personal life, ever use the principles in the book with your children/family members/friends.
 - i. If Yes, why
 - ii. If No, why not
- f. Do you think your upbringing would have benefitted if your care giver(s) had used this book when you were young.
- g. Do you think your present children/ family members/friends would benefit from you using this book with them
- h. Would you recommend this book to others
 - i. If Yes, why
 - ii. If No, why not
- i. What is your overall opinion of the book

5. LATE PENALTY

A late penalty of one grade shall be assessed for each week (or portion of a week) any assignment or posting is late

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
WEEK 1	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 1-2 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

WEEK 2	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 3-4 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 3	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 5-6 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

		any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday		
WEEK 4	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 7-8 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 5	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 9-10 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

		on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday		
WEEK 6	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 11 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

		5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday		
WEEK 7	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read "The Power of the Blessing" CHAPTER 12 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 8	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read The Power of the Blessing CHAPTER 13. 2. Watch the Lecture Videos 3. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m.	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

		(CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 4. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday 5. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) on Saturday		
WEEK 9	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Read The Power of the Blessing CHAPTER 14-15. 2. Submit a written review of "The Blessing" by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Friday 3. Watch the Lecture Videos 4. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Wednesday 5. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) Saturday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

		6. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) on Saturday		
WEEK 10	Marriage and Family From a Biblical Perspective	1. Watch the Lecture Videos 2. OBSERVATION: Post an Observation on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> about anything from this week's textbook readings or lectures by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) MONDAY NOT WEDNESDAY [THIS IS A SHORT WEEK. THE COURSE ENDS ON THURSDAY] 3. RESPONSE TO OBSERVATION: Respond to an Observation posted by any other student on the <u>Moodle Observation/Response Forum</u> by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) <u>TUESDAY NOT SATURDAY</u> because the course ends on Thursday 4. QUIZ: Submit completed Quiz by 11:59 p.m. (CENTRAL TIME) on <u>TUESDAY NOT SATURDAY</u> because the course ends on Thursday	ALL	SEE THE "ASSIGNMENT" COLUMN FOR THE DUE DATES FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT

GRADING CRITERIA:

Review of "The Power of the Blessing"

12%

Quizzes: 10 weeks at 6.8% each	68%
Observations Posted on the Discussion Forum: 10 weeks at 1% each	10%
Response to Observations Posted on the Discussion Forum: 10 weeks at 1% each	10%
Total	100%

GRADING CRITERIA

Undergraduate

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

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed after the session and may be viewed through the student portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels.

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 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.

Email Communication

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communication. Students should check 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.

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.