

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY STUDIES (HDFS)

Visit the [Course Schedule Search website](#) to find out when courses will be offered during the academic year.

Read more about the courses within this subject prefix in the descriptions provided below.

HDFS 834 - Curriculum for Young Children

Credits: 4

This course focuses on the design, implementation, and evaluation of developmentally-appropriate activities in a classroom of young children. This course takes the stance that curriculum is not simply activities or plans, but a product of societal, school, and classroom culture as influenced by particular views of development.

Equivalent(s): FS 834

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 841 - Marital and Family Therapy

Credits: 4

This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of marital and family therapy; major approaches to be examined include strategic, trans-generational, structural, experiential/humanistic, and behavioral.

Equivalent(s): FS 841

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 843 - Families, Schools, and Community

Credits: 4

This course takes an ecological approach to emphasize the critical value of effective family-school-community partnerships in enhancing the education of young children. Models of family-school-community partnerships are explored. Practical knowledge regarding the experiences of those from diverse backgrounds to best prepare students to interact with, and support, all children and families is highlighted. Students actively engage within the community to build bridges between families, schools, and the greater community.

Equivalent(s): FS 843

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 846 - Human Sexuality

Credits: 4

This course addresses the biological, psychological, and cultural aspects of human sexuality and gender across the lifespan. Opinions, attitudes, and values affecting societal responses to sexual issues are explored in relation to scientific research and theory. Students will be better prepared to deal with sexual issues in their personal and professional lives.

Equivalent(s): FS 846

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 857 - Race, Class, Gender, and Families

Credits: 4

This course explores the intersection of race, class, and gender in family life in the US. Theory, research, and other relevant literature is used to examine the variety of family configurations in our society today and the diverse experiences that individuals and families have as the result of existing social, political, and economic institutions.

Equivalent(s): FS 857

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 871 - Observation and Assessment of Young Children

Credits: 4

A comprehensive view of various observation techniques for determining children's strengths and emerging skills. Exploration of issues regarding the use of formal assessments and testing with young children, retention and transitional placements, and the parent's role in testing. Permission. (Fall semester only.)

Equivalent(s): FS 871

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 876 - Children, Adolescents and the Law

Credits: 4

This course is designed to familiarize students with the specialized laws and legal systems that govern children, adolescents and families. Discussion will focus on society's efforts to balance competing interests and goals. The course provides the chance to explore laws and processes that affect children and adolescents as they interact with the court system, their caregivers, families and society at large.

Equivalent(s): FS 876

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 894 - Families and the Law

Credits: 4

This course explores statutory law, case law and the judicial processes that affect families as members interact with each other and society. Students will become familiarized with the family court system and its role in regulating the family.

Equivalent(s): FS 894

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 895 - Advanced Independent Study

Credits: 1-6

This course is designed for students in the HDFS graduate program to undertake advanced study in child development, adolescent development, or lifespan development in consultation with an HDFS faculty member. The result of the study is to be a significant written product of a quality. A learner/sponsor contract will be required.

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 897 - Special Topics

Credits: 1-4

Focused examination of a particular theoretical, methodological, or policy issue.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

Equivalent(s): FS 897

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 898 - Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum

Credits: 1-8

Clinical experience under direct faculty supervision. Trainees develop competency in treating individuals in the context of their families and larger systems. May be repeated.

Equivalent(s): FS 898

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

Special Fee: Yes

HDFS 899 - Master's Thesis

Credits: 1-6

Master's Thesis.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 10 credits.

Equivalent(s): FS 899

Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading

HDFS 911 - Graduate Internship**Credits:** 2-8

Advanced, supervised graduate internship in a professional setting related to Family, Child, or Adolescent Development.

Repeat Rule: May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits.

Equivalent(s): FS 911

Grade Mode: Graduate Credit/Fail grading

HDFS 930 - Play Therapy**Credits:** 4

This course introduces students to the theories and concepts behind play therapy, integrating foundational principles of child development to provide a comprehensive understanding of developmentally appropriate methods for working with children both individually and within the family context (Program Goal 3; SLO #4). The course aims to equip students with the skills to integrate play therapy techniques into existing frameworks of family therapy (Program Goal 1; SLO #1), while also deepening their understanding of child developmental stages and how these impact therapeutic approaches (Program Goal 2; SLO #2). Additionally, students will learn effective strategies for intervening in parenting issues and for articulating and applying intervention techniques and theoretical models within their practice (Program Goal 4; SLO #5; Program Goal 5; SLO #7).

Equivalent(s): FS 930

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 942 - Advanced Systems of Marital and Family Therapy**Credits:** 4

This course provides a critical analysis and integration of selected systems of marital and family therapy.

Prerequisite(s): HDFS 841 with a minimum grade of B-.

Equivalent(s): FS 942

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 945 - Family Therapy Practice I**Credits:** 4

This course is designed to develop beginning practice skills in structural, strategic, systematic family therapies; and assessment and treatment skills necessary to manage specialized problems (e.g., divorce, remarriage, substance abuse, suicidal behavior) encountered in practice.

Equivalent(s): FS 945

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 946 - Critical Problems in Family Life**Credits:** 4

This course provides an evaluation of the needs and resources of families with critical problems; maturational and situational sources of stress influencing the contemporary family; students demonstrate mastery of theoretical concepts by developing self-help strategies to be used by families experiencing stress.

Equivalent(s): FS 946

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 947 - Family Therapy Practice II**Credits:** 4

This course is designed to develop advanced skills in integrating structural, strategic, and systematic family therapies; sensitivity to gender differences and cultural diversity; and assessment and treatment skills necessary to manage specialized problems (e.g., physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; sexual dysfunction) encountered in practice.

Equivalent(s): FS 947

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 952 - Clinical Interventions in Couples Therapy**Credits:** 4

This course explores interventions that target problems faced by couples at various ages and stages of their relationship. The focus will be on developing and implementing effective strategies for enhancing attachments as well as approaches for improving communication and problem-solving skills in Couples Therapy. The format will be interactive with illustrative demonstration. Majors to include: HDFS: Marriage and Family Therapy and Social Work.

Equivalent(s): FS 952

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 954 - Sex Therapy**Credits:** 4

This course begins preparing graduate student therapists to address sexual topics with clients. Using a foundation grounded in the physiology, psychology, and sociology of human sexual development, this course explores problems in sexual interaction and treatment options available through sex therapy, focusing on the integration of sex therapy with couples therapy. Students are encouraged to examine their own attitudes, values, and beliefs regarding sexuality, and will deconstruct "sexual dysfunction".

Equivalent(s): FS 954

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 991 - Professional Issues for Family Specialists**Credits:** 4

This course provides an exploration of major ethical, legal, and professional issues facing those working in the areas of marriage and family therapy and child and adolescent development. Focus on ethical decision making, values clarification, and development of professional identity.

Equivalent(s): FS 991

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 993 - Theoretical Approaches to Human Development and Family Studies**Credits:** 4

This course provides an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the most significant classic and emerging theoretical frameworks concerning the family and family dynamics. The application of each theory to work in the areas of marriage and family therapy and child and adolescent development will be examined in depth.

Equivalent(s): FS 993

Grade Mode: Letter Grading

HDFS 994 - Research Seminar**Credits:** 4

This course is a graduate-level introduction to research methods in the social sciences with an emphasis on the fields of Human Development and Family Studies and Marriage and Family Therapy. This course is designed to help students conceptualize and write about research, understand and generate practice-relevant research, gain the foundation for research competency, and understand the research process.

Equivalent(s): FS 994

Grade Mode: Letter Grading