DEPARTMENT: ACS  COURSE NUMBER: FCS 111  CREDIT HOURS:  3

I. TITLE: The Family and Its Environment

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the changing structure and dynamics of families in our diverse society. Identification of changes and choices available to family members and critical issues facing families. Some topics that may be included are: changing gender role expectations, family policy, communication in families, family violence, divorce and effects on family, aging families, parent-child relationships, cultural and racial diversity, remarriage and blended families, and myths and facts about families.

III. PURPOSE: To provide a basic overview of family development and diversity in our society and the concerns and issues facing families and individuals.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) guidelines. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers that reference the Kentucky Teacher Standards for Preparation and Certification (KTS). Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to:

A. Identify anticipated trends and their implications for families of the future through use of current research. (KTS #1)
B. Recognize personal values and their implications to contemporary family. (KTS #1)
C. Demonstrate an understanding of the transitions (sociological and psychological) involved during family stages. (KTS #1)
D. Recognize and explain stages in family life cycles and developmental tasks involved. (KTS #1)
E. Recognize the interrelationships of families with societal factors and forces. (KTS #1)
F. Identify issues facing families and discuss methods of coping with them. (KTS #1)

The COE Theme of Educator as Reflective Decision-Maker is addressed in this course by requiring students to read and study text chapters, participate in discussions and write papers on topics such as changes in families over time, how family backgrounds affect individuals, gender roles, lifestyle options, decision making and communication in families, along with various topics in family relationships.

The EPSB Theme of Diversity is integrated throughout the course as students study how family backgrounds, racial and ethnic diversity in families, gender roles, lifestyle options, along with various issues in family relationships including crisis, violence, divorce
stepfamilies, and aging families affect each of them today and will have an impact on them in the future.

V. COURSE OUTLINE:
   A. The Perceptions of Families
   B. Family Structures—Past and Present
   C. Work and Family Connections
   D. Class, Cultural and Ethnic Differences in Families
   E. Communication in Families
   F. Life-Span Development
   G. Changes in Marriages and Families
   H. The Parental System
   I. Family Crises
   J. Divorce, Remarriage and Blended Families
   K. Lifestyle Variations
   L. Families in the Future

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
   A. Lecture with supporting materials
   B. Discussion
   C. Small Group Activities
   D. Reports
   E. Internet activities

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:
     Family interviews, case problems

VIII. RESOURCES
     A. Library journals, internet sites
     B. Videos
     C. Community resource agencies/individuals

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:
    A. Examination schedule includes three exams approximately 100 points each and a comprehensive final exam approximately 150 points. Make-up tests are discouraged, but if required will be given at end of semester.
    B. Family interviews; analysis assignments; other activities and readings will be assigned during the semester.
    C. All assignments are due on the assigned dates. Any assignment turned in after the assigned date will receive automatic point deductions. No credit for late assignments after one week.

         90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% or below = E

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
This course adheres to the attendance policy published in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin. Class attendance is expected. Students are responsible for all information presented in class including lectures and class discussion, videos, guest speakers, etc. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
This course adheres to the academic honesty policy stated in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin. Dishonesty will result in an “E” for the course. Any plagiarism will result in a grade of zero and could result in failure of the course.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:

XIII. PREREQUISITES:
None

XIV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:
Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or other provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. FLAG SYSTEM/CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT:
Student progress is continuously assessed throughout the teacher preparation program. Appropriate professional characteristics and dispositions, in addition to faculty to Teacher Education Services and then presented to admissions committees. Negative flags are carefully reviewed to make a determination as to whether a student should be denied admission OR if a professional development plan will be designed for the student’s progress towards program completion. NEGATIVE FLAGS MAY BE GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OF ADMISSION TO TEACHER EDUCATION AND/OR STUDENT TEACHING.

***ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS MEETINGS. ***

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the format of this course as circumstances demand.