Course Name: Public Policy and Legal Issues Affecting Families

Course Prefix and Number: HDFS 4007

Course Section Number: 601

Course Description (from catalog): Current public policy and legal issues facing professionals who work with children and families.

Required Course Materials for Purchase:

- *Broke in America: Seeing, Understanding and Ending U.S. Poverty* written by Joanne Samuel Goldblum and Colleen Shaddox

- Other weekly readings will be posted within the course CANVAS.

Student Learning Outcomes or Objectives:

Upon completion of the class, the student will be able to:
1. Discuss contemporary child and family public policy trends and issues.
2. Make appropriate referrals within the legal community and public agencies.
3. Identify the various circumstances policymakers face.
4. Become familiar with some of the most important course cases and legislative acts that have had a major impact on American families and be introduced to some of the important issues currently impacting the subject.
5. Gain knowledge of current trends in the field of family law.
6. Gain knowledge and awareness of societal changes that help to shape American family law.
7. Become familiar with some of the tools of legal research.

Assessment of Student Performance – Grading Scale:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+

63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

*** HDFS majors must make a C in order not to repeat the course.*

Assessment of Student Performance – Major Assignments and percentage of final grade:

Assignments	Points
Quiz #1	20 points
Quiz #2	20 points
Quiz #3	20 points
Case Study Assignment	50 points
Current Event Presentation	50 points
Policy Brief	60 points
Weekly Discussion Posts (10 points each)	110 points
Optional Extra Credit *(does not count against you if you do not complete this)*	10 points
Total Points	**330 points**

Quizzes (20 points each)
Quizzes will be multiple choice and true/false, covering all material up until that point of the quiz. Quizzes will be 20 questions online, and students will be allowed 40 minutes to complete each quiz.

Case Study Assignment (50 points)
Case study will be provided, and you are to respond with a 2–3-page evidence-based or evidence-supported response:
1. Respond to the case study identifying policies and resources that would be helpful to the family (e.g., actual NC policies, evidence-based/evidence-informed family education programs, community or federal organizations that advocate or work with the topic).
2. Cite at a minimum, three sources with your response.
3. Include an APA format reference page (this page is not included in the two-page response).

Current Event Presentation (50 points)
Each student will prepare and present a current event presentation topic on a policy or law that impacts children and/or families in the United States.
1. Topic must be one that impacts and/or affect children and families
2. Article for the presentation must be recent (Written after July 2026)
3. Student must present 3 pros and 3 cons to the current event article (citing sources)
4. Student must present 1 potential solution or idea to address the current events impact on children and families.

5. Presentation must be 8 – 10 minutes long
6. Presentation must be a PowerPoint format and include an APA reference page

Policy Brief (60 points)
Each student will pick a North Carolina related policy that impacts children and/or families. Students will then create a one-page policy brief that includes:
1. 3-5 sentences that clearly state the importance of the policy
2. Three myths surrounding the policy
3. Three facts/statistics surrounding the policy
4. Two ways this policy impacts and/or affects children and families
5. Two resources for families to go to for further understanding or exploration of the policy
6. Include at least two graphics (e.g., graph, statistics, relevant image)
7. Attach an APA format reference page

Weekly Discussion Posts (10 points each, 110 total)
- Each week, students will be asked to apply the week's topic in an application format. Students will review the material and then respond using the information in a discussion post. Students then must respond to three classmates' posts. Students are encouraged to look up more information to help them apply the material and use the course readings – *ensure you cite your sources!*
- Students responses to classmates should be thoughtful and respectful, and AT LEAST three sentences. If you respond with something like "I loved your post! Great point about the topic, I never thought about it like that!" You will not receive full credit. Again, this is an upper-level course, you should be engaging your classmates in critical reflection and discussion.

Optional Extra Credit (10 points)
Optional extra credit is due towards the end of the semester. Students are not penalized if they do not complete and submit this opportunity.
- Students should identify an NC politician (e.g., U.S. House or Senate member, U.S. State Senate or State House representative, Pitt County elected official).
- Visit their website and write a one-page paper, and include an APA 7th edition reference page, answering the below questions:
1. What is the elected officials background?
2. What has the elected official done or plan to do for their constituents (i.e., what is their platform?)
3. How has or does this person impact NC children and families?

Assessment of Student Performance – Attendance/participation if portion of final grade:

No attendance/participation grade being taken within this course.

Statement of Engagement with Diverse Scholarly Perspectives:

This course aligns with the intent of the university to engage diverse scholarly perspectives to develop critical thinking, analysis, and debate. The inclusion of a course reading does not imply endorsement.