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**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS  
SCHOOL OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AND COUNSELING  
SPRING SEMESTER 2017**

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**COURSE TITLE:** Family and Disability  
**COURSE NUMBER:** REHS 3320.93L, 3 credits (CRN –16615)  
**TIME:** ONLINE  
**ROOM:** ONLINE  
**FACULTY:** Chia Vang, M.S.  
**CONTACT:** Office: EHABW 1.276  
 Phone: 956-665-8701  
 Email: [chia.vang01@utrgv.edu](mailto:chia.vang01@utrgv.edu)  
 \*University policy requires all emails regarding class to be conducted through UTRGV email or through Blackboard course messages.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday 12:00pm – 2:00pm  
 Tuesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
 Other times by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed for counselors, teachers, agency personnel, nurses, and others who are involved with families. This course will assist students in understanding the concept of family in general. The course will also focus in the issues of families dealing with a member who has a disability, the unique needs of those families and the impact of that person with a disability has on the family as well as the issues faced by the person with the disability. Family intervention models will be addressed.

**COURSE GOALS AND PURPOSE:**

At the completion of this course, the learner will:

- Understand the unique needs of families with members who have disabilities
- Recognize various coping methods of families that include members with disabilities
- Discuss ethical issues involved
- Develop awareness of personal values, beliefs, and attitudes regarding various disability groups
- Identify issues that arise with acquired disabilities that occur at various developmental stages of life
- Learn about legislation aimed at helping families of persons with disabilities.

<b><u>TEACHING METHODS</u></b>	<b><u>EVALUATION</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• PowerPoint slideshows</li> <li>• Videos</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Exams</li> <li>✓ Discussions</li> <li>✓ Case Studies</li> <li>✓ Assignments</li> </ul>

**TEXT (Required):** Power, Paul W., & Dell Orto, Arthur W. (2004). *Families Living with Chronic Illness and Disability (1<sup>st</sup>)*. Springer, CO: ISBN: 978-082615581-8

**Participation in Course:** Since this is an online class and we will not meet in person, I strongly encourage you to connect with your classmates through the Discussion Boards and email to exchange thoughts and ideas about the course material. Study groups can be an excellent way to prepare for the exams and work on case studies.

**Late Work and Make-up Exams:** Please contact me directly through Blackboard Course Messages to discuss options BEFORE missing due dates or exams. Unless arrangements have been made in advance, or it's an emergency, do not expect to be able to turn in late work or make up exams for full points. We will negotiate the definition of emergency and appropriate late penalties on a case by case basis.

**ONLINE:** Course Materials will be available on Blackboard Learn. You are responsible to check the course **daily** for updates to the schedule or for additional information on assignments or activities. Exams will be taken online.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

**Discussion Groups:** 5 @ 10 points = 50 points. You will individually construct an original post (5 points) answering the questions, and then comment (2.5 points each) on at least 2 of your group member's posts. Original posts are due Wednesday at 11:59pm and responding to 2 of your peers are due on Sunday at 11:59pm.

**Exams:** 3 @ 50 points = 150 points

- Are to be taken **individually** – without reference to notes or text or internet or people, or other sources of assistance. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate integrity in your preparation for a professional career. While I cannot compel honesty, I do strongly encourage you to close your book, put away your notes, and take the exams by yourself.
- Are taken **on-line** through Blackboard Learn. Please become familiar with the Blackboard Learn environment. It is recommended that you take the exams using one of the campus computer labs. If you choose to use your own device, check to make sure you have a **strong internet connection** and your device is **fully charged**. Please DO NOT take the exams using your phone.
- I do not provide a study guide for review before the exams. You are encouraged to get together to study, or exchange chapter outlines.

**Written Assignments:** 5 @ 20 points = 100 points. Details are provided in the Assignment folders. Most written assignment will be in a form of 2-3 pages. Assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59pm.

- Grades will not be available until they are due to the Registrar on 12/18. I will keep the course open on Blackboard through 12/18 so you can have access to feedback on anything graded after 12/14.

### **Grading Scale**

A	90-100% (270 to 300 points)
B	80-89% (269 to 240 points)
C	70-79% (239 to 210 points)
D	60-69% (209 to 180 points)
F	less than 60% (179 points)

**Date** (Monday through Sunday)

**Tentative Schedule**

Week 1 8/28 – 9/3	Chapter 1  Welcome – Introductions & Orientation
Week 2 9/4 – 9/10	Chapter 2  Discussion 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• original post Wednesday, 09/6 @ 11:59 PM</li><li>• 2 response posts due Sunday, 09/10 @ 11:59 PM</li></ul>
Week 3 9/11 – 9/17	Chapter 3  Assignment 1 – due Sunday, 09/17 @ 11:59 PM <b>***CENSUS DAY 02/01 last day to drop w/o showing on transcript</b>
Week 4 9/18 – 9/24	Chapter 4  Discussion 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• original post Wednesday, 09/20 @ 11:59 PM</li><li>• 2 response posts due Sunday, 09/24 @ 11:59 PM</li></ul>
Week 5 9/25 – 10/1	Exam 1 – due Sunday, 10/1 @ 11:59 PM (Chapters 1-4)
Week 6 10/2 – 10/8	Chapter 5  Assignment 2 due Sunday, 10/8 @ 11:59 PM
Week 7 10/9 – 10/15	Chapter 6  Discussion 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• original post Wednesday, 10/11 @ 11:59 PM</li><li>• 2 response posts due Sunday, 10/15 @ 11:59 PM</li></ul>
Week 8 10/16 – 10/22	Chapter 7 Assignment 3 due Sunday 10/22 @ 11:59 PM
Week 9 10/23 – 10/29	Chapter 8  Discussion 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• original post Wednesday, 10/25 @ 11:59 PM</li><li>• 2 response posts due Sunday, 10/29 @ 11:59 PM</li></ul>
Week 10 10/30 – 11/5	Exam 2 due Sunday, 11/5 @ 11:59 PM (Chapters 5-8)

Week 11 11/6 – 11/12	Chapter 9 <b>Assignment 4 due Sunday, 11/12 @ 11:59PM</b>
Week 12 11/13 – 11/19	Chapter 10 <b>Discussion 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>original post Wednesday, 11/15 @ 11:59 PM</li> <li>2 response posts due Sunday, 11/19 @ 11:59 PM</li> </ul> <b>11/15 - Last Day to Drop</b> <b>Online Course Evaluations</b>
Week 13 11/20 – 11/26	Chapter 11 <b>Online Course Evaluations</b>
Week 14 11/27 – 12/3	Chapter 12 <b>Assignment 5 due Sunday, 12/3 @ 11:59 PM</b> <b>Online Course Evaluations</b>
Week 15 12/4 -12/10	<b>Online Course Evaluations end</b> Study
Week 16 Finals 12/ 11 – 12/17	<b>Exam 3 – due Sunday, 12/13/(chapters 9-12)</b>
12/15-16/2017	Commencement/Graduation
12/18/2017	Final Grades turned in to Registrar Blackboard Course closes @ 11:59 PM

### FALL 2017

August 28 – December 14

April 3	Registration Begins
Aug. 23	Payment Due
Aug. 25	Waitlist Ends
	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 100% refund
Aug. 28	Fall classes begin
Aug. 31	Last day to add a class or register for Fall classes
Sept. 1	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday. No classes.</b>
Sept. 11	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 70% refund
Sept. 13	Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
Sept. 18	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund
Sept. 25	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 25% refund
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>Last day to drop a class (grade of DR) or withdraw (grade of W)</b>
Nov. 23 – Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes.
Dec. 7	Study Day. No classes.
<b>Dec. 8 – Dec. 14</b>	<b>Final Exams</b>
Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	Commencement Exercise

## **UTRGV Policy Statements**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** *Required on all syllabi.* Do not modify.

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [accessibility@utrgv.edu](mailto:accessibility@utrgv.edu). **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [accessibility@utrgv.edu](mailto:accessibility@utrgv.edu).

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:** *Required on all syllabi.*

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available from April 13 through May 04. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

It is possible that grades may not be available until 12/19 when we turn them in to the Registrar. I will leave the Blackboard course open until 12/23 @ 11:59 pm so you can check your grades.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:** Recommended on all syllabi.

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:** *Required on all syllabi.*

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:** Recommended on all syllabi;

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule”

and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

## Technical Requirements

**Computer Requirements:** Blackboard is a web based application that is run through a Web Browser. If your computer can successfully run any of the popular web browsers out there like Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox, then you will be able to use Blackboard. Keep in mind that your browser must be configured to work properly with Blackboard. This means having Java Installed, Pop-up Blockers disabled and cookies enabled. To check if your browser is compatible with Blackboard you can do a browser check by visiting the [Blackboard Browser Tune-up page](#) or you can see a list of [Blackboard compatible browsers](#).

**Java Runtime Environment:** For BlackBoard to function properly, you will need to have Java installed on your machine. This is important when using certain features in BlackBoard like the Chat Tool, File Uploads, quizzes etc. To ensure that you have the latest version of Java you can download the latest version at the link below.



[Java Runtime Environment](#)

**Blackboard Help Desk Assistance:** For the following issues, you should contact the Blackboard Help Desk:

- Server issues (site not available, server is slow)
- Course access (login problems, course not available)
- Technical problems (a function not working properly)
- Tegrity questions

Contact Information:

Education Complex, EDCC 2.202

956-665-5327

[colthelp@utpa.edu](mailto:colthelp@utpa.edu)

**Information and Tracking Disclosure** (Closely adapted from the University of Western Sydney, Australia: <http://www.uws.edu.au/about/information/privacy#Webct>)

Each site on Blackboard Learn is password protected and authorized access is required. Information is stored on the University's system about use and access of the course website. For example, the system tracks information about how students use learning unit material including first and last logon, how frequently unit materials have been accessed, and the number of discussion thread read and posted.

The system also retains electronic assignment submissions and exam results and grades, contributions posted to the site discussion board, and transcripts of chat room discussions. Center for Distance Learning personnel, University faculty members associated with the course, and other staff with legitimate reasons will have access to this information.

The course website may contain hotlinks to third-party (outside) websites. These links are provided for convenience. While the course instructor makes every effort to ensure the safety, security, and accuracy of these websites, neither she nor the University is responsible for the content or practices of linked third-party sites. Students are encouraged to review the terms of use, privacy policy, and other policies of linked websites, as the policies of the linked site may differ from those of the course or the University website.