



Interpersonal Studies (INTERSTU) Syllabus

Course Name

INTERSTU

Interpersonal Studies

Course Information

INTERSTU is a one-semester course.

This course examines how the relationships between individuals and among family members significantly affect the quality of life. Students use knowledge and skills in family studies and human development to enhance personal development, foster quality relationships, promote wellness of family members, manage multiple adult roles, and pursue careers related to counseling and mental health services.

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at www.k12.ttu.edu.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. identify and investigate factors that influence personal identity, personality, and self-esteem;
2. summarize the decision-making process and discuss responsibilities of decisions;
3. analyze adjustments related to achieving independence;
4. investigate the family's role in fostering the abilities of its members to develop healthy relationships;

5. explore ways to promote positive relationships;
6. determine the impact of effective family functioning on community and society;
7. describe the stages of the family life cycle and examine the roles and responsibilities of family members throughout the family life cycle;
8. categorize types of crises and their effects on individuals and families, and determine strategies for prevention and management of individual and family problems and crises;
9. describe the impact of stress on individuals and relationships and practice creative techniques for managing stress;
10. determine employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and preparation requirements for careers in the field of counseling and mental health services;
11. practice positive interpersonal skills including conflict resolution, negotiation, teamwork, and leadership, and use leadership and team membership skills in problem solving; and
12. determine the impact of career choice on family life and describe the effect of family life on workplace productivity.

INTERSTU addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](#) website.

Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)

The required textbook for this course is:

- Ryder, Verdene. (2015). *Contemporary Living* (12th ed.). Tinley Park, IL: The Goodheart-Willcox Co., Inc. ISBN: 978-1-68584-449-3.

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](#))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers

Course Organization

This course consists of 10 lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Each lesson begins with an introductory discussion and stated lesson objectives. The lesson is then divided into subsections (e.g., Lesson 1.1, Lesson 1.2, Lesson 1.3, etc.) which have a corresponding assignment.

Assignments will include essay questions, short answer questions, games, quizzes, group edits, discussion forums, and technology applications.

Tips and Reminder

1. Assignments must be uploaded according to the assignment instructions.
2. Please sign your full name to email messages. Be sure to check your email frequently.
3. Once an assignment has been graded, please do not re-upload the assignment, unless you have notified the instructor.
4. You will be successful and HAVE FUN LEARNING!

You will always have a reading assignment from your textbook. Please be aware that even though you may not have a specific written assignment, you are responsible for the content. The information will be on your final exam.

Special Note: You must always have your Composition Journal available when working on the course. I will ask you to journal, answer questions, and comment on certain content. This information will show up on your final exam, so be organized as you move along!

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 1	Personal Development and Decision Making	Two weeks
Lesson 2	Relationships	One week
Lesson 3	Relationships Outside of the Family	One week
Lesson 4	Transitions to Independent Adulthood	Two weeks
Lesson 5	Marriage	Two weeks
Lesson 6	Family Unit and Life Cycle	One week
Lesson 7	Family Needs: Stresses and Crisis	Two weeks
Lesson 8	Career Options and Family Life	Two weeks
Lesson 9	Employability Skills	Two weeks
Lesson 10	Careers in Counseling and Mental Health	One week
Final Exam		

Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
1	1-2	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Lesson 1.1: Article Reflection Lesson 1.2: Discussion Lesson 1.3: Self-Concept Presentation Lesson 1.4: Needs Theory Questions Lesson 1.5: Stages of Moral Development Lesson 1.6 Discussion *Lesson 1.7: Decision Making Lesson One Discussion

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
2	3	Lesson 2.1: Comparing Friendships Lesson 2.2: Media Family *Lesson 2.3: Traditions and Customs Lesson 2.4: Choices Lesson Two Discussion
3	4	Lesson 3.1: Culture and Friendships Lesson 3.2: Best Friend Lesson 3.3: Unconditional Love Research Lesson 3.4: Advertisements Lesson Three Discussion Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
4	5-6	Lesson 4.1: Sufficiency and Reliance Lesson 4.2: Needs and Wants *Lesson 4.3: Money Lesson 4.4: Understanding Credit Lesson 4.5: Home Lesson Four Discussion
5	7-8	Lesson 5.1: Dating Collage Lesson 5.2: Check your Knowledge Lesson 5.3: Health Relationships Lesson 5.4: Online Dating Poll Lesson 5.5: Check your Knowledge Lesson Five Discussion
6	9	Lesson 6.1: Family Life Cycle Lesson 6.2: Want Ad Nanny Lesson 6.3: House Hunting Lesson Six Discussion
7	10-11	Lesson 7.1: Myths about Stress Lesson 7.2: Stress *Lesson 7.3: Identifying Stress Paper Lesson 7.4: Reducing Stress Lesson 7.5: Crisis Management Lesson Seven Discussion
8	12-13	Lesson 8.1: Household Income Lesson 8.2: School and Jobs Lesson 8.3: Career Cluster Fact Sheet *Lesson 8.4: Employee or Self-Employed Lesson Eight Discussion

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
9	14-15	Lesson 9.1: Communication Essentials *Lesson 9.2: Explore Communication Lesson 9.3: Communication Lesson 9.4: Email Lesson 9.5: Interpersonal Skills Lesson 9.6: Famous Leader Presentation Lesson Nine Discussion
10	16	Lesson 10.1: Career Skills Lesson 10.2: Careers Lesson 10.3: Health Careers Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		Final Exam

Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
 - Lesson 1.7: Decision Making (60 points)
 - Lesson 2.3: Traditions and Customs (50 points)
 - Lesson 4.3: Money (50 points)
 - Lesson 7.3: Identifying Stress Paper (50 points)
 - Lesson 8.4: Employee or Self-Employed (50 points)
 - Lesson 9.2: Explore Communication (50 points)
- **Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;

- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by mail or email.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.