FEM 3109: Family Ecology and Parenting - PJJ  
(2nd Semester 2016-2017)

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ASSIGNMENT 1

Assignment 1: Self Analysis - My Family and I (10%)

MUST BE SUBMITTED by 5.00 p.m. Friday 10th March 2017

This assignment aims to encourage students to do some critical self and family analyses.

a. This “My Family and I” assignment should start from your birth until most recent development in your life. Since this is a very “individual” paper. I don’t expect to see any duplicate among students.

b. You are encouraged to analyze multiple domains of your life with great consideration of the contexts of your development (i.e. place, time, people, family, culture, values, laws, neighbours etc – all the ecological concepts)

c. Recall every aspect of individual and family development that you consider to be of importance in your life. Go all out to gather information about yourself i.e. your family of origin – where did they come from etc. Talk about your birth, your childhood life, school life, adolescence, adulthood and current life situation. By doing so, you will not only analyze the details about yourself but also of others that are significant in your life such as your parents, siblings, grandparents, peers, spouse and children (if any), in-laws, schools, teachers, neighbours, and other relatives. Remember to remain focus on YOURSELF in the context of YOUR FAMILY as the major subject of analysis.
d. Most IMPORTANTLY, you need to address the strengths and weaknesses, issues and challenges faced by you and your family especially on marriage, parenting and family issues. Additional readings will enrich your report.

WRITE YOUR ANALYSES ON:

- Who you are. How do you feel about being the person the way you are? (Keywords: profile/personal characteristics, physical, cognitive, socio-emotional developments – personality, values, fitrah and potentials etc). Describe your strengths and weaknesses.
- Explore on your family tree (genogram), describe your family (you can go online for free software). Describe relationships (marital, parental, sibling, familial) in your family and how those relationships have influenced you as a person.
- Write about your family. Historical aspects, marriage, parenting, siblings, issues and conflicts, major milestone on birth, marriage, divorce, death, migration, moving out/in etc.
- Talk about your personal life experiences – highlight major achievement or most challenging moments/issues/problems in life in the context of your family.
- What is your life goal(s). How do you plan to achieve them? What is the role of your family (parents, sibling others) in obtaining these goals.
- Next, describe the contexts of your development within your family system since you were born up to today (you may use the Ecology of Human Development Theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Describe the Why’s and How’s do the systems especially your family become important in your life?
- Write some critical points about your view on marriages and parenting based on your observations on your own family – both your nuclear and extended families.
- How do you think you experiences in your immediate family will influence your future family formation?

e. Be creative to include photos or copies of documents that marked certain remarkable achievements or anything that you would like to include in your
assignment. In sum, anything that matters to you that represents your
development across the lifespan within your family context.
f. Do not hesitate to highlight ups and downs moments in yours and your family life,
how you and your family have managed or mismanaged challenges and stress,
yours and your family major achievement, contributions or losses, your
family secrets and losses.
g. Most importantly, your analyses should always fall back to the scope of the
theories / perspectives that governs the course. Focus on marriage, family
life and parenting issues. Contact the instructor should you have any
request for information.
h. Proper citation on references that you used is highly expected.

GOOD LUCK & DO CONTACT YOUR INSTRUCTOR SHOULD YOU NEED ANY HELP
IN PREPARING THESE ASSIGNMENTS

The assignment is to be about 12-15 typewritten pages in length (not including
reference page/s, appendices, or other relevant information), with 12-point Times New
Roman font or 11-point Arial font, 1.5-spaced paragraphed, and numbered pages.

General guideline: For this assignment, please adhere to the following guidelines:

Presentation Style and Format:

a. This course requires you to use the American Psychological Association (APA)
publication manual for your assignments. You should pay particular attention to
the procedures for citing references in the text and listing them on a reference
page.

b. Assignments submitted for grading are checked on receipt for correctness of
citation formatting. Lack of attribution of pre-existing sources is considered in law
to be plagiarism, and inappropriate citation formats can unwittingly give the
impression of plagiarism even though this was not the student's intention.

c. For this reason, all students should take care to absorb and apply the correct
APA rules of citation before submitting an assignment. Further information is
found at the following site: http://www.apastyle.org The APA's
recommendations for Electronic Reference Formats are available from the APA
web site. Please contact the course instructor if you need further assistance.
d. Students should ensure that their assignments include the following information on the cover page:
  - Your name and matric number, course name, assignment name/number, instructor's name and date of submission.

**Assignment Grading:**

Grading of the assignments will be based on the following:

a. Content - refers to topic definition and clarification; information, facts, data, examples and other illustrations; analysis and conceptual development of the argument, logic and coherence, persuasiveness, insights, writing skills; etc.

b. **Applications of concepts from theories learned in class must be strictly observed.** This is really the core of the writing including achievement of the objectives of the writing as well as the quality and significance of the objectives. Your marks will be deducted if you do not include ANY discussion relevant to class materials.

c. The use of references in your essay to substantiate your position/viewpoint adds greatly to the strength of your argumentation.

d. Organization - includes the structure of the paper: the overall plan, internal organization and logical development; effective use of introductions, summarization, conclusions; appropriate use of tables; appropriate use of citations and references (APA Style); appropriate use of reference pages and appendices; and, use and placement of some of the content items (e.g., definitions, summaries).

e. Mechanics - includes spelling, grammar, word usage, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraphing and so forth. Errors in these areas can obscure good thinking, and, in any case, facility in writing, including the mechanics, is a basic requisite in graduate work and beyond.