

# FCS 3180 – Home, School & Community Relations

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**Office:** AEB 328

**Office Hours:** Online chat or by appointment.

**FCS 3180–090**

**3 credit hours**

**Class Website:** **University CANVAS System** (you will need your University ID to log in)

**Course Description:** This course is designed to explore the interrelationships among families, schools and the communities where they live. Using a resilience framework, we will identify areas of risk, intervention and solutions.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1) describe a developmental trajectory, 2) identify potential risk factors in a child's home, school and community, and 3) identify and discuss appropriate prevention and intervention strategies to address risks.

**Required Text:** The required reading for this class is a coursepack available for purchase ONLINE ONLY through University Readers. Go to [www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com) and click on "Students Buy Here." You will need to create a new account. The coursepack will not be available until the first week of the semester. You will be able to see the first two weeks of readings on the class website.

**Use of CANVAS:** Students will use the University's CANVAS online system for ALL coursework, grading and correspondence. You will need your **university ID and your UNID password** to login. Go to [www.cis.utah.edu](http://www.cis.utah.edu) or click on the "CIS" icon in the upper right hand corner of the main page of the University webpage. If you have trouble logging in, please contact the University helpdesk at 581-4000.

**Please visit the site during the first week of class and read the ENTIRE syllabus.** You are responsible for the content, assignments and dates discussed in the syllabus.

## OVERVIEW of Course Assignments, Point Values and Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date	Point Value	Total Points
<u>Exams (3)</u> Exam 1 Exam 2 Exam 3	Fri and Sat (about the end of week 4). Fri and Sat (about the end of week 8). Fri and Sat (last week of the semester).	100 points each	<b>300</b>
<u>Open Responses (3)</u> OR 1 OR 2 OR 3	Anytime before Sat at 11:59PM, on the last day of the section.	30 points each	<b>90</b>
<u>Application Paper (1)</u>	End of the semester	60	<b>60</b>
<u>Discussion Posts (14)</u> Introduction Post (1) Weekly posts (12) Discussion Lead Post and response (1)	End of week 2. Before Sat. 11:59PM of the specific week. Varies (see assignment posted to your group discussion board during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of class)	10 points each (lowest score dropped)	<b>130</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>			<b>580</b>

## FCS 3180 COURSE SCHEDULE

### SECTION 1: Child Development in CONTEXT

#### SECTION 1: (Weeks 1 – 4)

**Topics covered:**

Resilience Theory, Ecological Theory  
The FAMILY Context, The SCHOOL Context, The COMMUNITY Context

### SECTION 2: INTERVENTIONS and SOLUTIONS

#### SECTION 2: (Weeks 5 – 8):

**Topics Covered:**

INTERVENTIONS IN THE SCHOOL (Positive Behavior Support (PBS), Access to Education, School Engagement)  
INTERVENTIONS IN THE HOME and COMMUNITY: (Family Life Education (FLE), Community Partnerships, Positive Youth Development)

### SECTION 3: IDENTIFYING RISKS

#### SECTION 3: (Weeks 9 – 16):

**Topics Covered:**

Risks to Physical Development (media and obesity), Risks to Cognitive Development, Risks associated with poverty, Risks associated with Parenting and Family Stress, Risks associated with Bullies and School Violence, Risks associated with Sexual Development, Resilience Review

## HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

### 1. CONTACTING ME:

**PLEASE remember you are NOT taking this class from a computer, you are taking this class from a teacher. Use that resource as needed.** I believe online courses should be approached as directed-study courses. It is my job to focus and direct your study. It is your job to learn the course content from the assigned readings and outlines and show that learning through exams and assignments.

**Using Canvas** – ALL communication for this course will run through Canvas. Please use Canvas email during the semester. I will check the class site more often than I check my university email address.

**\*\*\*It is very important for you to regularly check your Canvas email.\*\*\***

**When can you contact me?** – Anytime. I will be online nearly every day and will check my CANVAS email and discussion board postings. You can also text me if an urgent problem presents itself. If you have questions, please contact me immediately.

### 2. COURSEWORK FOR THIS CLASS (how are you supposed to learn?):

**Weekly readings** – Each week you will receive an email from me which will include announcements and an introduction to that week's topics. Each week you are expected to read 1-3 articles, watch occasional posted videos or listen to audio clips and take notes on what you learn. I believe one of the most important skills for a college student is how to review a broad topic and pick out the key ideas. You will find outlines for each week on the class website which will help you do this. Exams are taken directly from these outlines.

### 3. KEEPING UP WITH COURSEWORK:

It is CRUCIAL that you do not fall behind in your coursework. The exams come very quickly and it will be nearly impossible to cram for them in a few days. I do not require weekly quizzes or assignments because I trust that students are responsible enough to budget their own studying and time use.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Assignments)**

**Evaluation Methods and Criteria:** Your grade is based on your performance on the following assignments:  
**1) 3 Exams, 2) 3 Open Response Papers, 3) 1 Application Paper, and 4) 13 Discussion postings.**

1. **Exams (3)** – Students must complete THREE exams during the semester. One exam for each section of study. Exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions and are timed for 45 minutes. Exams are completed online through the course website. You do not need to register for the exam but you should verify that you have a reliable Internet connection for the duration of the exam. Exams are worth **100 points each**. **There is NO MAKE UP for missed exams.**
2. **Open Responses (OR's) (3)** – Students must complete three OR papers. An Open Response (OR) is a short written analysis of a selected class topic. OR's must be **400-500 words and must DIRECTLY refer to course material** (this means you MUST have an APA citation referencing the class readings in the text of your OR). One OR is required for each section of study:
3. **Application Paper (1)** – Students will write ONE Application Paper. This paper is your chance to demonstrate that you can APPLY the interventions we discuss in class, to the risks also discussed in class. This paper will include your own analysis and heavy referencing to class readings. Papers are 3 – 4 pages in length and must use APA citation.

**What do you write about?** In your Application Paper you select ONE of the risks identified in class (see section 3 of class) and describe how ONE of the interventions discussed in class (see section 2 of class) can address this risk. You should refer to resilience theory (see week 1) and refer often to other class readings.  
**Answer this question: “How can risks associated with \_\_\_\_\_ be addressed using \_\_\_\_\_ as an intervention?”** This paper should demonstrate that you can APPLY the concepts from class, not just repeat them.

4. **Discussion Postings (13)** – Students are required to post to their group discussion board at least THIRTEEN times. Posts are intended to be loosely structured opportunities for students to comment on the course content. Because of the open nature of discussion posts there is very little I use as grading criteria outside of length, so be very careful to meet the minimum requirement. Graded posts must be **at least 150 words**. Shorter posts will be severely docked.

While you are only graded on one post each week, you are free to comment as often as you like in short or long posts. Your lowest post will be dropped, which means you can miss one week's post with no penalty to your grade. The Intro post and lead post CANNOT be dropped, only weekly posts can be dropped.

Discussion posts are due by Saturday night of the specific week and **cannot be submitted late**. If have not completed your discussion post by the deadline, you will receive a zero. **LATE discussion posts will not be accepted. Please do not ask.**