



Psychology (PSYC) 426

Psychology of Families and Parenting (Revision 2)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	One of PSYC 228 , PSYC 323 , PSYC 350 , or PSYC 381 or professor approval.
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	PSYC 426 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview



PSYC 426: Psychology of Families and Parenting, is an in-depth study of the issues surrounding parenting and family relationships, incorporating both theories and empirical research. It encourages critical analysis and awareness of the complexities of issues surrounding families. This online course explores many variations of families including nuclear families, families with same-sex parents, adoptive families, child-free families, and families that have adjusted to divorce. From a parenting perspective, the course looks at the influences of culture, genes versus environment, religion and spirituality, and parental age. The course also explores arranged marriages and polygamy.

Outline

PSYC 426 consists of twelve units:

- Unit 1: What Is a Family?
- Unit 2: Culture
- Unit 3: Families: Genes vs. Environment
- Unit 4: Religion and Spirituality
- Unit 5: Adjusting to Divorce
- Unit 6: Families with Same-Sex Parents
- Unit 7: Adoptive Families
- Unit 8: Parental Age I: Adolescent Parents
- Unit 9: Parental Age II: Older Parents
- Unit 10: To Have or Not to Have? Childfree Families
- Unit 11: Arranged Marriages
- Unit 12: Polygamy

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for PSYC 426, you must achieve a grade of at least 50 percent on the final exam, and an overall course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** . In addition, all course assignments must be completed to pass the course. The weighting of assignments is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Biased Assimilation	10%
Information Retrieval	10%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Debate Paper	40%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a [Course Administration and Technology Fee](#), but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.





Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

`{resourceReference}`

All course materials are available online.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 2, January 19, 2017

Updated February 21, 2025

View [previous revision](#) 
