



## ED 6345—FAMILY COUNSELING

School Counselors

Sul Ross State University

FALL 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Tamara Olive  
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**Office Location:** Dr. Olive does not maintain an office on campus.

**Off Campus Office Hours:** Online hours are from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Monday-Thursday. Telephone conferences are available by appointment. The instructor is available online, via email, and telephone.

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A survey of the field of family counseling, examining history, theories, and practice. Includes discussion of ethical, legal, and other professional issues related to family counseling.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Gladding, S.T. (2015). *Family therapy: History, theory, and practice* (6th ed.). Boston: Pearson.

The correct ISBN for the hardcover 6th edition of our textbook is as follows: **ISBN-13: 9780133488906**

You can find the 6th hardcover edition via online vendors such as [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) for about \$145 (new) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (used) for approximately \$136.

Make certain that you have ordered the correct ISBN, and the book appears as in the illustration shown in the Announcements on the Blackboard course site.

### **TEXES STANDARDS:**

TEXES standards addressed in this course are:

**Standard I. Learner-Centered Knowledge:** The certified school counselor has a broad knowledge base.

Standard	Description	Assignment	Assessment	SLO
I. (19)	An understanding of systems, including family dynamics and school environments	Textbook reading Chapter 9	Chapter 9 Test	SLO 1

		Textbook Chapters 1-9	Genogram Essay and Analytic Autobiography	SLO 1
		Textbook Chapters 1-16	Final Exam; Discussion Board Video Assignments #1-10	SLO 1

### **TEXES COMPETENCIES:**

Student knowledge and application of the four domains and 10 competencies are required for students to successfully pass the TExES. In other words, the domains and competencies are test specific and will be addressed when students take the following test. In order to help students with this task, all school counseling students are required to spend six hours in the Certify Teacher school counseling practice test site. A minimum score of 85% must be made on each of the 10 competencies tested before Sul Ross State University can submit approval for the student to take the TExES.

TExES competencies addressed in this course are:

### **DOMAIN I—KNOWLEDGE OF LEARNERS**

**Competency 001 (Human Development and Learning):** Understand theories and processes of human development and learning as well as factors that influence development and learning.

**Competency 002 (Diversity and Cultural Competence):** Understand diversity issues and cultural competencies related to school counseling and environments that promote respect and affirmation for all students.

<b>Domain Competency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>SLO</b>
I. 001. D	Apply knowledge of variables that may influence a student's development, learning, and behavior (e.g., environment, health, socioeconomic circumstances, disability, life experiences, language fluency, stress, trauma, individual learning style, culture, gender identity, ethnicity, race, geopolitical factors).	Textbook Chapters 1-16; Discussion Board	Certify Teacher	SLO 1
I. 002. A	Demonstrate knowledge of ways in which diverse characteristics (e.g., race, culture, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, socioeconomic status, linguistic diversity, immigration status, exceptionality, learning styles, physical or cognitive abilities) may affect the manifestation of strengths and	Textbook Chapters 1-16; Video Assignments #1- 10	Certify Teacher	SLO 1

	difficulties in the educational, career, personal, and social areas.			
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### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

In this course, students will be able to identify and define basic terminology and concepts of the most widely-used family therapy models; demonstrate an understanding of the historical, practical/clinical, and theoretical bases underlying the family therapy process; demonstrate a working knowledge of a variety of family counseling strategies and applications; evaluate one's own family background values and beliefs, and infer how those variables impact the therapeutic relationship for counselor and client family; and demonstrate an understanding of professional and ethical issues in family therapy.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate their ability to apply within guidance and counseling, their knowledge of human development, diversity, and factors that affect client's ability to achieve their potential.
2. Demonstrate their ability to plan, implement, and evaluate a developmental counseling program, this program will incorporate assessment, as well as individual and group counseling services utilizing appropriate theoretical frameworks, techniques, and interventions to address personal, interpersonal/social, and educational needs.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with others in diverse settings, including the community in order to facilitate client success, and will demonstrate the ability to apply ethical, legal, and professional standards.

### **COUNSELOR EDUCATION MARKETABLE SKILLS:**

1. Graduates will demonstrate oral and written communication skills to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
2. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of ethics, social justice issues, and multicultural concerns to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
3. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of human growth development throughout the lifespan to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.

### **DISTANT LEARNING STATEMENT:**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**SMARTTHINKING:**

With Blackboard, you will note two tabs on the left, a Smarthinking Handbook tab and a Smarthinking tab. Sul Ross State University is providing this writing tutorial program, free of charge, to currently enrolled students. Smarthinking is a proven, excellent writing tutorial program and user friendly. When you are ready to submit your draft paper to Smarthinking, you may do so through the Smarthinking tab.

This service does not detect plagiarism; you will still need to use SafeAssign for similarity detection. The Smarthinking Writing Center is designed to assist secondary, post-secondary, and graduate students become stronger writers. Students receive a detailed, personalized critique of any written assignment, such as an essay, paragraph, report, or creative work. When applicable, students can select specialists such as ESL, Technical Writing, or Creative Writing experts. Students can submit writing 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students in this class are required to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be timely, prepared, and focused. Meaningful, respectful, and pertinent online participation is also expected.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: submitting work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation.

**SAFE ASSIGN:**

The Safe Assignment Tool is an advanced plagiarism prevention system deeply integrated with the Blackboard Learning Management System. SafeAssignment compares student papers submitted to Blackboard against an enormous wide range of sources and provides instructors with detailed Originality Reports. Because of SafeAssignment's flexibility, this product is an effective plagiarism prevention system that helps instructors to raise student awareness about plagiarism and to educate students about the ways to avoid plagiarism. You can check your similarity report and make corrections if needed. With your similarity report, you will note highlighted areas that have similarity noted between your paper and another source. You will click on the tab within the colored square to see the percentage of the similarity. Percentages above 10% must be corrected. It does not matter if the source that is being noted for similarity is not the same source that you used. The system is telling you what you have written is too similar to another source and you need to make corrections. You may need to change up some of the wording or order of information to make it your information. More than three or four words in a row that are identical to the originating author can be detected. You can submit your paper as many times as you would like. This system is designed to assist students with increasing awareness of plagiarism. Typically, plagiarism is an accidental occurrence and occurs when students do not realize their writing is overly similar to another source.

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)****SRSU DISABILITY SERVICES:**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor,

Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

**PARTICIPATION POLICY:** Since ED 6345 is an online course, participation will be evaluated in Blackboard online discussions. It is the student's responsibility to check the Discussion Board and Sul Ross email DAILY for the duration of the course. In order for you to remain enrolled in ED 6345, you must reply to the Blackboard Discussion Board "Online Participation Policy" forum by the deadline posted on the Due Dates listing contained in this syllabus. It is policy at Sul Ross State University that if a student is enrolled in an online course and fails to stay active for a period of 3 weeks, fails to submit assignments, and/or does not reply to emails from the instructor, he/she will receive a final grade of "F." You may access the "Online Participation Policy" forum by entering Blackboard, then selecting Discussion Board. Please follow the directions regarding your required response.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students will:

- Comply with Online Participation Policy
- Complete all reading assignments and study the material prior to posting assignments
- Study Blackboard lectures
- Post in-depth and insightful responses on Discussion Board forums
- Utilize videos to view actual client interviews and submit assignments based on those interviews
- Prepare a personal genogram and submit a written analysis of it with a course-related analytic autobiography
- Take chapter exams, a genogram test, and a final exam
- Practice professional conduct and ethics, including a respect of confidentiality with the same expectations of face-to-face courses, as well as respectful learning exchanges in online discussions

### **Assignment Descriptions:**

**Writing Style.** Papers must be typed using 1 inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman type, and double-spaced. Do not number the title page. Do not retype the questions; simply write well-developed paragraphs. Edit for spelling and grammar, and for clarity and logic of idea development. (I **strongly** encourage you to have someone else proofread your work.) Include citations and a reference page utilizing correct APA style. **NOTE: Your writing reflects your professionalism. Papers with multiple errors in any of the above areas will receive a reduction in grade.**

### **Genogram Essay and Analytic Autobiography (2-Part Essay)**

**Part 1--Complete a three generational genogram of your family and write an essay** discussing patterns you have discovered in your family and insights you have gained from this assignment.

Questions you should ask as you interview your family members and answer in your essay are at the end of this syllabus. This portion of your essay should be a minimum of **4 pages**, excluding the title page. On the first page of your essay, create a heading entitled, "Part 1--My Family Genogram." ***You must include citations from your textbook!***

**Part 2—Analytic Autobiography** This is the second portion of your essay assignment. At the top of the page type, "Part 2—My Analytic Autobiography." Using course content as a reference, in this section you will further examine yourself and your family-of-origin issues, and

you will conclude with your own worldview of how best to work with families. This portion of the essay should be a minimum of **5 pages**, not including the References page. It must include **citations**, and a **References** page should be included at the end of the document. In this section, address the following:

- Based on what you learned in doing the genogram, and what you know as a member of your family, use systems terminology to describe your family—open, closed, boundaries, etc. If you addressed this in Part 1, then simply describe the effect that these dynamics have had on you. *Create citations from your textbook!*
- If you could “restructure” your family system, what major changes would you make? Be specific. Restructuring families results in changes in power. How would this affect your family? Who would lose some power, and who would become more empowered? What impact would this have on family healthy functioning? Who would become connected or reconnected? Whose relationships would be strengthened, and whose relationships might be less intense or less overinvolved?
- Identify gender/ethnic rules by which your family system operated (or currently operates). Do you abide by these rules, or have you chosen to create a different reality? Is your family viewed as “traditional” or “nontraditional” in any way?
- When examining stages of the family life cycle (see page 39 in your textbook for the six-stage life cycle, beginning with “single young adults leaving home,” “the new couple,” “families with young children,” “families with adolescents,” “families launching children and moving on,” and “families in later life”), which have been easier for your family to handle? Which have been most difficult? Which of these have most greatly impacted you?
- Explore how your family system coped with such normal life transitions as births, starting school, beginning college, getting married, entering the workforce, empty nest, retirement, aging, etc.
- Explore experiences your family has had with death and how they handled mourning. How has this impacted you and shaped your view of death?
- What has been the best thing about growing up in your family? What has been the most challenging?
- Conclude with your own worldview of how to best work with families. How do you see yourself as a family counselor?

To repeat, the body of your paper (including parts 1 and 2 combined), is to be a **total minimum of 9 pages**, plus a title page and References page. (Your textbook should be your reference entry. See examples on the Discussion Board on Blackboard for APA style for both citations and reference entries!) Therefore, your document must be a minimum of 11 pages total. Your paper must follow the **Writing Style** above. Attach your paper to the Genogram Essay and Analytic Autobiography link via the Assignments button on Blackboard.

*NOTE: I recognize that you may find information requested in this paper to be sensitive in nature. I will assume that information you wish to retain as private to the family will not be included in the paper; you have choice regarding what you wish to share. I will be the only person reviewing your paper. If you have further privacy concerns, please feel free to discuss them with me. Thank you.*

**Genogram Test.** You will take a brief genogram test based on two genograms in your textbook. Instructions are found on Blackboard via the Assignments button.

**Video Assignments.** You will view actual videotaped client interviews, and provide postings on the Discussion Board on the Video forums. Instructions are detailed on Blackboard via the Assignments button.

**Chapter Tests.** Tests for each chapter in your textbook are accessible via the “Exams” button on Blackboard. See the attached schedule for due dates. No late tests will be accepted.

**Final Exam.** This exam is based on the “Models of Family Therapy” Appendix of your textbook on pages 405-410, as well as content in Lectures on Blackboard. The Appendix summarizes content you will have covered in your textbook readings and assignments. This exam is accessed via the “Exams” button on Blackboard. See the following schedule for the due date.

### **EVALUATION/GRADING POLICY:**

Your grade for this course will be determined by evidence of the **quality** of your learning as demonstrated by your performance on the following:

Video Assignments Discussion Board Postings	25% (250 points)
Genogram Test	10% (100 points)
Genogram and Analytic Autobiography Essay	20% (200 points)
Chapter Tests	30% (300 points)
Final Exam/Models of Family Therapy & Lectures	15% (150 points)
Total possible points = 1,000 points	

Course Grade:	A	B	C	F
	91% - 100%	81% - 90%	71% - 80%	Below 71%

**NOTE:** Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing.

### **LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS**

Note: This course is delivered entirely online. Therefore, all lectures will be posted and available to students from the beginning of the semester, and discussion will occur in forums on Blackboard at the designated times in this syllabus. A Questions & Concerns forum will remain active throughout the course.

Lectures will incorporate text and power point presentations including the following topics: course overview; introduction to family counseling; individual and family life cycles; healthy and dysfunctional families; working with culturally diverse families; working with single-parent families; working with blended families; history of family therapy; the process of family therapy; couple and marriage therapy and enrichment; psychodynamic and Bowen family therapies; experiential family therapy; behavioral and cognitive-behavioral family therapies; structural family therapy; strategic family therapies; solution-focused and narrative family therapies; ethical, legal, and professional issues in family therapy; working with substance-related disorders, domestic violence, and child abuse; research and assessment in family therapy. Discussions and lectures on the Blackboard course site include the following topics: Introduction to the course; examining your family; differentiating between the major family theories; nontraditional families; APA style in professional writing; Video Assignments (theoretical context; culturally diverse families; the process of family therapy; couple and marriage therapy; psychodynamic family therapy; Bowen family therapy; cognitive and cognitive-behavioral family therapy; structural family therapy; strategic family therapy; narrative family therapy); clarifying triangulation; example of paradox; lying and confrontation in family therapy; reporting abuse/neglect; discussions of physical intimacy in family therapy; genograms and analytical autobiography.

**SCHEDULE/DUE DATES:**

Complete all assignments prior to the deadlines as noted below. Deadlines are **no later than midnight Central Time** on the date indicated. **You are encouraged to work ahead and submit early.** It is best to take the Chapter Tests after you read each chapter. These are the due dates. **No late assignments will be accepted.** (Do not ask the instructor to extend a deadline or to accept a late assignment.)

August 24, 2020	Semester begins!
August 26, 2020	“Online Participation Policy” posting due on the Discussion Board
August 27, 2020	“Introduce Yourself” on the Discussion Board due
August 28, 2020	Email instructor your contact information at <a href="mailto:tolive@sulross.edu">tolive@sulross.edu</a> Please include your phone number and whether you can receive text messages.
August 31, 2020	Chapter 1 Test (History of Family Therapy: Evolution and Revolution) must be submitted by midnight Central Time.
September 2, 2020	Chapter 2 Test (Theoretical Context of Family Therapy) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
September 4, 2020	<i>Video Assignment #1</i> (Theoretical Context) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
September 5, 2020	Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #1 forum due
September 7, 2020	Labor Day Holiday
September 8, 2020	Chapter 3 Test (Types and Functions of Families) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
September 10, 2020	Chapter 4 Test (Working with Single-Parent and Blended Families) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
September 13, 2020	Chapter 5 Test (Working with Culturally Diverse Families) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
September 14, 2020	<i>Video Assignment #2</i> (Culturally Diverse Families) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
September 15, 2020	Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #2 forum due
September 18, 2020	Chapter 6 Test (Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
September 19, 2020	Reminder: Have you responded to all of the posts on the “Important Information from Dr. Olive” Discussion Board forum? This is a participation requirement for this course.



- September 21, 2020 Chapter 7 Test (The Process of Family Therapy) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
- September 22, 2020 *Video Assignment #3* (The Process of Family Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
- September 23, 2020 Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #3 forum due
- September 26, 2020 Chapter 8 Test (Couple and Marriage Therapy and Enrichment) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
- September 27, 2020 *Video Assignment #4* (Couple and Marriage Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
- September 28, 2020 Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #4 forum due
- October 1, 2020 Chapter 9 Test (Transgenerational Theories: Psychodynamic and Bowen Family Therapies) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
- October 2, 2020 *Video Assignment #5* (Psychodynamic Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
- October 3, 2020 Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #5 forum due
- October 4, 2020 *Video Assignment #6* (Bowen Family Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
- October 5, 2020 Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #6 forum due
- October 6, 2020 Reminder: Have you responded to all of the posts on the "Important Information from Dr. Olive" Discussion Board forum? This is a participation requirement for this course.
- October 10, 2020 Genogram Test submitted by midnight on Blackboard
- October 18, 2020 Genogram Essay and Analytic Autobiography due (see Syllabus and Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
- October 20, 2020 Chapter 10 Test (Experiential Family Therapy) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
- October 23, 2020 Chapter 11 Test (Behavioral and Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapies) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
- October 24, 2020 *Video Assignment #7* (Behavioral and Cognitive-Behavioral Family Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
- October 25, 2020 Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #7 forum due

October 27, 2020	Chapter 12 Test (Structural Family Therapy) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
October 28, 2020	<i>Video Assignment #8</i> (Structural Family Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
October 29, 2020	Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #8 forum due
November 1, 2020	Chapter 13 Test (Strategic Family Therapies) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
November 2, 2020	<i>Video Assignment #9</i> (Strategic Family Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
November 3, 2020	Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #9 forum due
November 6, 2020	Chapter 14 Test (Solution-Focused Brief Therapy and Narrative Therapy) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
November 7, 2020	<i>Video Assignment #10</i> (Solution-Focused Family Therapy) post on Discussion Board due (see Assignments on Blackboard for instructions)
November 8, 2020	Response posted to at least one other student on the Video Assignment #10 forum due
November 9, 2020	Reminder: Have you responded to all of the posts on the "Important Information from Dr. Olive" Discussion Board forum? This is a participation requirement for this course.
November 11, 2020	Chapter 15 Test (Working with Substance-Related Disorders, Domestic Violence, and Child Abuse) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
November 13, 2020	Last day to drop the course with a grade of "W"
November 14, 2020	Chapter 16 Test (Research and Assessment in Family Therapy) must be submitted by midnight Central Time
November 18, 2020	Final Exam--submitted on Blackboard by midnight Central Time (covers Appendix "Models of Family Therapy" pp. 405-410 in your textbook and the Lectures on Blackboard) See details in this syllabus and on Assignments in Blackboard.
November 23, 2020	Check to be certain you have read all posts on the "Important Information from Dr. Olive" Discussion Board forum and all feedback on assignments by this date, as the course will end.
Nov. 25-27, 2020	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 9, 2020	End of semester
December 10, 2020	Grades due for graduating students

December 11, 2020 Commencement

December 14, 2020 Grades due for continuing students

**WRITING RUBRIC FOR ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

<b>Sub-skill</b>	<b>Beginning</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Basic</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Proficient</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Advanced</b> <b>4</b>	<b>Exceptional</b> <b>5</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Integration of Knowledge</b>	The paper did not incorporate knowledge from the literature or class in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper somewhat incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper effectively incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	The paper very effectively incorporated knowledge from the literature in relevant and meaningful ways	
<b>Organization and Presentation</b>	The paper lacked topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper occasionally included topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper consistently included topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper consistently and effectively employed topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	The paper uniformly and very effectively employed topic sentences, transitions from one topic to another, relevant connections among topics, and a seamless flow	
<b>Focus</b>	The paper's topic lacked focus and a clear direction	The paper's topic had occasional focus, direction, and purpose	The paper's topic had focus and clarity of direction and purpose	The paper's topic had effective focus and clarity of direction and purpose	The paper's topic had very effective focus and clarity of direction and purpose	
<b>Level of Coverage</b>	The paper lacked depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper occasionally included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper effectively included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	The paper very effectively included depth, elaboration, and relevant material	



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**Questions to Use in a Genogram Interview (in order to draw your Genogram)**

(Source: Thomas, M. (1992). *An introduction to marital and family therapy*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.)

1. Can you tell me the names and ages of the family members for at least three generations on both sides of the family who are presently living?
2. When were these individuals born, married, separated, or divorced? Give specific dates including day and year, if possible.
3. Who has passed away in the family? Of what? When were they born, married, separated, or divorced?
4. What jobs did family members hold?
5. What were the educational levels of family members?
6. What were the ethnic/cultural and religious backgrounds of family members? How have these traditions been passed on in the family?
7. Where did family members live? In what city and state? When and where did they move? For what reason?
8. How did people get along in the family? Who was close to whom? Did anyone not speak to another family member? What happened in these cases?
9. Which family members were very successful at what they did?
10. Which family members used alcohol or drugs, were arrested, had mental problems, committed suicide or had other serious problems?
11. What illnesses are found in the family? How did family members cope with them?
12. Can you tell me any special life events that happened—positive, neutral, or negative?
13. Are there any stories which have been passed down through the generations in your family?
14. Are there any family themes which seem to repeat in your family?
15. As an elder of the family, is there any advice that you would give to me as a younger member of the family?

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**Questions to Answer in Writing an Analysis of a Genogram (for Part 1 of your “Genogram Essay and Analytic Autobiography” Assignment)**

(Source: Thomas, M. (1992). *An introduction to marital and family therapy*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.)

1. How healthy were family members in your genogram? What were the most common health problems on each side of your family and in your family of origin? What did family members do to prevent or treat such problems?

2. What type(s) of family structure (i.e., single parent, nuclear, remarried) were repeated in the genogram?
3. What family themes have been carried down through the generations?
4. What occupations occur most frequently in your family?
5. What life events have affected family functioning throughout the generations of your family?
6. Where are triangles present in your genogram? Where are relationships close, distant, conflicted, or fused? Where are there emotional cut-offs?
7. What patterns are repeated, such as educational or work success, religious commitment, alcohol or drug use, or other behaviors?
8. How large were the families in your genogram? Do some families stand out as larger or smaller when looking at the genogram? What stresses might have occurred due to family size or family imbalance?
9. Since you are a dynamic, active organism according to systems theory, what could you do to change any patterns that disturb you? What would you like to pass on to your children if are a parent or if you were to become a parent?