**INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT**

**EXPECTATION:** Students will complete a five-part process that will last the duration of the course. The final phase of the process will comprise of 15% of the final mark. Each phase employs a step in the research process.

**RATIONALE:** The five-part process allows students to critically investigate a topic relevant to the study of the family as well developing the skills necessary to engage in the research process.

**PROCESS:**

Students will complete a five-stage process beginning of the formation of a research question proposal. In this stage, each student selects a topic, forms a research questions and proceeds to write a research proposal which will outline the hypothesis, preliminary research, possible research methods and potential limitations to research methods. In the second phase, student will do in-depth research that provides support for the hypothesis. This information will be used to construct the literature review. The third phase involves conducting primary research. Each student will need to devise a research method with to gather necessary information that will either support or reject the hypothesis. In the fourth phase, each student will have an opportunity to present their research and findings in a seminar presentation format. The final phase is the submission of the report. The report contains the elements from the previous stages as well as making conclusions based on the research findings. Hence, evaluation of each phase is interdependent on the completion of the previous phases.

 

Phase one and two will be completed as written submissions. Each will employ the use of paragraphs and complete sentences and include a ‘References’ page in APA style. Phase three will involve the creation of a research tool in order to collect data; the research tool will be assessed by the instructor. This phase will also include the collected data that will be used to evaluate the hypothesis. In phase four, each student will be scheduled to conduct a professional seminar that will outline the study and the research findings. In the final phase, each student will submit a professional thesis report that will provide a detailed account of the elements of phases two to four. Specific criteria for each will be provided at the time of its introduction.

**CRITERIA:**



Each phase of the research processed will be evaluation using a specific assessment tool. Details of each assessment tool will be presented as each phase is introduced.

**ASSESSMENT:**

