**Essay Answer: Answer all 4 questions below. Be sure to read the questions carefully and answer each component of the question fully. My expectation is that each question will likely take between 1 to 2 double-spaced pages (with 12pt Times New Roman Font and 1 inch margins) to address. Answers to all questions must be submitted on ReggieNet by Friday, June 26th at 11:55 p.m. (CDT)**

1. **points each – 100 points total)**
2. A friend tells you that they are considering having children but are worried about when would be the best time to have a child, and are utterly confused by all of the changing fads they have read about in popular parenting books / magazines. Given you are currently in a course on families and parenting, they ask you what your suggestions are for a. timing of births, b. promoting positive development of children through parenting, and c. disciplining children who misbehave. What advice would you give your friend? Be sure to address all three areas your friend brought up and use course information to justify your answers.
3. A friend comes to you because they are constantly getting in fights with their significant other that are stressing them out and putting significant strains on their relationship. Your friend knows they should “communicate better” but wants to know what that even means, what does good communication look like? How does it happen? What advice could you give your friend to help improve their approach to dealing with conflict, stress, and communication? If this same friend later came to you and disclosed that their conflicts with their significant other had become violent, how would your advice change? Use course readings and concepts to justify your answers.
4. Imagine you are a therapist of a client who recently divorced their spouse, and is now considering marrying a new boyfriend who also has children from a previous relationship. They are worried about the effects their previous divorce and impending remarriage might have on their two children, an 8 year old girl, and an 11 year old boy. What advice would you give your client regarding how divorce effects children, and what they could do to ensure they maintain their family’s health and wellbeing in both the short and long-term? What challenges should they anticipate possibly experiencing should they marry their new sweetheart? And, what could they do to help increase the likelihood that they have a stable marriage and more positive / satisfying experiences as a stepfamily? Be sure to clearly connect your advice to course readings and concepts.
5. What would you consider to be the key criteria for having aged successfully? Reflecting on course concepts discussed throughout the semester, but also in the week on Aging and Multigenerational families in particular, how would you evaluate that you had lived well? Be sure to clearly connect your criteria to course readings / concepts.