**Chapter 1: The Field of Family Social Work**

* Family social work is more concrete and strength based than family therapy. Pg. 3
* Advantages of family social work: Home based services are accessible to a wide range of clients, appointment no-shows are improved, all family members are more engaged, and intervention is more likely to occur as it occurs in the family’s natural environment. Pg. 3
* Disadvantages of family social work: Worker can lose control in the home, traveling to a family can be more expensive because of travel costs. Pg. 4
* Family-centered work emphasizes the importance of understanding people’s behaviour within its natural context. Pg. 15
* Crisis intervention provides on-the-spot immediate intervention. The goal is to resolve the crisis and focus on appropriate coping skills. It is effective with a variety of problems. Any crisis related problems need to be addressed before other work can be done with families. Pg. 16
* The ecological perspective explores environmental factors. It can be viewed as exploring individuals, families, cultures, communities, policies etc. and the interactions between these systems. Pg. 18
* Family therapy and family social work have its own distinct uses and are both quite different. While family therapy is often done in an office based setting family social workers often work with families within the family’s home. Family social work is often considered to be more concrete then family therapy and works on issues as they transpire within the home. Ch. 1

***Suggested Activity:***

Exercise 1.1 Parenting Skills Pg. 5

Do you think that parenting is instinctual? Make a list of parenting skills that you think are important. How do parents learn these skills? What skills do you think parents often lack when dealing with their children? Make a list of things that impede the acquisition of parenting skills. How can parents develop these skills? Discuss in class.

***Discussion Questions:***

The choice of using family therapy versus family social work maybe dependent on the problem that the family faces. What examples might you recommend the use of family social work over family therapy and for what reasons?

Describe key concepts of family systems theory and how you would use it in your practice.