



Marriage Relationships, SOC 222
Spring 2018 (NSH 106)
MWF 11-11:50

Instructor: Arfa Aflatooni, PhD.
Office SSH 105
Office Hours: Weekdays 10-11
or Appointment

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My LBCC webpage:

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Course Description

This course examines the state of marriage and family in the United States and the world. The course focuses on gender roles, trends and patterns in relationships, and how relationships are formed and challenges to them (children, abuse, divorce, etc.). We will learn how to apply sociological concepts and perspectives to modern marital issues.

Course Objectives

- Understand the formation and evolution of relationships in the US and the world
- The structural positions of men and women both in the family and the larger society
- The problems and conflicts within the family today.
- To enhance understanding of communication in relationships

Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this class is **Soc 204**. However, I normally waive that for students who have taken other sociology or psychology classes at LB or other higher educational institutions. I also highly recommend that students take **Writing 115** and **Reading 120** before taking or in conjunction with this class.

Required Book

M & F (Marriage and Family) 4th edition, by David Knox. Published by Cengage Learning.

Tests and Pop Quizzes

There will be three in-class exams for this class. **The three Exams are not cumulative.** The test questions will be composed of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. There will also be unannounced quizzes which will be given to you at the discretion of the instructor.

Weekly Internet Exercises

There will be **9 Internet exercises** that you will have to do for this class. I have attached a list of websites that you will use to complete these exercises. Each

exercise is designed to familiarize you with a topic and resources available to address it. When you examine the topic and the site, you will need to jot down the information you have gathered from the site and then write a **one or two page report (typed)** on what you have found. There is usually a question(s) that I have included after the site's address which you can use as a starting point for your report. **You have to print out your own report and turn it in each week (Friday)**

Final Grade Breakdown

Tests: 60%

Weekly Internet Exercises: 30%

Class participation and pop quizzes: 10%

Grading Scale

A= 90-100 %

B= 80-89 %

C= 70-79 %

D= 60-69%

F=below 59 %

Classroom Environment and Policies

(1) Come to class prepared to discuss, having finished all reading assignments.

(2) Keep notes of your reactions to works as you read. Be prepared to share these reactions when called upon.

(3) Pick a passage from the reading assignment you find particularly significant and be prepared to share it with the class.

(4) Come armed with questions. We learn by thinking critically, questioning, and getting involved.

(5) You have a responsibility to yourself, to me, and to your colleagues to be active learners. This class is not just about individual participation. It is a shared experience of inquiry. You are learning how to learn and how to be an active thinker.

(6). **Be cordial towards and respectful of your fellow students and their opinions. Do not talk or giggle when class is in session. Do not bring food and beverages to class and be on time. Please turn off all electronics (cell phones) before class unless you intend to use them for educational purposes**

(7). **Missed exams will be counted as zeros except for extraordinary circumstances. Acceptable reasons for missing an exam would include health problems, a death in the family, etc. Please note that the arrangements should be made with me before the exam. Also, those students who turn their assignments late will receive partial credit for their assignments. Make up exams are taken at Student Assessment Center RCH-111.**

(8) Class policy on plagiarism: Students who use someone else's work as their own or copy information or ideas from outside sources without proper citations will receive an "F" for their work. Bibliographies and in-text citations are required whenever you use outside sources, including the Internet. Do Your Own Work!

(9) Students who have some type of disability or medical condition that will require them to take their tests at the **Center For Accessibility Resources** (541-917-4789) should contact me at the beginning of the term (the first week) and provide documentation from the CFAR so that I can make the appropriate arrangements with the CFAR to take their tests there.

(10) In a class of this nature, interaction and participation are very important. If you do not follow through with your end of the bargain (i.e., attending class, participating in discussions, keeping up with the reading) it is unlikely our experience together will be completely successful.

(11) **Have a pen and pencil and notepad along with your textbook in class at all times. These are the tools of your trade as a student. Do not expect me to provide you with them!**

(12) **One more point of emphasis:** the syllabus for the course should be understood as a contract between us and I reserve the right to dismiss students from the class who do not uphold the provisions of it.

Course outline

Week 1

Chapter 1: Exploring Marriages and Families Today

Week 2

Chapters 2: Making Choices about Singlehood, Hooking Up, Cohabitation and Living Apart Together

Week 3

Chapter 3: Gender in Relationships

Chapter 4: Examining Love and Relationship Development

Test # 1 April 23

Week 4

Chapter 5: Integrating Technology and Communication in Relationships

Week 5

Chapters 6 and 7: Enhancing Sexuality in Relationships and Examining GLBTQIA Relationships

Week 6

Chapters 8 and 9: Exploring Diversity in Marriage Relationships and Integrating Work and Relationships

Test # 2, May 14

Week 7

Chapters 10: Reacting to Abuse in Relationships

Week 8

Chapters 11 and 12: Deciding about Children and Rearing Children

Week 9

Chapter 13, : Managing Stress and Crisis in Relationships,

Week 10

Chapters 14 and 15: Coping With Divorce and Getting Remarried, and Enjoying Later years

Final Test : Monday June 11 at 10 am

Marriage Relationships

Soc 222

Weekly Reports: You will have to turn in one each week (Friday)

Complete NINE of the following Internet Exercises

Week 1

Families and Living Arrangements

[American Families Census](#)

Review recent data (2016) of family and living arrangements in the United States.

Write a summary of the data.

OR

Match.com and eharmony.com

<http://www.match.com>

<http://www.eharmony.com>

Identify/evaluate these commercial dating services. What kind of information is requested to participate? What sociological theory can be applied to this type of dating? What do people advertise about themselves in order to find romance?

Week 2

Living Single

<http://www.singlesorganizations.com/>

Do you think it is true what they say about the way singles are often portrayed in the media? Are single people discriminated in our society? What are the issues that concern single people?

OR

Intersex Society of North America

<http://www.isna.org/>

Read their position on surgery for intersex infants. What are some of issues this organization addresses? What is your position on surgery for intersex infants?

Week 3.

International Women's Day

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Were you aware of this global effort to raise awareness? Were you aware that women do two-thirds of the world's work but receive only 10% of the income?

Week 4

Absolute Lyrics or Cowboy Lyrics

<http://www.absolutelyrics.com/>

<http://www.cowboylyrics.com/>

You should select 10 songs of interest to you. Then, you conduct a content analysis in regard to the degree to which each song they selected is about the beginning of love, the heart of love, or the end of love/getting over a relationship that has ended.

Why do you think our music industry is preoccupied with this theme (love)?

OR

The Gottman Relationship Institute

<http://www.gottman.com/default.aspx>

What does the Institute offer couples?

Week 5

Communication Skills Test

http://www.queendom.com/tests/access_page/index.htm?idRegTest=683

Take the skills test and review your "Snapshot Report." What did you learn about your communication skills? How can you improve on those?

OR

Listening Effectively

<http://www.drnadig.com/listening.htm>

Consider the guidelines for effective listening. What do you feel is the most important? Do you follow these guidelines?

Week 6

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)

<http://www.colage.org/>

What issues are unique to children growing up with a gay parent?

OR

Smart Marriage

<http://www.smartmarriages.com/index.html>

What is the most useful advice offered for strengthening your marriage?

OR

Loving Day, June 12th—Celebrating Interracial Marriages

<http://www.lovingday.org/>

Were you aware of this event? Read about Loving v. Virginia. What was the importance of this legal ruling? What do think of interracial marriages?

Week 7

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/>

What initiatives have been put in place to combat teen pregnancy?

OR

Never Hit a Child—No Spanking

<http://www.neverhitachild.org>

Review the research and expert opinion on spanking. Compare this to your own (or friends) experience with being spanked as a child.

Week 8

Children and Divorce

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/is-divorce-bad-for-children/>

Read this article and comment on it.

OR

Collaborative Divorce

<http://www.collaborativepractice.com>

How useful do you think such an approach can be in resolving conflict? What is a collaborative divorce?

OR

Second Wives

<http://secondwivescafe.com/>

How are second wives disadvantaged? Read one of the posts on this site and write down your own reflections on it.

Week 9

End of Life Issues—Medline

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/endoflifeissues.html>

What are some of the most important end-of-life issues to be aware of? How one should plan their end of life based on the information provided on this site?

OR

Assisted Suicide

<http://www.assistedsuicide.org/>

After reading the various stories, discuss your thoughts on this issue.