



## **Marriage Relationships, SOC 222**

Winter 2013

MWF 10-11

Instructor: Arfa Aflatooni, PhD

Office SSH 105

Office Hours: MWF 12-1, TTH  
12:30 -1:30

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### **Course Description**

This course examines the modern family. The goal of the course is to look at the unique position in which the family occupies within the larger society and cross-culturally. We address issues such as (a) the relationships between the family and other social institutions, (b) the evolution of the family institution in modern society; (C) the structural positions of men and women both in the family and the larger society, and (D) the problems and conflicts that the family is faced with today. To do so, we will examine the theories and the pertinent literature in the study of the family. I strongly encourage student participation in class discussions.

### **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.

### **Book**

Required textbook for the course is **Marriages & Families by Jenifer Kunz 2013, published by Pearson Higher Education**. There is also a companion website created by the publisher that can be accessed by students. The site has many useful features including the summaries of chapters as well as questions. Use the website as often as possible.

<http://thethinkspot.com/marriages-and-families-2013>

### **Tests and Grading**

**There will be three one-hour 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.

### **Short Weekly Reports from *mysearchlab.com***

There is an access code to **mysearchlab** website that comes with your textbook if you purchased the book from the LBCC bookstore. If you decide not to buy the book from the bookstore, then you have to buy the access code directly from the publisher of the book. Please register and log in **mysearchlab** as soon as you

can. Once you are in **mysearchlab**, click on **mysearchlab** and then find **mysoclibrary** and click on that. Scroll down on that page until you get to the topic of marriage and family and you will find the articles for your weekly reports there..

Each week you are required to turn in a short report (two pages) on one of the assigned articles for that week. Read the article thoroughly and then do the following:

1. Write a short summary of the article
2. Using the discussion questions at the end each article, critique the author's view point (where you agree or disagree with)

The reports are due each week on **Friday**. Points will be deducted if you turn your reports in late. All your reports should be typed.

### **Final Grade Breakdown**

**Tests: 50%**

**Weekly Reports: 45%**

**Class activities: 5%**

### **Limited Use of Email**

This is **not** an online class and therefore I expect that most of our communications will take place in person and in class. On **rare occasions** where you are out of town or very ill and need to communicate with me, you can send a short message or email your work to me.

### **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. Out of respect for your classmates and me, no cell phones, BlackBerry Devices, iPods, iPads, or MP3 players are allowed in class. Please turn off all electronics before class.**
- (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 Office of Disability Services (541-917-4789) should contact me at the beginning of the term (the first week) and provide documentation from the Office of Disability so that I can make the appropriate arrangements with the ODS 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.

**Course outline**

**Week 1**

Definitions of Marriage and Family  
Families of the past and present  
Trends Affecting the Family  
Theoretical Approaches to Family Study

**Chapters 1 and 2 in M & F**

**Week 2**

Patterns of Communication  
Developing Good Communication skills  
Conflict Resolution

**Chapter 3 in M & F**

**Week 3**

Gender Roles in Relationships  
Changing Male and Female Roles  
Toward more Gender Equity

**Chapter 4 in M & F**

**Test 1 Jan 28**

**Week 4**

Friendship, Affection and Love  
Romantic Love and Marriage  
Theories of Love  
Dark side of Love

**Chapter 5 in M & F**

**Week 5**

Mate selection Process  
Theories of Mate selection  
Marital Expectations  
Family Types  
Legal, Religious, and Political Aspects

**Chapters 7, 9, 12 in M & F**

**Week 6**

Childless Families  
Transition to Parenthood  
Parenting Styles  
Adoption  
Work and Parenting

**Chapters 8 and 11 in M & F**

**Test 2 Feb 20**

**Week 7**

Family Violence and abuse  
Types of Violence and Abuse  
Theories of Family Violence

**Chapter 13 in M and F**

**Week 8**

Separation and Divorce  
Causes of Divorce  
Effects of Divorce  
Legal Aspects of Divorce

**Chapter 14 in M and F**

**Week 9**

Remarriage and its challenges  
Stepfamilies and Their Challenges  
Single-Parent Families

**Chapter 15 in M & F**

**Week 10**

Aging and its Effects on Family  
Future of the American Family

**Chapters 10 and 16 in M and F**

**Final Exam: March 20 at 8 am**

**List of articles for your weekly reports from *mysearchlab.com*:**

Week 1: The Way We Weren't: The Myth and Reality of the "Traditional" Family Or How History and Sociology Can Help Today's Families

Week 2: What Is Marriage For? Or Exiles from Kinship

Week 3: Caring for Our Young: Child Care in Europe and the United States Or If the French Can Do It, Why Can't We?

Week 4: Egalitarian Daters/Traditionalist Dates Or Mate Selection and Marriage Around the World

Week 5: Parents' Socialization of Children Or The Nanny Chain

Week 6: Sometimes the Perfect Mate Is Someone You Hardly Know Or The Two Marriages

Week 7: African American Families: A Legacy of Vulnerability and Resilience Or Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America

Week 8: Thinking About the Baby: Gender and Divisions of Infant Care Or Through a Sociological Lens: Social Structure and Family Violence

Week 9: Where's Papa?: Disappearing Dads Are Destroying Our Future Or Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood

title

Topic > **Marriage and Family**

African American Families: A Legacy of Vulnerability and Resilience

Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America

Caring for Our Young: Child Care in Europe and the United States

Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood

Egalitarian Daters/Traditionalist Dates

Exiles from Kinship

How History and Sociology Can Help Today's Families

If the French Can Do It, Why Can't We?

Mate Selection and Marriage Around the World

Parents' Socialization of Children

Sometimes the Perfect Mate Is Someone You Hardly Know

The Nanny Chain

The Two Marriages

The Way We Weren't: The Myth and Reality of the "Traditional" Family

Thinking About the Baby: Gender and Divisions of Infant Care

Through a Sociological Lens: Social Structure and Family Violence

What Is Marriage For?

Where's Papa?: Disappearing Dads Are Destroying Our Future