



Marriage Relationships, SOC 222

Spring 2015

MWF 11-12

Instructor: Arfa Aflatooni, PhD

Office SSH 105

Office Hours: MWF 10-11 and TR
10-11, Or by Appointment

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Course Description

This course examines the modern family. The goal of the course is to look at the unique position the family occupies within the larger society and cross-culturally.

Course Objectives

We address such issues as (a) the relationships between the family and other social institutions, (b) the evolution of the family 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 within the family 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 **Exploring Marriages & Families by Karen Secombe (2nd ed), published by Pearson with the access code to MySocLab. MySocLab** is created by the publisher to enhance your understanding of the chapters and topics covered in the book. Use the website as often as possible. I have attached the registrations instructions for MySocLab to the syllabus.

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 Reading Assignments On MySocLab

There are additional readings that you will be doing each week for this class. I have assigned some articles related to the topics that we cover each week from

MySocLab.com. You will find the titles of these articles on the syllabus for each week. Here's what you have to do after you have read each article:

1. Write down a short summary of the article (half a page)
2. Answer the questions at the end of each article
3. Type your report and email (aflatoa@linnbenton.edu) or hand it to me in class) it to me each week (**on Friday**)

Final Grade Breakdown

Tests: 60%

Weekly Reports: 30%

Class activities and pop quizzes: 10%

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 **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.

Course outline

Week 1

Chapter 1: Why study families and other close relationships?

MySocLab article: *The Way We Weren't: The Myth and Reality of Traditional Family*

Chapter 1

Week 2

Chapter 2: Social Status: Sex, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Social Class

MySocLab article: *Night to His Day: the Social Construction of Gender, or African American Families: A Legacy of Vulnerability and Resistance*

Week 3

Chapter 3: Building Relationships

MySocLab Article: *The Balance of Power in Dating, or Exiles from Kinship*

Midterm # 1 April 20

Week 4

Chapters 4 and 5: Love and Sexuality

MySocLab Article: *Sometimes the Perfect Mate Is Someone You Hardly Know, or Sexual Infidelity Among Married and Cohabitation Americans*

Week 5

Chapter 6: Communication, Conflict, and Power in Our Relationships

MySocLab Article: *Talking Past Each Other: Black and White languages of Race, or Sex and Temperament of Three Tribes*

Week 6

Chapter 7: Marriage

MySoclab Article: *Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriages in America, or Men and Women: Together and Apart in Later Years*

Midterm 2, May 11

Week 7

Parenthood and Raising

Chapters 8, 9 and 10:

MySocLab Article: *Children Thinking about the Baby: Gender Divisions of Infant Care, or Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood, or Caring for Our Young: Child Care in Europe and the United States*

Week 8

Chapters 11: family Stress and Crisis: Violence Among Intimates

MySoclab Article: *Through a Sociological Lens: Social Structure and Family Violence, or Human Rights: Sex Trafficking and Prostitution*

Week 9

Chapter 12: The Process Divorce

MySoclab Article: *A Comparison of Civilian and Enlisted Divorce Rates During the All volunteer Force Era, or Characteristics of Women with Children Who Divorce in Midlife Compared to Those Who Remain Married*

Week 10

Chapters 13 and 14: Remarriage and Relationships in Later Years MySocLab

Article: *Stepfamilies in the United States: A Reconsideration, or Facts and Fictions About an Aging America*

Final Test Schedule by LBCC

If your first weekly class meeting is at this time...	...then this is the day and time of your final exam for that class during Finals Week.		
.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
MWF classes:			
8 or 8:30 a.m.	8-9:50 a.m.	.	.
9 or 9:30 a.m.	10-11:50 a.m.	.	.
10 or 10:30 a.m.	.	.	8-9:50 a.m.
11 or 11:30 a.m.	.	.	10-11:50 a.m.
12 or 12:30 p.m.	1-2:50 p.m.	.	.
1 or 1:30 p.m.	.	.	1-2:50 p.m.
2 or 2:30 p.m.	3-4:50 p.m.	.	.
3 or 3:30 p.m.	.	.	3-4:50 p.m.
TR classes:			
8, 8:30 or 9 a.m.	.	7:30 - 9:20 a.m.	
9:30, 10 or 10:30 a.m.	.	9:30 - 11:20 a.m.	
11, 11:30 a.m. or 12 p.m.	.	12:30 - 2:20 p.m.	
12:30, 1 or 1:30 p.m.	.	2:30 - 4:20 p.m.	
2, 2:30, 3 or 3:30 p.m.	.	4:30 - 6:20 p.m.	

*Any exception to the Final Examination Schedule must be approved by the Academic Affairs Office.