

Richland's Core Values: Commitment, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, and Diversity

SOCIO200: Marriage and Family
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Office Hours: 1:30-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
Fall 2009

“There is no such thing as fun for the whole family.”

--Jerry Seinfeld

YEAR: 2009

DEPARTMENT: Math and Sciences Division

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: Sociology 200: Marriage and Family

CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE PLACEMENT: Freshman or Sophomore

COURSE (CATELOG) DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to examine patterns of dating, courtship, and marriage with consideration given to the relationship between parents, children and other members of the family unit, their culture, and society.

PREREQUISITE: Successful Completion of Sociology 110

COURSE FORMAT: The orientation of this course is primarily lecture/discussion with the lectures explaining and expanding on the information in the text. Videos will be used when appropriate and special lectures will add further insight into the subject matter.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3:15 p.m. in S141

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Gilbert, Kathleen R. (Ed.) *The Family 09/10* (Annual Editions) (2009) ISBN 978-0-07-351637-0
2. Olson, David H., John DeFrain, & Linda Skogrand. *Marriages & Families* (6th edition, 2008) ISBN: 978-0-07-338004-9

GRADING POLICY

1. **IN-CLASS WRITING:** (50 points) There will be a number of in-class writing opportunities. You may miss up to two without penalty. In-class writing can only be made up if your absence is a university approved absence and you notified me ahead of time that you would be absent.
2. **EXAMS:** (200 points) There will be five exams. The first four exams are over a few chapters each. Of these four, your lowest score will be dropped. The fifth exam is a take-home comprehensive exam. Each exam is worth 50 points of your final grade. Each exam may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, or essay. On exam days, after the first student has turned in a completed exam, absolutely no more exams will be distributed. **Make-Up Exams:** If you know ahead of time that you need to miss an exam, then you need to take

the exam ahead of time. All exams must be made up within one week of the exam's original date.

3. ANALYTIC MEMO AND PRESENTATION: (100 points) You will write a 5-8 page memo in which you analytically and sociologically assess a family issue or problem as represented in a film or a novel. You will also present your memo in a 4-7 minute presentation to the class during the last two weeks of the semester.
4. BREAKDOWN OF GRADES:
 - 1) In-Class Writing (50 points)
 - 2) Four Exams (50 points each, lowest score dropped)
 - 3) Final Exam (50 points)
 - 4) Analytic Memo and Presentation (100 points)
5. GRADING SCALE:
 - A 350-315
 - B 314-280
 - C 279-245
 - D 244-210
 - F 209-0

GENERAL POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: I do not take attendance. If you are absent, you are responsible for any information covered in class. I will not make my notes available but will give you any handouts you may have missed.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY: Response to student cheating on exams and papers shall be per school policy with the following instructor options:

- **No credit** given for the plagiarized classroom assignments and tests.
- **Reduced credit** in the form of a lower grade for plagiarized classroom assignments and tests.
- Instructor notifies the **Division's Dean** of the incident.
- Cheating incidents of a serious nature **may result in dropping the student from the course.** If in doubt, **ASK.** Ignorance is not an excuse. If quoting material, any repetition of *three or more words* should be included in quotations and citations should be included.

WITHDRAWALS: A student may drop a course through the last scheduled day for the term prior to the scheduled final exam week. The student must contact the class instructor as part of the drop procedure. A grade of "W" will be recorded for the course dropped.

DISABILITIES: Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or note-taking procedures should contact me as soon as possible so appropriate arrangements can be made.

STUDENT ATHLETES: If you are an athlete at this university and will need to miss class because of athletic commitments during the Fall 2009 semester, you must notify me by August 27 of this fact and provide me in writing from your coach a schedule of the dates of any sports related absences your coach anticipates.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: If, after reading the syllabus, you discover that I have assigned a test or assignment due date for a holy day of your faith, please let me know by August 27.

Furthermore, if you will be missing any class because of holy days this semester, please inform me by August 27 in writing.

GROUND RULES:

1. Do not interrupt your fellow students or myself.

2. We will not accept any discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of fellow students.
3. Remember, just because something does not apply to you, does not make it any less true. Keep an open mind.
4. The Mathematics and Sciences Division **prohibits the usage of cell phones, pagers, and other non-learning electronic equipment in the classroom.** All equipment must be turned off to avoid disturbances to the learning environment. If a student uses these devices during an examination, quiz, or any other graded activity, the instructor reserves the right to issue no credit for these assignments. The instructor needs to approve any exceptions to this policy.
5. I do not allow this class to be recorded (audio or visual) unless you have documentation requiring it to be recorded that you have cleared with me beforehand.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: August 18 and 20

Chapter 1 (Perspectives on Intimate Relationships)

Week 2: August 25 and 27

Chapter 2 (Cultural Diversity: Family Strengths and Challenges)

Article 14 (Two Mommies and a Daddy)

Article 2 (Interracial Families)

Week 3: September 1 and 3

September 1: **No Class** (Farm Progress Show)

Chapter 3 (Understanding Marriage and Family Dynamics)

Article 5 (Pillow Talk)

Article 30 (Love but Don't Touch)

Week 4: September 8 and 10

Chapter 4 (Communication and Intimacy)

*Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)

Week 5: September 15 and 17

Chapter 5 (Conflict and Conflict Resolution)

Week 6: September 22 and 24

Chapter 6 (Sexual Intimacy)

Article 6 (How to Talk about Sex)

Week 7: September 29 and October 1

Chapter 7 (Gender Roles and Power in the Family)

Article 34 (Partners Face Cancer Together)

Week 8: October 6 and 8

Chapter 8 (Managing Economic Resources)

Article 32 (Becoming Financial Grown-Ups)

Article 33 (Making Time for Family Time)

Article 21 (Last Hope in a Weak Economy?)

Week 9: October 15 and 15

*Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)

Chapter 9 (Friendship, Intimacy, and Singlehood)

Article 12 (Free as a Bird and Loving It)

Week 10: October 20 and 22

Chapter 10 (Dating, Mate Selection, and Living Together)

Article 15 (Marriage at First Sight)

Chapter 11 (Marriage: Building a Strong Foundation)

Week 11: October 27 and 29

Chapter 12 (Parenthood: Choices and Challenges)

Article 10 (Breeder Reaction)

Article 20 (When Parents Hover Over Kids' Job Search)

Week 12: November 3 and 5

*Exam 3 (Chapters 9-12)

Chapter 13 (Midlife and Older Couples)

Article 24 (Roles of American Indian Grandparents in Times of Cultural Crisis)

Week 13: November 10 and 12

Chapter 14 (Stress, Abuse, and Family Problems)

Article 26 (Recognizing Domestic Partner Abuse)

Week 14: November 17 and 19

Chapter 15 (Divorce, Single-Parent Families, and Step-Families)

Article 39 (A Divided House)

Article 40 (Civil Wars)

Article 41 (Stepfamily Success Depends on Ingredients)

Week 15: November 24

*Exam 4 (Chapters 13-15)

November 26: **No Class** (Thanksgiving)

Week 16: December 1 and 3

*December 1 Analytic Memo Due

December 3 Hand out Final Exam

Presentations

Week 17: December 8

Presentations

Final Exam is due by 1:50 p.m. Tuesday, December 14

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.