

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2015
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs			
SOCI 3000D: Marriage and Family 3Hrs			
Department of	Sociology	Division of	Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	Janice Bishop LeMelle		
Office Location:	Virtual		
Office Phone:	972.807.0375		
Email Address:	Janice.Bishop-LeMelle@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours:	By appointment		
<u>I will check E-mails and return phone calls M-F prior to 7 PM. I will not respond on weekends.</u>			
Classroom Location:	(Online Course)		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	On line		
Course Catalog Description:	Sociology of Marriage and Family. 3 hours. Interpersonal dynamics of marriage and family life; role and influence of the family as both a powerful primary group and as a social institution in society; current status of families in the United States, including Dallas specifically, plus cross-cultural and historical patterns. Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1510 or equivalent. Advised for students planning sociology graduate work.		
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1510 or equivalent		
Co-requisites:			
Required Text:	Title: Exploring Marriages & Families Author: Karen Seccombe		
Recommended Text and References:			
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview:			
	<p>The goal of this course is to help you learn how to think sociologically about marriage and families. In this course we will practice using our sociological imagination to question taken-for-granted notions of families. We aim to decipher the ways in which identity, power and social position operates in what is considered the most private institution in society. We will begin the course by discussing what family means and addressing what it means to study families sociologically. Throughout the semester we will probe conceptual, theoretical and methodological approaches sociologists have taken to understand families.</p> <p>In this course you will investigate the worth of your social experiences and knowledge regarding marriages and families, no matter how extensive or limited. You will explore conceptual and theoretical precepts regarding the marriages and families historically and contemporarily with three primary goals in this course: 1) Introduce and enhance your ability to think critically from the sociological perspective; 2) Exercise your ability to recognize and distinguish between private and structural issues families face in the U.S. context; 3) Exercise your ability to analyze and explain the issues families face in the urban context; 4) Help you clarify your educational and professional goals.</p>		

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Understand and use sociological concepts and theory in explaining the activities and processes of the family in the U.S. context.
2	Differentiate between societal structures and individual shortcomings in common family processes.
3	Generalize and connect the personal experiences of individuals and the larger social context to understanding marriages and families across social contexts.
4	Identify and define the factors that generate and perpetuate inequalities and problems for families.
5	Recognize and explain group, contextual and cultural variations in family and marriage structures and processes.
6	Assess policies and various means of affecting social change for social issues facing the family and propose solutions to social problems affecting the family.
7	Apply critical thinking skills and social science research techniques to everyday occurrences that impact families.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

Module	TOPICS	DATE	
		BEGIN	DUE
1	Start Here! and Course Introduction	8/24	8/30
2	Ch. 1 Studying Families & Intimate Relationships: Why and How?	8/31	9/6
3	Ch. 2 Social Status, Culture & Socialization	9/7	9/13
4	Ch. 3 Building Relationships	9/14	9/20
5	Ch. 4 Love and Loving Relationships	9/21	9/27
6	Ch. 5 Sexual Behavior and Sexual Relationships	9/28	10/4
7	Ch. 6 Communication, Conflict and Power	10/5	10/11
8	Ch. 7 Marriage & Family: Impacts on Mental and Physical Health	10/12	10/18
9	Ch. 8-9 Families, Children and Marriage	10/19	10/25
10	Ch. 10 The Work of Family	10/26	11/1
11	Ch. 11 Family Stress and Crisis	11/2	11/8
12	Ch. 12-13 Divorce & Uncoupling/ Re-partnering, Re-marrying and Family	11/9	11/15
13	Ch. 14 Families in Middle and Later Life	11/16	11/22
THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 24-30			
14	Ch. 15 Understanding Family from the Sociological Perspective	11/30	12/4
15	*** FINAL EXAM *** (please see schedule available online)	DUE 12/11 11:59 PM	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – *written assessment designed to measure knowledge of presented course material*

Activities – *assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material*

Participation – *engagement in discussions, activities & materials in a substantive & timely manner*

Assignments – *written and oral activities designed to create critical engagement with course material*

Quizzes

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Module Learning Activities	Varied (see module guides)	20%
Participation		20%
Exams		20%
Assignments		20%
Final Exam		20%
Total:		100%

Grade Determination:

- A = 90% or better
- B = 80 – 89 %
- C = 70 – 79 %
- D = 60 – 69 %
- F = less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and

must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at

http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. .

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e.,

posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/registrar> for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online “Netiquette:

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untDallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Requirements: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements>
- https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student/040_Browser_Support_for_SP_13
- https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html