

University of North Texas at Dallas

Spring 2012

SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs			
SOCI 3000D: Marriage and Family 3Hrs			
Department of	Sociology	Division of	Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	Baranda Sawyers		
Office Location:	Dallas 2, 325		
Office Phone:	972-338-1379		
Email Address:	baranda.sawyers@unt.edu		
Office Hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays: 1 PM – 2 PM Mondays & Wednesdays: 10 AM – 11 AM		
Classroom Location:	Dallas 2, 101		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Monday & Wednesday 1:00 PM – 2:20 PM		
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 plus cross-cultural and historical patterns. Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1510 or equivalent. Advised for students planning sociology graduate work.		
Prerequisites:			
Co-requisites:			
Required Text:	Title: Exploring Marriages & Families Author: Karen Secombe		
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 families and marriage. In this course we will learn how to use our sociological imagination to understand our everyday life and larger social phenomena. By questioning 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) 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.

CLASS	TOPICS	DATE
1	Course Overview & Introductions	8/29
2	Course Assignments & College Resources	9/5
3	Defining Families: What is a family?	9/10
4	Studying Families & Intimate Relationships: Why and How?	9/12
5	Studying Families & Intimate Relationships: Why and How?	9/17
6	Social Status, Culture & Socialization: Sex & Gender	9/19
7	Social Status, Culture & Socialization: Race & Ethnicity	9/24
8	Social Status, Culture & Socialization: Social Class	9/26
9	Building Relationships: Friendships & Singlehood	10/1
10	Building Relationships: Dating, Courting and Mate Selection	10/3
12	Building Relationships: Cohabitation & Commitments	10/8
13	Love and Loving Relationships: Relationships and Love	10/10
14	Love and Loving Relationships: Society and Love	10/15
15	Sexual Behavior and Family	10/17
16	Sexual Relationships and Identity	10/22
17	Communication, Conflict and Power in our Relationships	10/24
18	Marriage, Social Structure and Commitment: Changes Over Time	10/29
19	Marriage: Impacts on Mental and Physical Health	10/31
20	Families, Children and Marriage	11/5
21	Work and Family	11/7
22	Family Stress and Crisis: Intimate Partner Violence	11/12
23	Family Stress and Crisis: Child & Elder Abuse	11/14
24	Divorce & Uncoupling	11/19
25	Divorce & Uncoupling	11/21
POLICY MEMO DUE ONLINE BY 11:59 PM		
THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOVEMBER 22-25		
26	Re-partnering, Re-marrying and Family	11/26
27	Families in Middle and Later Life	11/28
28	Student Presentations	12/3
29	Student Presentations	12/5
30	Student Presentations	12/10
31	*** FINAL EXAM *** (please see schedule available online)	12/12

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Rubrics will be given for all course instruments except **class participation and quizzes**.

Exam – written assessment designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

Activities – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

Presentation – assignment designed to measure ability to apply and explain course material

Class Participation – daily attendance and engagement in class discussions

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

Quizzes – written assessments given without notice to measure student preparedness for exams

Policy Memo – written assessment designed to evaluate comprehension and mastery of course material

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
In-Class Learning Activities	7 activities at 10 points each	70
Reading Leader Assignments	4 assignments at 15 points each	60
Quizzes	4 quizzes at 20 points each	80
Presentation	35 points total	35
Policy Memo	80 points total	80
Class Participation/ Engagement	25 points total	25
Final Exam	50 points total	50
Total:		400

Grade Determination:

A = 400 – 360 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 320 – 359 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 280 – 319 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 240 – 279 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 239 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

Instructor Policies and Procedures

Email:

In **ALL** emails please put the course number and section number as the **subject heading (SOCI 3000D.090)** or else your message may not be read. **I expect you to write your emails properly.** In other words, please address me properly, use complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar, and make sure your name is at the end of the email or I will NOT respond. Please use your name and my name in all emails. For example, I will not respond to emails that address me as “Hey,” or “Yo,” and/or that are signed off without a name or as “Peace,” or “get back.” If you email me and have not heard a response within a 36 hour time frame, I would suggest you re-read your message to see if you are missing any of these requirements.

If I have not responded to your specific email message within 36 hours, before you send me multiple messages please first check the Blackboard Learn site for an announcement or email message addressed to the entire class. Sometimes several students had similar concerns and it was more effective to send everyone a note to ensure clarity for ALL. Remember that you are not my only student and your class is not the only one I teach so it may take me an entire day before I can get to your email. Leaving numerous messages will not speed up the process. Messages sent via email can often “sound” very differently than they would if you were talking to someone in person. **Therefore, it is important to write emails properly and in a professional manner to avoid confusing, frustrating or inappropriate situations.**

Using email accounts outside of Blackboard Learn or your UNT account increases risks that you may not receive all communications as a result of spam blockers and policy regulations. **I also cannot communicate information about your grades and other information covered under FERPA policies outside of your Blackboard Learn account.**

Assignment Policy:

As a consequence of the format for of each class session and the exams for this course section, there are no make-up exams or assignments. **YOU** are responsible for all announcements made in class, all information relayed during lecture, all discussions in class, all notes, and all videos viewed in class. **I DO NOT** provide notes for students; it is in your best interest to share notes or ask other students to help you if you are absent.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed.

University Policies and Procedures**Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. 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 the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received,
nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that
violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance 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 class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible for coordinating arrangements with a class colleague to obtain a copy of the class session information, including notes & activities, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. 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 Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.