

The University of Tennessee at Martin
Department of Behavioral Sciences

SOCIOLOGY 308: MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY
Fall 2015: SECTION 001

Instructor: Justin A. Martin, Ph.D.
Office: Sociology Bldg. Rm. 117
Telephone: 731-881-7519
E-mail: jmart140@utm.edu

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri.: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Tues., Thurs.: 9:00am – 11:00am
Other times by appointment

Catalog Description:

The relationships of the family structure to social organization. Particular emphasis focused on the family historically, mate selection, marital adjustment, marital happiness and divorce in a changing society.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course...

...students will be able to define issues related to marriage and the family from various sociological perspectives.

...students will be able to apply course knowledge to creatively and critically examine issues related to marriage, relationships and the family.

...students will be able to link course materials with their own and other peoples' personal experiences.

...students will be able to empathize with others and recognize commonalities in the human condition.

...students will be able to locate and evaluate sources of information relevant to course materials.

Grading Criteria:

Your grade for this course will be determined based on the following criteria:

Participation	50 points
Discussion prep sheets	80 points
Assessments (Three exams)	300 points total
Term paper	<u>100 points total</u>
	520 total points

Students who earn 90% or more of the points will earn an “A.”

Students who earn 80% to 89% of the points will earn a “B.”

Students who earn 70% to 79% of the points will earn a “C.”

Students who earn 60% to 69% of the points will earn a “D.”

Students who earn less than 60% of the points will earn an “F.”

Attendance & Participation:

This is an interactive course. I will be lecturing – some. Most of the course is comprised of discussions – both small group discussions & full class discussions – and in-class exercises. You are expected to attend each class meeting, and I will take attendance each time. I realize, however, that adults have responsibilities which will from time to time cause them to miss class. Therefore, I will allow three (3) missed classes for any reason before absenteeism will negatively affect your attendance grade. Excuse of an absence is at the instructor’s discretion and may require documentation. Any exercise completed in class will count toward your participation grade. However, if you are not present for an exercise, you will forfeit the ability to earn those points.

Assessments:

Exams: There will be three (3) take-home exams. Further information regarding these exams will be announced in class.

Discussion prep sheets: For each of the nine (9) days that there is an assigned reading posted to Blackboard you will read the assigned reading and prepare a set of questions/outside connections based on the. These readings will be discussed in class, and, in order to facilitate the discussion, it is expected that you will have read the assignment and prepared at least one discussion question. Although the readings will be discussed in class as a group, you will be assessed on your individual performance, preparation, and participation. **Prep sheets are due on the day of the scheduled discussion.** Late prep sheets will **NOT** be accepted. You are required to complete eight (8) of the nine (9) assigned prep sheets. You may complete all nine for ten (10) points as extra credit. Prep sheets will be submitted on Blackboard, should be approximately one page in length, and pose one discussion question that can be shared with the group.

Term paper: A term paper will be assigned with appropriate length, number of references required, and a general topic near the beginning of the term. The term paper will be due per the course schedule.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:

Students who have a disability that requires accommodation(s) should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services at (731) 881-1689 to discuss their specific needs.

Acknowledging Differences:

During the semester, students will have the opportunity to share thoughts, opinions, and beliefs about their life experiences. The differences in these perspectives that each student brings to the discussion will add to the richness of the course. Students should communicate in ways that acknowledge and respect such differences. While it is natural and expected that many of us will have differing opinions, we must always respect our fellow students in the class and the opinions they hold. I expect and encourage students to be critical of each other's ideas, but it is unacceptable to be dismissive or and/or combative with other students in the class.

Classroom Decorum:

I have an obligation to maintain a classroom environment that allows students to learn to the best of their abilities. While I encourage students to ask questions and make comments in class, I will not tolerate or permit behavior that is disruptive, distracting, or demeaning. If you cell phone must be on for medical, child care, or other reasons, please set it to silent or vibrate. Students disrupting classroom decorum will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Ethical Conduct:

By virtue of your enrollment at the University of Tennessee, you agree to abide by the standards of conduct as outlined in the following statement:

As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.

Instances of academic dishonesty will be turned over to the Office of Student Conduct.

Required Course Materials:

Seccombe, Karen. 2014. *Exploring Marriages & Families*, 2nd Ed. New York: Pearson.

Additional readings on Blackboard

Tentative COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.)

TOPICS & READINGS

Week	Dates	Material	
1	25-Aug	Introduction	Ch. 1
	27-Aug		
2	1-Sep	Social Status	Ch. 2
	3-Sep		
3	8-Sep	Relationships	Ch. 3
	10-Sep	Reading 1	
4	15-Sep	Love	Ch. 4
	17-Sep	Reading 2	
5	22-Sep	Identity & Behavior	Ch. 5
	24-Sep	Exam 1	
6	29-Sep	Communication & power	Ch. 6
	1-Oct	Reading 3	
7	6-Oct	Marriage	Ch. 7
	8-Oct	Reading 4	
8	13-Oct	Parenthood	Ch. 8
	15-Oct	Reading 5	
9	20-Oct	Fall Break	
	22-Oct	Raising kiddos	Ch. 9
10	27-Oct	Reading 6	
	29-Oct	Work & Families	Ch. 10
11	3-Nov	Exam 2	
	5-Nov	Reading 7	
12	10-Nov	Violence	Ch. 11
	12-Nov	Reading 8	
13	17-Nov	Divorce	Ch. 12
	19-Nov	No Class	Papers due
14	24-Nov	Thanksgiving	
	26-Nov		
15	1-Dec	Remarriage	Ch. 14
	3-Dec	Reading 9	
	12/7 - 12/11	Finals - TBA	