

## SOC 366 Marriage & Family Relationships

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces basic sociological research and ideals in the areas of marriage and family. The course will examine the dynamics of family relationships so that material can be useful to students in their personal and professional lives. The emphasis will be on family strengths and differences as well as family problems.

**TEXT:** *Marriages & Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society* by Mary Ann Lamanna and Alice Riedmann, 9th Edition, Wadsworth Publishing, 736 pgs. **Hard cover ISBN: 0534618596**

The book has supplements that I will use as online resources to enhance the curriculum. Students will participate in online exercises as instructed.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES--The student will be able to:**

- 1) Examine the functions of marriage.
- 2) Identify aspects of politics and culture that shape marriage.
- 3) Explore diversity in relationships and families.
- 4) Review research in the area of marriage and family and how it applies to their life.
- 5) Examine how children are affected by the family unit, especially within single parent families, remarriages and blended families.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:** This course is designed to give an overview of the area of marriage and family with respect to sociological ideals. We will explore this information through limited lecture, class discussion, in-class activities, and personal research.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** All students are required to attend weekly classes, complete all course readings, online exercises, quizzes, other work assigned. Attendance will be taken every week.

Students will be evaluated on:

- |                           |                                            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| * Attendance 10%          | * (2) short papers (with presentation) 30% |
| * Class Participation 10% | * Online assignments 20%                   |
| * Quizzes (3) 30%         |                                            |

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

The course is worth 150 points. Attendance will be 15 points, class participation 15 points, web (online) assignments 30 points, class presentations/papers 45 points, quizzes 45 points.

### **SHORT PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS**

There will be two short papers for this course:

-First paper (1-2 pages, double spaced)--analyze a movie or TV show using a concept from the text.

-Second paper (2-4 pages minimum, double spaced)--will be on a topic from the list given.

**MAKE UP:** If you have to miss a class, you must notify the instructor by phone or email **PRIOR** to your absence. If you miss a class you are responsible for the material covered. One absence will not result in any lowering of the grade, 2 absences will result in a loss of 5 points to your final grade, and 3 or more

absences will result in a loss of 15 points to your final grade and possible failure.

**\*NOTE--We are to start class on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, however that is Memorial Day. Class will not begin until Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.**

**SESSION ONE-Monday, June 2, 2008**

Chapters 1 & 2

Review the syllabus and requirements for the course. Examine the structure of the text and the features that will enhance your learning experience. Introduce ourselves to one another through class activity. Discuss more thoroughly the requirements for the course, class participation guidelines, and the final project, and grading system.

**SESSION TWO-Monday, June 9, 2008**

Chapters 3, 4 & 5

**SESSION THREE-Monday, June 16, 2008**

Chapter 6--Quiz over chapters 1-6, First Short Paper presentation & discussion

**SESSION FOUR-Monday, June 23, 2008**

Chapters 7, 8, & 9

**SESSION FIVE-Monday, June 30, 2008 (may have to negotiate class time with other sessions due to prior commitment)**

Chapters 10 & 11-Quiz over chapters 7-11

**SESSION SIX-Monday, July 7, 2008**

Chapters 12, 13, & 14

**SESSION SEVEN-Monday, July 14, 2008**

Chapters 15 & 16-Second Short Paper presentation & discussion

\* Note--No class on July 20<sup>th</sup> due to Kit Vorhees class seminar \*

**SESSION EIGHT-Monday, July 27, 2008-- Class will not begin until 7 pm**

Quiz over Chapters 12-16 , Evaluation of the class and Wrap-up.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

The Doane College Academic Policy is adhered to in this class. All projects will represent your own work. Any use of others' ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.