



FHS 2400

Marriage and Family Relations (SS)

Course Syllabus

Fall 2024

Classroom: [REDACTED]
Schedule: [REDACTED]

Instructor: [REDACTED]
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Office: [REDACTED]
Office Hours: [REDACTED]

Course Description

Introduction to marriage and the family. Family relationships and dynamics are examined within the context of societal change. Emphasis is placed on the connection between the family and individuals' personal choices in a changing society.

Credit Hours: 3

General Education Designation: Social Science - SS

Required Materials

Olson, D. H., DeFrain, J., & Skogrand, L. *Marriages and Families: Intimacy, Diversity, and Strengths*. 10th Edition, McGraw Hill, 2022

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical and theoretical aspects of marriage and family relations.
2. Be able identify many of the common myths concerning mate-selection, courtship, marriage, cohabitation, same-sex relationships, divorce, remarriage, and stepfamilies.
3. Describe the historical, social, cultural and ethnic contexts which influence the family system.
4. Identify and utilize the major theoretical perspectives that are used to describe family systems.
5. Describe the key variables contributing to long term satisfactory relationships.
6. Describe the key variables contributing to conflict, violence and divorce.

7. Be able to describe the impact of verbal and non-verbal communication on families and interpersonal relations.
8. Explain how personal and cultural beliefs, values and attitudes can influence individual and societal perceptions of the family.
9. Describe the components of effective communication as they relate to sending and receiving messages.
10. Evaluate their interpersonal communications with their own family members.
11. Use and interpret data relevant to social science research methods.
12. Be able to critique the research design and analysis of research discussed in class.
13. Compare and contrast the types of research designs traditionally used in family studies.
14. Describe the difference between correlation and causation and other basic concepts in social science research methods.
15. Systematically analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate personal and societal issues relevant to family dynamics and interpersonal relationships.
16. Be able to critically review their thoughts, opinions, biases and beliefs regarding marriage, cohabitation and family issues.
17. Examine personal, cultural and societal beliefs regarding marriage, dating, mate selection, sexuality, and divorce.
18. Examine the role of societal and cultural rules, laws and norms on the family.
19. Compare and contrast three prominent models of "love": Sternberg, Lee, and Hatfield and Sprecher.
20. Objectively evaluate societal reactions to non-traditional relationships.
21. Engage in reasoned dialog concerning issues related to love, mate selection, marriage, violence, sex and divorce in a pluralistic and secularized society.
22. Compare and contrast ideas communicated from society with scientific information from various disciplines by evaluating claims, arguments and widely held beliefs about marriage and the family.
23. Be able to explain their views of human relationships and how those views influence their intra-and interpersonal relationships.
24. Explain how societal and cultural norms and mores influence family behaviors.
25. Describe the impact of current legislation and court rulings on marriage, family, societal attitudes, sexuality and diversity.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation

In-person classes use attendance tracking, while online sections require participation in online discussions to foster peer interaction and critical analysis of course materials.

2. Assignments

Assignments include a series of quizzes, essays, and observation reports based on each unit's material. These will examine theoretical perspectives, case studies, and contemporary family issues.

3. Reading and Quizzes

Quizzes assess comprehension of readings and lecture materials. Initial quizzes are open-book to familiarize students with the format; subsequent quizzes are closed-book.

4. ePortfolio Submission

The SLCC General Education ePortfolio Signature Assignment is required, which includes a reflective writing component to connect course content with personal insights

Grading Breakdown

Component	Weight (%)
Quizzes	47%
Essays	43%
Discussions or Attendance & Participation (depending on section)	5%
ePortfolio (Signature Assignment)	5%

Extra Credit: Available through specific assignments and bonus points as indicated in Canvas.

Final Grade Distribution

A	A-	B+	B
100 to 94	<94 to 90	<90 to 87	<87 to 84
B-	C+	C	C-
<84 to 80	<80 to 77	<77 to 74	<74 to 70
D+	D	D-	E
<70 to 67	<67 to 64	<64 to 60	<60 to 0

Important Dates

Student Academic Calendar:

The “Student Academic Calendar” contains important dates including registration, tuition payments, holidays, and significant deadlines. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/academiccalendar/index.aspx>]

Final Exam Schedule:

The “Final Exam Schedule” lists information about when each course section will hold its final exam period. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/schedule/final-exam-schedule.aspx>]

Institutional Statements and Policies

General Education at SLCC:

This course fulfills the social sciences requirement of the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed to teach you the core knowledge and skills of the discipline while also developing essential professional competencies and strategies for lifelong learning. General Education courses broaden your foundational skills and expand your understanding across diverse subjects. By integrating insights from various disciplines, you will learn to apply knowledge meaningfully, enrich your life, develop broader perspectives, deepen your understanding of the world, and challenge your assumptions.

E-Portfolios:

All General Education courses include a “Signature Assignment” that comprises part of each student’s e-Portfolio. For more information, see the statement about e-portfolios in Simple Syllabus.

Institutional Syllabus:

The “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas includes important statements and information on a range of institutional policies, learning support and tutoring services, and student support resources. These sections provide guidance on student rights and responsibilities, grading policies, and various support services available to assist with academic advising, counseling, accessibility, student engagement, and more. For detailed information, please refer to the “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction to Marriage and Family	Syllabus Quiz, Introduce Yourself Discussion
2	Family Diversity and Structure	Reading Quiz, Reflection on Family Dynamics
3-4	Gender Roles and Communication	Discussion: Gender Roles, Quiz on Chapters 1-3
5-6	Mate Selection and Cohabitation	Essay on Mate Selection Theories, Unit Quiz
7-8	Marriage, Parenthood, and Blended Families	Observation Report 1, Quiz on Chapters 4-5
9-10	Divorce and Family Challenges	Midterm Quiz, Discussion on Divorce Factors
11-12	Step-Families and Family Life Cycle	Essay: Family Life Stages, Unit Quiz
13-15	Final Reflections and ePortfolio	Final Quiz
16	Finals	Signature Assignment