

University Mission:

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, lifelong learning, and service to God and mankind.

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: PSYC/JUAD/SOCI 3321 **Marriage and the Family**
TIME **Virtual Campus**
INSTRUCTOR: **Jeremy J. Berry** Email: berryphd@hotmail.com
OFFICE HOURS: I can be reached via the above email or by phone: (806) 281-8400

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examination of the family as a social institution; comparative analysis of kinship systems; and recent changes in the American family structure. The purpose of the course is to provide a vocabulary for the discussion and analysis of courtship, marriage and the family. Central to the concerns of American family life are issues of love and intimacy, relationship development, sexuality, and child rearing. These issues are dealt with in a lifespan perspective. At the end of the course, the student will have a well-rounded view of marriage and family life with its demands and expectations, rights and obligations. The course is intended to provide facts about all aspects of family life and marriage for personal and professional use.

PREREQUISITES:**TEXTBOOKS**

Marriages and Families, 8th Edition by Lamanna and Riedmann. Wadsworth Publishing.

Textbooks are an information source and a means of explaining and stimulating interest in the material. It does not contain all the information students need to know, however. Additional information, interpretations, and analyses will be given in class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Develop and use the sociological perspective on family, marriage, and courtship.
2. Have obtained an overview of marriage and family relations from a cross-cultural perspective, an overview of the historical factors related to the development of the contemporary family system, and an overview of the development of gender, family and marital roles.
3. Begin to analyze how the social issues impinge on their relationships and how appropriate choices can improve their lives.
4. To demonstrate problem-solving capability through analysis/synthesis.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Three major methods will be utilized in the class to facilitate the students' understanding of marriage and the family: 1) Discussion Boards of keynote ideas and concepts, 2) Reading to further elaborate on various aspects of marriage and the family, and 3) Tests and other assignments.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance: Students enrolled in the University's Virtual Campus should make every effort to participate fully in the class. In order to make up incomplete work, the student must explain the reason for the deficiency to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student shows a lack of participation considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the class assignments will receive a grade of "F" in the course. The discussion board is a part of the course requirements and will be part of the class attendance. Additional participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University's attendance policy.

Readings: Assigned readings and/or chapters are to be completed *prior* to the class session for which they are assigned. Students should read a chapter at a time prior to posting on the discussion board, so that they can participate in class discussions as well as ask and answer questions.

Plagiarism Policy: Intellectual integrity and truthfulness are fundamental to scholarship. Scholars, whether they are performing as students or as teachers, are engaged in a search for truth. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and also a form of theft. Plagiarism occurs when a student fails to give proper credit when information is either quoted or paraphrased. In essence, plagiarism takes place when you take credit for someone else's work. This happens when you copy someone's exam or when you fail to explain which parts of a paper reflect your own ideas and which came from someone else. Looking at or copying someone else's test, answer sheet, and/or paper are counted as cheating. Carelessness is no excuse. As such, it is a breach of scholarly responsibility. It is also unethical, immoral, and in some cases, illegal. Plagiarism may result in an "F" in the course or in your being expelled from the class.

Disabilities: It is university policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities at the first class meeting.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

I. INTERPERSONAL AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL PAPERS: (20% of final grade) Writing and self-expression are essential to professional performances and learning these skills is part of the academic experience. There will be a series of mini-papers on specified topics.

II. GENOGRAM ASSIGNMENT: (10% of final grade) You will complete a genogram on your family extending back to your grandparents on both sides of your family. More details will be available online.

III. FAMILY MOVIE ASSIGNMENT: (10% of final grade) You will watch a movie of your choosing that relates to marriage or the family (verbal approval by the instructor is required however) and write-up a 2 page reflective paper integrating some of the terms and concepts from this class in your reflections.

IV. EXAMS: (15% each or a total of 60% of final grade) Three exams (will be administered during the course of the semester. The exams may consist of objective questions such as multiple choice or “fill-in-the-blank” questions, or may also include “expressive” questions such as short answer or essay questions which will allow you to write your own responses and will allow students the maximum opportunity to demonstrate what they know and that they can analyze information and reach defensible conclusions. The tests may consists of items from either the textbook(s), from lecture notes, and from material discussed on the discussion boards.

University Grading Scale: The University has a standard grading scale as follows: 90 - 100 = A (excellent); 80 - 89 = B (good); 70 - 79 = C (average); 60 - 69 = D (acceptable but below average); below 60 = F (unacceptable); W=the student withdrew from the course before the deadline; WP=the student withdrew passing before the deadline; WF=the student withdrew failing before the deadline (note that WF and F count the same in the GPA); and I=incomplete. A grade of “incomplete” is given only if circumstances beyond the student’s control prevented completion of work during the semester enrolled and any attendance requirements have been met. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes an “F”.

COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative Schedule) – Dates will be available later.

Orientation to Class

Chapter 1: Family Commitments: Making Choices in a Changing Society

Chapter 2: American Families in Social Context

Chapter 3: Exploring the Family

Chapter 4: Our Gendered Identity

Chapter 5: Loving Ourselves and Others

Chapter 6: Our Sexual Selves

EXAM #1

Chapter 7: Being Single: Living Alone, Cohabiting, and Other Options

Chapter 8: Committed to Each Other

Chapter 9: Marriage, a Private and Public Relationship

Chapter 10: Communication and Managing Conflict in Marriages and Families

Chapter 11: Power and Violence in Marriages and Families

EXAM #2

Chapter 12: To Parent or Not to Parent

Fall Break – No Class

Chapter 13: Parents and Children Over the Life Course

Chapter 14: Work and Family

EXAM #3

Chapter 15: Divorce: Before and After

Chapter 16: Remarriages and Stepfamilies

Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Chapter 17: Aging Families

Chapter 18: Family Stress, Crisis, and Resilience

FINAL EXAM

Instructor reserves the right to modify syllabus as needed. Please consult catalog for important deadlines such as add/drop, withdrawal, etc.