

SOC 320 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES

SYLLABUS

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ES 319 A
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Office Hours: 2:30-5:00 TR or by appointment

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

SOC 201: The Sociological Imagination with minimum grade of C, or by permission of instructor

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 611** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Textbook:

Benokraitis, Nijole V. 2008. Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices, and Constraints (6th Ed.) Prentice Hall.

Recommended: Becker. *Writing for Social Scientists*.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an overview of the family from a sociological perspective. The family is considered to be one of the most private and pervasive institutions in society. All of us have had contact with at least one family, and many of us will be involved in several different families during our lifetime. Our experiences point to the numerous transformations in family life. To obtain a better understanding of these changes, recent sociological research and data on the family will be utilized in this course. In addition to examining the history of the family, the course will study the contemporary family and its diversity. The course will examine traditional marriage/family arrangements and alternative processes of mate selection and family formation. Finally, the course will examine parenting, the relationship between work and family, divorce and reconstituted families.

SOC 320 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- 1) Be introduced to the basic concepts of marriage and family: family, marriage, gender roles, love, sex, dating, mate selection, and divorce
- 2) Create practical opportunities to apply the sociological concepts and principles we cover in class to the “real world.”
- 3) Develop a sociological perspective, i.e. learning how to think “sociologically.”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- This is a self-guided course. Assignments must be submitted in the order they are listed in the study guide. I do not accept multiple assignments. You must wait to receive comments on your assignment prior to submitting the next one.
- Assignments will be graded and returned with comments using ‘track changes’ in Word. It typically takes me a week to ten days to get assignments graded/returned. If you have not heard from me after ten days please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Written Assignments:

1. All papers must be typed in the following format: double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins on all four sides of the essay.
2. I am not your proofreader! Papers turned in with obvious spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors will be returned un-graded.
3. Each assignment must be graded and returned by me prior to receipt of the next assignment. Multiple assignments received at the same time will have to be resent after I return your first assignment to you.

Readings:

Readings are listed in the study guide. Some chapters have assignments attached to them, some do not. You are responsible for reading all the chapters assigned for this course.

Exams:

There will be two examinations in this class. Each exam will cover the contents of the chapter readings. The exams each consist of 100 multiple choice questions. Exam grades will constitute 200 of the 600 points available in this class. Exam one covers chapters 1-5. Exam two covers chapters 6-10.

Exam scores will be given within seven to ten days. I do not allow students to keep exams and I do not send back graded exams. I will email you with your score.

The two exams must be proctored. Send your examination requests to:

Cindy Whitney
Department of Sociology
Adams State College
208 Edgemont Blvd.

SOC 320 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES

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Assignments:

Chapter Assignments

Most of what you learn in this course will be as a result of your careful study of the assigned readings. One way of showing evidence of this kind of intellectual involvement is to write down [type] your thoughts. This will enhance your understanding of the subject matter, and hopefully make the information more meaningful. This process is intended to encourage you to read the assignments very carefully and completely and to think about what you read. Each chapter assignment must be no less than two and no more than four typed pages and should follow the writing guidelines outlined above. Chapter assignments are worth 40 points each will constitute 200 of the 600 points available for this course

Chapter Assignments must be written as follows:

- Identify Topic and Assignment Number. Include chapters or pages.
- Identify major issues in the reading assignment and write about them in such a way as to demonstrate that you have read the assignment carefully, that you have thought carefully about it, and that you can apply the information. Relate these issues to what you already know from this class or elsewhere.
- ALWAYS write to communicate effectively. It's helpful to organize your thoughts in outline format prior to writing your essay
- Each chapter assignment should reflect both your absorption of the information from your reading and your thinking about it.
- Under no circumstances, do not simply “rehash” the reading assignments. Read the assignment carefully and try to answer all the questions asked. Feel free to ask for clarification if any assignment is unclear.

Final Research Project

Pick a topic from your text or from outside readings that interests you and develop a research proposal to study this topic. Find at least six academic resources such as books and peer reviewed research articles that represent either empirical tests or new theoretical developments to support your argument. Such articles are typically 15-30 pages in length and include a discussion of theory or data and analysis testing the theory. Describe the contribution of these sources to your research proposal. In other words, what information do they provide that goes further than what we've covered in class? Websites are not adequate sources. Textbooks are not adequate sources. Magazine articles and course notes are not adequate sources. Your final paper should be no less than four and no more than six pages in length. The Final Research project will constitute 200 of the 600 points available for this course.

A research proposal typically includes an introduction of the issue, a review of the literature, a methodology section and, if applicable, a statement of hypotheses. Any peer reviewed journal article will follow this standard format, use one as a guide.

This research project should demonstrate your understanding of all of the concepts presented during this course and should be cited appropriately using APA, ASA or MLA citation style. Failure to do so can result in plagiarism and an automatic “F” for the project.

Reminders:

Writing assignments should be typed using the guidelines listed in the Writing Guidelines sections above.

SOC 320 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES

Assignments will be graded and returned to you within seven to ten days. I return assignments using the “Track Changes” function in Word. Please read my comments carefully prior to submitting your next assignment.

Any information provided in your paper that is not considered “common knowledge” must include a proper citation so that you are not committing plagiarism. Do a Google search for ASA or MLA citation style for proper citation format.

Exams

1. There are two exams - a mid-term and a final
2. Each exam is worth 100 points
3. Each exam will be proctored
4. A time limit of 1 ½ hours will be established for each exam

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Exams	200 points
Chapter Assignments	200 points
Final Research Project	<u>200</u> points
Total	600 points

Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

540-600 = A
480-539 = B
420-479 = C
360-419 = D
< 359 = F

I do not ‘round up’ grades. Unless you suspect a mathematical error please do not approach me regarding grade changes.

I reserve the right to update this syllabus at any time provided I email you an updated copy via the internet to your email account.

SOC 320 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.