

Introduction to Marriage and Families

SYG2430-3G09(18946) | 3 credit hours | Spring 2023 (UFO)

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Monday 1pm-3pm (Online)

Or by appointment

Course Website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Course Description

Families and primary relationships are a fundamental part of our life experiences. This course is designed to introduce students to major issues related to families and relationships, with a focus on sociological perspectives and policy implications. This course is designed to introduce you to the historical and contemporary contexts that have shaped the meanings and importance of families in society. The course is comprised of Dr. Koropecj-Cox's (In UF sociology) recorded lectures & supplemented materials from various source to enhance the understanding. There will not be live meetings nor in-person meetings in this course. Click on "Start here" page from Canvas for more introductory videos for the course.

Course Objectives

This section of SYG 2430 fulfills General Education requirements (S, D), but does NOT fulfill the Writing Requirement. There are no pre-requisites for the course.

As a general education course, this course provides an overview of social perspectives and processes and an introduction to Diversity, with an emphasis on the following objectives:

- Review the history of family life as a context for understanding contemporary family issues and debates.

- Examine important contemporary aspects of relationships and families including the prevalence of different family experiences, the range of social norms concerning families and relationships, and the arguments and evidence used to support different interpretations and concerns about family life.
- Define and apply major sociological approaches to issues related to families and relationships, including approaches that focus on a) forms and functions; b) conflict; c) the processes of interaction and negotiation; and d) the importance of gender.
- Examine how sociologists study families and relationships and how sociological evidence contributes to policy debates and decisions.
- Be able to evaluate and discuss some of the critical implications of family change, especially as they related to social policy and legal issues.
- Develop an awareness of the diversity among contemporary families in the United States as well as cross-cultural variations.

The course begins with a discussion of how we define "family" and the diversity of meanings and family forms. We will review historical background for understanding families and relationships as well as important sociological frameworks for studying relationship and family issues. We will distinguish between the "private" and "public" aspects of families as they relate to the privacy of intimate relationships and public concerns about the roles of families in society.

General Education Objectives:

Social and Behavioral Sciences (S) Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Diversity (D) Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups in the United States. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups.

As a General Education Course, SYG2430 is designed to address each of the following General Education Student Learning Outcomes with regard to Content, Communication, and Critical Thinking.

Content is knowledge of the concepts, principles, terminology and methodologies used within the discipline. Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the discipline. The Content SLO is assessed through the quizzes and exams and reviewed in the in-class assignments and class discussion.

Communication is the development and expression of ideas in written and oral forms. Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline. The Communication SLO is assessed through the Take-Home Assignments as well as the Optional Paper.

Critical Thinking is characterized by the comprehensive analysis of issues, ideas, and evidence before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. The Critical Thinking SLO is assessed through specific questions on the quizzes and exams as well as the Take-Home Assignments and Optional Paper.

Topics include:

- Diversity and Inequality: social class, race-ethnicity, and gender
- Love, Sexuality, Partnership, and Marriage
- Parents and children
- Conflicts and Crises: Economic strains, family violence, and divorce
- Changes and Transitions: Remarriage, step-families, and aging

Our discussions will analyze the different sides of contemporary debates about social change and public policy, drawing on current media and press coverage, political discourse, and policy discussions.

Required for the Course

**Textbook: The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change, 3rd edition. (2020).
Philip N. Cohen. Norton.**

I do not recommend buying an earlier edition - the material has changed, and all exams, reading assignments, and coursework will use the 3rd edition. If you consider buying an earlier edition - It's your responsibility to be aware & track of updates & any discrepancies with the newest edition.

NOTE –You may buy or rent, and choose between hard copy or digital version. You are encouraged to compare the options and choose the one that works best for you, but be sure that you get access to the book as early as possible to keep up with course material. **You do not need to purchase access to the publisher's online resources.**

Canvas will be used to disseminate class materials (including additional readings and videos), watch weekly lectures, allow you to view your grades, take quizzes, submit assignments, and receive course announcements. **As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.** A computer with a reliable internet connection is required for this course. If you experience issues with Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by phone (352)392-HELP, or visit their physical location in the HUB (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>).

Communication in this Course

Email - The best and quickest way to reach me is by email. If I do not respond to your email within 48 hours, please resend it, as it might not have gotten to me. The subject of your email should include "SYG2430" and your last name. You may send email directly to my email address, or through the Canvas system (using the "Inbox" function on the left hand side).

Online office hours will be held each week. During online office hours, I will be available via email or "Chat" for any questions and will respond during the allotted office hour time window (as immediately as possible). **We will use "Zoom Conference" for face-to-face meetings during office hours or by appointment (email to schedule).** There will be no in person office hours.

Canvas - Course announcements will be sent out through Canvas. Please check your Canvas email regularly, and make sure your Canvas emails are being forwarded to your UF email address. This is particularly important if you are emailing me using the Canvas system.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	94 - 100	940 - 1000
A-	90 - <94	900 - 939
B+	87 - <90	870 - 899
B	84 - <87	840 - 869
B-	80 - <84	800 - 839
C+	77 - <80	770 - 799
C	74 - <77	740 - 769
C-	70 - <74	700 - 739
D+	67 - <70	670 - 699
D	64 - <67	640 - 669
D-	60 - <64	600 - 639
E	Below 60	599 and below

Grades will not be rounded. They are based on the total points you earn over the course of the semester. All point scores for each assignment are listed below



A grade of C or above is required to receive Gen Ed credit for this course.

Required Assignments

- Syllabus Quiz & Small Polls - At the beginning of the course, there will be a quiz on this syllabus, to ensure we all start the course with the same understanding and expectations. The quiz will be available on Canvas under the "Quizzes" tab. You will also complete 2 small polls/quizzes throughout the semester. **(worth 30 points total)**
These points will be given extra bonus to the grading scale above after the semester's done-Will NOT appear on Canvas grade

 - Syllabus Quiz - 20 points
 - Student Questionnaire - 5 points
 - Sexuality Knowledge Quiz - 5 points
- Discussion Board Posts & Responses – For 5 weeks, you will be required to comment on the Discussion Board on Canvas. Specific prompts and instructions (including length of your post) will be specified within each Discussion Board. Each week that you post on the Discussion Board, you should also respond to two other posts. Your initial posts are worth 60 points each and are due by **Friday 11:59pm each week** (this is to allow enough time for responses). Each response to another student is worth 10 points apiece and are due by **Sunday 11:59pm each week**. The discussion board will open at the beginning of the prior module to give you time to review the module

instructions and complete any assigned work as part of the module. **(worth 400 points total or 80 points each week)**

3. Quizzes – For 7 weeks, there will be a quiz on assigned materials. Quizzes will cover the previous and current week’s readings and lectures. Quizzes can be found on Canvas under the “Quizzes” tab. Quizzes will be open for the duration of the week (Monday 12:00am to Sunday 11:59pm). You will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. **(worth 300 points total or 50 points each)**
4. Assignments – You will submit **2 required assignments** over the course of the semester. These assignments are designed to allow you to explore sociological research, media, and current events in your area of interest in relation to our course. Assignment requirements and point values differ. For more detailed instructions about each assignment, visit the “Files” tab on Canvas. Each assignment’s page (under the “Assignments” tab on Canvas) will include specific instructions, and a detailed rubric. **(worth 150 points total)**
 - Assignment 1 – Exploring Sociological Research – 150 points
 - Assignment 2 – Media Analysis – 150 points

Important: A full class schedule, including assigned material and due dates for all assignments can be found below. This schedule is designed to assist you with tracking your progress in the course. **Each Module (week) will open on Monday at 12:00am, and close Sunday at 11:59pm.**

To receive credit, everything due each week should be submitted before the Module closes on Sunday at 11:59pm.

Course Policies

Communication - As our class is being held online, attendance will not be graded, but consistent and sound work is expected throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep communication with me as needed. Please feel free to reach out to me throughout the semester.

Make Up Work – Discussion boards, quizzes, and small polls will be open for the duration of the weekly topic they cover. Larger assignments are done on your own time, with advance notice of due dates.

- Discussion boards require engagement with other students; **therefore, late Discussion posts and responses will not be accepted.**

- Late quizzes (within one week of the posted deadline only) will count for no more than half credit (up to 25 points).
- Written assignments submitted late will have points deducted (10% per day, up to 5 days or 50%) unless you have made specific prior arrangements with the instructor. **Any assignments submitted more than 5 days late will not count for credit.**
- Small polls are used to inform discussion boards, and therefore late responses will not be accepted.

In the occasion that you experience an “absence” that is University excused, it is your responsibility to speak with me about make up work.

Respect - Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated in our class. Our virtual classroom will serve as a place where everyone has a chance to speak and learn. As we communicate throughout the semester online, I expect each of us to listen and hear other students’ experiences and respect our differences.

Academic Honesty - You are expected to comply with the University of Florida Honor Code, which states:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. UF’s full Honor Code can be

found here: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

All assignments submitted through Canvas in this course are run through the plagiarism checker, Turnitin.

Disability Accommodations - Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations, which should be submitted to me as soon as possible in the course. The DRC is located in Reid Hall and can be found online here: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/students/accommodations>

Counseling Resources - The Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) is available to assist any students who are in need of counseling or help, during or after the semester. Information about the CWC and how to make an appointment can be found here: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

Course Evaluation - At the end of each semester, students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

This syllabus should be treated as a contract between you, as the class, and myself, as the instructor. As a draft, I reserve the right to make any changes to this syllabus as the course progresses. However, no unnecessary changes will be made, and advance notice will be provided if changes are made.

SYG2430 Course Schedule & Outline

This schedule will help you in planning your semester. I suggest referring to it throughout the weeks, as it is meant to help you keep yourself on track throughout the semester. Listed below are the assigned readings and links for each week. All material is required unless otherwise noted. Canvas is designed to include a module for each week. To access these modules, click on the “Home” tab on Canvas. Complete all readings, videos, lectures, etc. in the order they appear on the Module page on Canvas.

These dates are tentative and subject to change. If any changes occur, I will inform you as soon as possible, to the best of my ability. You will always have enough time in the case of schedule changes.

Please check the module page for each week on Canvas. Complete weekly activities/readings in the order they appear on Canvas.

Week & Dates (Mon-Sun)	Module & Topic	To Do (complete in the order listed on the Canvas Module page)	Due this week
1: 1/9-1/15	M1: Introduction and Defining Family	-Read module 'Start here' -Read Cohen Chapter 1 (p.2-16)	
2: 1/16-1/22	M2: Theories, Methods, & Ethics	-Read Cohen Chapter 1 (p.16-32) -Complete Syllabus Quiz -Student Questionnaire	-Quiz 1 -Syllabus quiz -Student Questionnaire
3: 1/23-1/29	M3: History of Families	-Read Cohen Chapter 2 (p.34-74)	-Discussion board 1
4: 1/30-2/5	M4: Social	-Read Cohen Chapter 4 (p.119-154)	-Assignment 1

	Class & Economics	*Chapter 4 comes first, then Chapter 3	-Quiz 2
5: 2/6-2/12	M5: Racial & Ethnic Diversity	-Read Cohen Chapter 3 (p.78-116)	-Discussion Board 2
6: 2/13-2/19	M6: Gender & Families	-Read Cohen Chapter 5 (p.156-194)	-Quiz 3
7: 2/20-2/26	M7: Sexuality	-Read Cohen Chapter 6 (p.196-236)	- Sexuality Knowledge Quiz
8: 2/27-3/5	M8: Love, Relationships & Dating	-Read Cohen Chapter 7 (p.237-272)	-Quiz 4
9: 3/6-3/10	M9-1: Marriage	-Read Cohen Chapter 8 (p.273-296), (p. 301-315) Seccombe PDF file #1 p.28-33;p.71-77	-Discussion Board 3
Spring Break (3/11-3/19)			
11: 3/20-3/26	M9-2: Cohabitation & Singlehood	-Read Cohen Chapter 8 (p.297-301), (p.316-317) -Seccombe PDF file #2 p.86-95	-Quiz 5
12: 3/27-4/2	M10: Childbearing and parenting	-Read Cohen Chapter 9 (p.319-358) -Read Cohen Chapter 11 (p.417-433)	-Assignment 2
13: 4/3-4/9	M11: Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families	-Read Cohen Chapter 10 (p.361-396)	-Discussion Board 4
14: 4/10-4/16	M12: Work and Families	-Read Cohen Chapter 11 (p.399-433)	-Quiz 6
15: 4/17-4/23	M13: Family Violence and Abuse	-Read Cohen Chapter 12 (p.437-472)	-Discussion Board 5
16: 4/24-4/26	M14: The Future of the Family & global issues	- Read Cohen Chapter 13 (p.475-505) -TBA	-Quiz 7 (Optional If you are satisfied with current grade)