

# MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SYLLABUS

## **SOCIO 2315: Sociology of Marriage and Family**

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Office Hours: Monday, Friday @9:30-10:30am

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## **Required Text**

*The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change 4th edition by Philip N. Cohen*

## **Course Summary**

In this course, the focus will be on understanding the meaning and significance of marriage and family relationships from various perspectives. We will cover a wide range of topics, including marriage, courtship, the dynamics of social interaction within families, effective communication within couples, and more. Throughout the course, there will be an emphasis on exploring healthy marital and family patterns. To facilitate your understanding of the subject matter, we will examine relevant theories and research findings. This will enable you to gain insights into what makes a resilient marriage and family, and how such relationships can be established and nurtured over time.

To ensure your success in this course, it is important to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Read all assigned materials: Engage with the readings and any supplementary materials provided. This will deepen your understanding of the topics covered and facilitate meaningful class discussions.
- Actively participate in class: Contribute to class discussions by sharing your thoughts, insights, and questions. Participating actively will enhance your learning experience and provide opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Complete assignments and projects: Demonstrate your understanding of the course content by completing assigned tasks, such as written assignments, projects, and presentations. These assignments will enable you to apply the concepts and theories learned in class to real-life scenarios.
- Demonstrate academic integrity: Plagiarism and any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Properly cite and reference any sources used in your work and always submit original and authentic assignments.

## **Course Requirements**

**All rubrics for the following course requirements can be found below. The rubrics are your feedback, so make sure to review the rubrics carefully. When you lose points on assignments, or discussions, review the rubrics to understand why. Any further questions email me.**

### **1. Unit Discussions (25 each )**

Every week you will be required to participate on a discussion board. In order to receive full credit, you will be required to answer questions in your own words in an acceptable level of quality and reply to two responses from your classmates. You will have to create a new thread and answer the questions before being able to view other classmate responses. You **MUST** include **IN TEXT CITATIONS (APA FORMAT)** for full credit, and respond to two people. Include your references for every discussion post. Make sure to have at least **ONE** reference for **YOUR** post.

### **2. Unit Check-Ins (50 points each)**

Unit check-ins are brief assessments designed to evaluate your understanding of the chapters that have been covered within a specific unit. These checks typically consist of multiple-choice questions. By completing these quizzes, you can gauge your comprehension of the material and identify areas that may require further review or clarification.

### **3. Unit Assignments (100 points each)**

In this course, there will be two unit assignments which serve as opportunities for you to apply the knowledge you have acquired. These assignments will require you to demonstrate your understanding and comprehension of the topics covered throughout the unit. It is important to note that these assignments must adhere to the guidelines APA format.

When it comes to the formatting requirements, ensure that the font size is set to 12, specifically using Times New Roman font. Furthermore, your document should be double-spaced, providing appropriate spacing between lines.

APA citations are a crucial component of academic writing. In order to receive full credit for your unit assignments, it is essential to include in-text citations to support and acknowledge any information, ideas, or quotes that you have obtained from external sources. Neglecting to provide proper in-text citations may result in a deduction of 30 points automatically, so it is important to be diligent and accurate in your referencing.

### **4. Marriage Interview Assignment (FINAL) (100 points)**

You will conduct an interview of a married couple, a couple that has been married, or a couple that has been living together and has kids. You must interview both members. This can be any family members or friends but you **CAN NOT** interview yourself. **Things that you want to consider for your interviews: their definition of marriage, history of the relationship (dating, marriage, family), struggles, hopes, joys, challenges, lessons from being married, and advice.** You must connect what you learned from that couple to what you have been reading in this course! This is very important! Reflection Papers should be at least 2-3 pages in length **PLUS** you must include the questions you asked during the interview at the end on a separate page **WITHOUT** the responses. **INCLUDE IN TEXT Citations.** The interview questions should

not be included as part of the length requirement; they are an addition. Make sure to tell me their story, what you learned and how this might influence your views on marriage.

### **Grading**

The overall grade of this course is based on a point system. The more points you earn the higher your grade will be. This is done to give you an advantage. The more points you earn in the assignments you find less difficult will benefit you in assignments you find difficult. Using text-evidence is highly important in this course. If you look at the rubrics text-evidence is worth a lot of points!

Letter Grade	Percentages	Points
A	100-90	975-877
B	89-79	876-770
C	78-69	769-672
D	68-59	671-575
F	58-below	574-below

### **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort before the due date!

### **Academic Integrity**

To excel in this class and achieve a high grade, it is important to dedicate time and effort to your studies. Keeping up with the assigned readings and materials is crucial for success. It will enhance your understanding of the subject matter and allow you to actively participate in class discussions and assignments. Plagiarism, or using someone else's work without proper acknowledgment, will not be tolerated. It is important to respect your own work and the work of others by properly referencing any sources used.

Additionally, following all guidelines for writing assignments and other tasks is crucial. Not meeting the required length for papers or failing to adhere to the specified formatting and citation

style may result in a lower grade. Therefore, pay close attention to the instructions provided for each assignment and ensure that you fulfill all requirements. Respecting your peers is essential in creating a positive and conducive learning environment.

Grades in this class are based on a point system, meaning that the more points you accumulate, the higher your grade will be. By adhering to these guidelines and committing to your studies, you can expect to succeed in this class and achieve a high grade.

### **Late work**

NO LATE WORK ACCEPTABLE in this course. Meeting deadlines for assignments is a strict requirement for this course. While there may be exceptional circumstances that could warrant an extension, they will be infrequent and granted only in rare cases in which you must provide documentation. .

### **Technical Problems**

I recommend NOT using Internet explorer or Safari when using blackboard for better internet connection use Google chrome or Firefox. Call the HELP DESK if you have any technical problems.

### **Drop Rule**

If you make the decision to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. I will not drop the course for you. Failure to do so may result in a grade of “F” on the student’s academic record. Students are limited to a six course drop during their academic career. There are a few exceptions that may allow a student to drop a course without having it counted toward the six-drop limit. For more information on that check the UTEP’s academic website.

**Note: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.**

### **Guidance on Artificial Intelligence**

#### **AI prohibited**

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is *not allowed* for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). **THIS INCLUDES GRAMMARLY. DO NOT USE GRAMMARLY** or my programs will detect it as AI, because

it is. I understand it serves a different purpose, but due to the high use of AI programs to generate discussions no grammarly is allowed.

### **AI allowed with proper acknowledgement**

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is *only allowed with proper attribution given for its use*.

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”

Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

### **Using AI for brainstorming**

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

## EXTRA CREDIT

This is the only extra credit opportunity that will be offered for the class. You must complete 15 hours of community service through UTEP. If you are interested in obtaining this extra credit log in to “the cue” using your utep email. You will receive an additional 100 points on your final grade. This course is based on a point system, 100 points could change your final letter grade.

This is not something you can leave at the last minute, so if you are considering the extra credit, reach out as soon as possible. The cue is the website used to explore where you can do community service and keep track of your hours. Download and email me your hours when completed. The website is: <https://utep.givepulse.com/>



**The Cue: Community University Engagement**

**What is The Cue?**  
The CUE is a revolutionary website created to facilitate connections between universities and their community's non-profit organizations.

**What does it do?**

- Displays various volunteering and internship options.
- Offers service opportunities that may range from a day-long event to an on-going commitment.
- Allows students to sign up for said opportunities and track their volunteering or Service-Learning hours.

UTEP's **Project Move**, an annual day of community service, is processed through The Cue.

**How to get access?**  
Visit [cue.utep.edu](http://cue.utep.edu) to create an account.

**As a student:**

- Step 1) Click the SIGN UP button on the upper right corner
- Step 2) Provide your information in order to create the account.
- Step 3) Once you have registered, look for the on the left side tab that reads "SERVICE LEARNING COURSE LINKS".
- Step 4) Select your SL class Note: Some professors may have more than one courses, so ensure that you are selecting the right class.

**As an agency:**

In order to create your organization's profile, first you have to create a personal account.

- Step 1) Click the SIGN UP button on the upper right corner
- Step 2) Provide your personal information in order to create an account. Note: Enter 000000 for UTEP ID
- Step 3) Log out once you are registered.
- Step 4) Click the SIGN UP button on the upper right corner, then follow the "Want to sign up your agency?" link, underneath Create an Account.
- Step 5) Once your request has been reviewed, you will receive an email with instructions on how to manage your profile.

**Questions? Don't hesitate to contact us!**  
Center for Civic Engagement  
Benedict Hall room 101  
ph:(915) 747-7969  
cce@utep.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
**CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

## Course Schedule

WEEKS	READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
<b>WEEK 1</b>	Review Syllabus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #1: Introductions</b></li> <li>• <b>Syllabus Check In</b></li> </ul>	<b>January 25, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 2</b>	Chapter 1: A Sociology of the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #2</b></li> </ul>	<b>February 1, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	Chapter 2: The Family in History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #3</b></li> <li>• <b>Unit Check In #1</b></li> </ul>	<b>February 8, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 4</b>	Chapter 3: Race, Ethnicity, Immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #4</b></li> </ul>	<b>February 15, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	Chapter 4: Families and Social Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #5</b></li> <li>• <b>Unit Check In #2</b></li> </ul>	<b>February 22, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 6</b>	Chapter 5: Gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #6</b></li> </ul>	<b>March 1, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 7</b>	Chapter 6: Sexuality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unit Check In #3</b></li> <li>• <b>*** Unit Assignment #1 ****</b></li> </ul>	<b>March 8, 2025</b>
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Chapter 7: Love and Romantic Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #7</b></li> </ul>	<b>March 22, 2025</b>

<b>WEEK 9</b>	Chapter 8: Marriage and Cohabitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #8</b></li> <li>• <b>Unit Check In #4</b></li> </ul>	<b>March 29, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 10</b>	Chapter 9: Families and Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #9</b></li> <li>• <b>**** Unit Assignment #2 ****</b></li> </ul>	<b>April 5, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b>	Chapter 10: Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #10</b></li> </ul>	<b>April 12, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 12</b>	Chapter 11: Work and Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #11</b></li> <li>• <b>Unit Check In #5</b></li> </ul>	<b>April 19, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 13</b>	Chapter 12: Family Violence and Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #12</b></li> </ul>	<b>April 26, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 14</b>	Chapter 13: The Future Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion #13</b></li> <li>• <b>Unit Check In #6</b></li> </ul>	<b>May 3, 2025</b>
<b>WEEK 15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>** FINAL MARRIAGE INTERVIEW WRITING ASSIGNMENT **</b></li> </ul>	<b>May 12, 2025 MONDAY</b>



### Discussions Rubric

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	25 POINTS
Engagement with Two other people	Responds meaningfully to two classmates' posts with thoughtful insights, questions, or extensions. Contributes to advancing the discussion.	<b>5</b>
	Responds to two classmates' posts with relevant comments or questions but lacks depth or does not fully advance the discussion.	<b>4</b>
	Responds to only one classmate's post or both responses are superficial and do not contribute meaningfully.	<b>1</b>
	Does not respond to classmates' posts.	<b>0</b>
Citing in APA Format	Accurately cites all required references in APA format. Includes in-text citations and a reference list where applicable.	<b>8</b>
	Minor APA formatting errors but citations are present and understandable.	<b>6</b>
	Several APA formatting errors or missing minor elements.	<b>4</b>
	Minimal attempt at APA citation; significant errors or omissions.	<b>1</b>
	No citations or references provided when required.	<b>0</b>
Quality of Writing	Writing is clear, concise, and free of grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. Ideas are well-organized.	<b>6</b>
	Writing is mostly clear but includes minor errors that do not interfere with comprehension. Organization could be improved.	<b>4</b>
	Writing contains frequent errors that make it difficult to follow. Poor organization detracts from clarity.	<b>2</b>
	Writing is unclear or incoherent due to numerous errors.	<b>0</b>
Full Response to Prompt	Fully addresses all parts of the prompt with detailed and relevant responses. Ideas are well-supported with examples.	<b>6</b>
	Addresses most parts of the prompt but lacks depth or detail in some areas.	<b>4</b>
	Addresses only a portion of the prompt or provides vague, unsupported responses.	<b>2</b>
	Does not address the prompt or provides an irrelevant response.	<b>0</b>

### Unit Assignments Rubric

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	POINTS
Writing Quality & Organization	Responses are exceptionally well-written, clear, concise, and logically organized. Free of grammatical and spelling errors	<b>30</b>
	Responses are clear and organized, with minor grammatical or spelling errors that do not affect readability.	<b>25</b>
	Responses are somewhat clear but may lack organization or contain frequent grammatical/spelling errors.	<b>20</b>
	Responses are unclear, disorganized, or contain numerous grammatical/spelling errors.	<b>10</b>
Formatting	Response fully adheres to APA format (double spaced, size 12 font, cover page, reference page, 1-inch margins).	<b>10</b>
	APA formatting is mostly correct with a few minor errors.	<b>8</b>
	APA formatting errors are frequent but do not severely impact readability.	<b>6</b>
	Minimal adherence to APA formatting or no attempt to format per APA guidelines	<b>2</b>
Citing	Includes in-text citations and a complete reference list in APA format. Makes explicit connections to the textbook and demonstrates thoughtful integration of course materials. Additional sources are properly cited.	<b>40</b>
	Includes citations and a reference list with minor errors. Textbook connections are present but may lack depth.	<b>35</b>
	Limited or inconsistent use of citations and references. Textbook connections are minimal or unclear.	<b>20</b>
	No in-text citations or references provided; textbook not used or connected.	<b>0</b>
Adherence to Instructions	Fully adheres to all instructions, including length requirements and required place/event visits (if applicable). Completes the assignment thoroughly and thoughtfully.	<b>20</b>
	Adheres to most instructions but may miss minor elements.	<b>15</b>
	Partially follows instructions; significant components are incomplete or missing.	<b>10</b>
	Does not follow instructions; minimal effort or incomplete submission.	<b>0</b>

## Marriage And Family

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	100 POINTS
TEXT-EVIDENCE	Includes multiple direct examples, quotes, or phrases from the text, book, or other articles. Text evidence is relevant, well-integrated, and effectively supports the responses. <b>30-35 Points:</b> Includes some direct text evidence. Most examples are relevant and support the responses, but integration could be improved.	<b>40</b>
	Includes some direct text evidence. Most examples are relevant and support the responses, but integration could be improved.	<b>35</b>
	Limited use of text evidence or examples are only partially relevant. May lack clarity or connection to the questions.	<b>20</b>
	Minimal or no use of text evidence; examples are irrelevant or missing.	<b>5</b>
Answers Questions & Reflections	Fully answers all questions with thoughtful, detailed, and reflective responses written in clear paragraphs. Insights demonstrate deep engagement with the material.	<b>30</b>
	Answers most questions with adequate detail and reflection. Some responses may lack depth or clarity.	<b>25</b>
	Answers some questions, but responses may be incomplete, lack detail, or lack reflection.	<b>15</b>
	Minimal or no effort to answer the questions or reflect on the interview responses.	<b>0</b>
Organization & Structure	Writing is well-organized with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Paragraphs flow logically, grammar is error-free, and all required elements (title page, reference page) are included.	<b>20</b>
	Writing is mostly organized with minor errors in flow, grammar, or formatting. Some required elements may be incomplete.	<b>15</b>
	Writing is somewhat organized but may lack structure, contain frequent errors, or miss key elements like a reference page.	<b>10</b>
	Writing is unclear, lacks structure, or misses multiple required elements.	<b>0</b>
Questions Included Separately	Includes all questions asked during the interview clearly and in a separate section. Properly formatted and easy to follow.	<b>10</b>
	Questions not included	<b>0</b>