

University of Texas at El Paso
Marriage and Family
Asynchronous COURSE

SOCIO 2315: Sociology of Marriage and Family

Instructor: Olga Ochoa

Office Hours: Make appointment for phone call

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Required Text

The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change 2nd edition by Philip N. Cohen (1st edition works too)

Course Summary

In this course you will learn about the meaning and purpose of marriage and family relationships from a variety of perspectives. We will review a variety of topics such as marriage, courtship, social interaction within the family, communication within couples, and more. This course examines marriage and family life with an emphasis on healthy marital and family patterns. We will also review relevant theory and research and you will explore how a resilient marriage and family may be formed and maintained. Your responsibilities in completing this course are stated below. Please read carefully.

- It is very important that you log into Blackboard weekly! I will post updates on Monday so I recommend logging in every Monday afternoon. Make sure you avoid using Internet explorer or Safari for a better connection.
- I will post announcements weekly! Make sure to read them. This will always be the first page when you enter blackboard. I will inform you of what you need to complete for that week, what you should be reading, and if any changes are made. Read the announcements before emailing me with questions!
- All assignments are to be completed on black board. DO NOT email me assignments I will not grade them.

Course Objectives

- Review the history of family as a context for understanding contemporary family issues. • Examine 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.
- Understand major approaches to issues related to families and relationships, including approaches that focus on forms and functions.
- Understand the influence of gender, sexuality, class, cohabitation, and more on the family!

Course Requirements

1. Writing Assignments

• Syllabus Assignment (50 points)

This assignment will consist of questions that will help you review the syllabus so that you gain a better understanding of the class expectations and assignments. This assignment is mean to make you aware of deadlines and the expectations to help you succeed in this course. The assignment will be done on Blackboard

• **Marriage Interview Assignment (100 points)**

You will conduct an interview of a married couple, couple that has been married, or 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. 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.

2. Discussions (10 points each= 120)

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. There will be a total of 12 discussions. This will not only show me if you are comprehending the material but will be a way for you to interact with your classmates online. Some discussions will include activities. Like having to search for a video to share or having to talk to a family member. This way they are more interactive.

3. Journal Entries (80 points each= 240 points)

You will complete a total of three journal entries. No one but me can see these. The point of the journals is to get you to apply what you have learned to your personal life. They will require you getting off your computer to complete the assignment. You are welcome to share as much as you like.

4. Exams (100 points = 300 points)

You will have three exams.. All exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions. They will be timed. Once the time is up the exam will submit itself.

Grades

Grade Letter		Grade Points
A	100-89	820-729
B	88-79	728-647
C	78-69	646-565
D	68-59	564-483
F	58-below	482-below

Academic Integrity

Students must put in time and effort if you expect a high grade in this class. Keeping up with readings is essential to the success of this course. Students must present their own effort in all assignments and exams. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Respect your work and the work of others by referencing their work when used. Make sure to follow all guidelines for writing assignments and other assignments or you will lose points. Completing the length of your papers is very important and not completing the required length will result in a lower grade. Meeting deadlines for all assignments is a requirement to this course and very few exceptions will be made. Treat each other with respect at all times.

Late work

Late work is unacceptable. The only exception to late work is in case of an emergency and you must provide documentation. I suggest printing the class schedule so that you can keep track of the due dates for all assignments. I will send out weekly emails/announcements to remind you of what we will be doing for the week.

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, 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. CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need to be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Course Schedule

WEEKS	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
WEEK 1	Introduction to Syllabus <input type="checkbox"/> Class Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus Assignment	January 23, 2022
WEEK 2	Chapter 1: A Sociology of the Family <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #2	January 30, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 3	Chapter 2: The Family in History <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #3 <input type="checkbox"/> Journal #1	February 6, 2022 by 11:59 pm
WEEK 4	Chapter 3: Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #4	February 13, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 5	Chapter 4: Families and Social Class ***** Exam #1 *****	February 20, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 6	Chapter 5: Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #5	February 27, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 7	Chapter 6: Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #6 <input type="checkbox"/> Journal #2	March 6, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 8	Chapter 7: Love and Romantic Relationships <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #7	March 13, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 9	Chapter 8: Marriage and Cohabitation <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #8	March 27, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 10	***** Exam #2 *****	April 3, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 11	Chapter 9: Families and Children <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion # 9 Family Marriage Assignment Guidelines	April 10, 2022 by 11:59pm

WEEK 12	Chapter 10: Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #10 <input type="checkbox"/> Journal 3	April 17, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 13	Chapter 11: Work and Families <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #11	April 24, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 14	Chapter 12: Family Violence and Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Family and Marriage Interview Assignment	May 1, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 15	Chapter 13: The Future of the Family <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion #12	May 8, 2022 by 11:59pm
WEEK 16	***** Exam #3 *****	May 13, 2022 by 11:59pm FRIDAY