

**Sociology 3341: Marriage and the Family**  
**Section 3: online**  
**Fall 2017**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Instructor:** Dr. Douglas H. Constance  
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**Office Hours:** online or  
by appointment

**Required Texts:**

**Think: Marriage and Families 2013 (Pearson)**  
Jennifer Kunz

**Course Introduction:** Marriage and family are two of the most important institutions in human societies. These institutions have changed significantly over time and occur in a myriad of forms. The sociological investigation of marriage and the family is essential to the proper functioning of a society. This course begins with an introduction to the history of the family, then covers different theories and methods for studying marriage and the family. The remainder of the course concentrates on the issues such as power and conflict, gender, affection, choosing a partner, parenting and raising children, the life cycle of the family, and how the family fits into major social institutions such as work, education, and religion. The course finishes up by looking at issues such as violence and abuse in families, separation and divorce, and the increase in single-parent and hybrid forms of the family.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, students will:

- 1) understand the historical development and current trends related to marriage and the family.
- 2) have a working knowledge of basic sociological concepts and principles related to marriage and the family.

**Class Format:** The class will be conducted entirely via SHSU Online. All necessary information is provided in the Tabs on the left side of the class homepage: Syllabus, Chapter Summaries, Exams, and Extra Credits. The Grade Center tab is located on the left of the page. **Students need to email Dr. Constance to verify that they have found and printed the syllabus and understand the requirements for the class.** I will give you reminders of when the exams are to be taken and when the extra credit opportunities are due. Use my chapter summaries to guide your reading and studying the chapters in the text.

**Tests and Grading:** There are four exams worth 100 points each during the semester. Each exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions. The exam questions are created based on the chapter reviews provided in the Chapter summaries, as well as the key terms in **BOLD** listed in the chapters. Your exams will be available from 6:00 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on Mondays: Sept. 18, October 16, November 13, and Monday December 4. You will have **1 HOUR** to complete each exam. The exam will **CLOSE** after **1 Hour**. **YOU MUST KEEP TRACK OF YOUR OWN TIME.** The exams are open-note and open-book exams. You can only take each exam once so be sure to answer all of the exam questions before you submit the exam. Also make sure you have a secure internet connection to take the exam - dial-up connections are not secure. In the event that

a student cannot take an exam at the regularly scheduled time, s/he must notify Dr. Constance prior to the scheduled exam to make arrangements for a make-up exam. Students must provide verifiable documentation to justify their absence from the exam.

**Grades** are assigned based on the total number of points earned during the semester as indicated in the grade scale below, including exams and extra credits combined. There is no grade curve in this class.

360 or more points = A;  
320-359 points = B;  
280-319 points = C;  
240-279 points = D;  
below 240 points = F.

**Extra Credit:** Students have the opportunity to do FOUR extra credit opportunities worth a possible TEN points each. The extra credit opportunities will consist of research papers of at least FOUR double-spaced pages, 12 point Times New Roman font and one inch margins. The due dates are listed in the syllabus. Students will submit the Extra Credits via SHSU Online. More specific requirements for the papers can be found under the Extra Credit tab on the course homepage. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of extra credit opportunities made available during the semester.

**Attendance Policy:** This is an online class so formal attendance is not taken.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities must register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center and then arrange a conference with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>  
SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building); Ph. 936-294-3512; TDD: 936-294-3786; E-mail: [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu); Web Address: [www.shsu.edu/disability](http://www.shsu.edu/disability)

**Religious Holidays:** The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education

excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes or exams due to Religious Holy Days. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

**University Code of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class. This is an online class. Students will behave in a polite and professional manner. <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** This is an online class. Students will behave in a polite and professional manner.

### **Schedule of Reading Assignments, Exams, and Extra Credit:**

Week of:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| August 21: | Chap: 1 – Introduction to Marriage and the Family                                   |
| August 28: | Chap: 2 – How to Study Marriage and the Family                                      |
|            | <b>Extra Credit #1:</b> On Being Single due Friday the 1 <sup>st</sup> .            |
| Sept. 4:   | Chap: 3 – Communication, Power, and Conflict  |
| Sept. 11:  | Chap: 4 – The Role of Gender  |
| Sept. 18:  | <b>Exam 1:</b> Monday the 18 <sup>th</sup> .  |
|            | Chap: 5 - Friendship, Affection, Love and Intimacy                                  |
| Sept. 25:  | Chap: 6 – Sex and Fertility   |
| Oct. 2:    | Chap: 7 – Choosing a Partner  |
|            | <b>Extra Credit #2:</b> Online Dating due Friday the 6 <sup>th</sup> .              |
| Oct. 9:    | Chap: 8 – Preparing for Children and Parenting                                      |
| Oct. 16:   | <b>Exam 2:</b> Monday the 16 <sup>th</sup> .  |
|            | Chap: 9 – Family Variation  |
|            | <b>Extra Credit #3:</b> The Paths to Cohabitation due Friday the 20 <sup>th</sup> . |
| Oct. 23:   | Chap: 10 – Middle-Aged and Aging Families   |
| Oct. 30:   | Chap: 11 – The Effects of Work and Economy  |
| Nov. 6:    | Chap: 12 – Family and Social Institutions:  |
|            | <b>Extra Credit #4:</b> Covenant Marriages due Friday the 10 <sup>th</sup> .        |
| Nov. 13:   | <b>Exam 3:</b> Monday the 13 <sup>th</sup> .  |
|            | Chap: 13 – Stress, Violence and Abuse   |
| Nov. 20:   | Chap: 14- Separation and Divorce  |
|            | (Thanksgiving Holiday)  |
| Nov. 27:   | Chap: 15 – Single Parent Families, Remarriage, and Stepfamilies                     |
|            | Chap: 16 – Enduring Marriages and Families:   |
| Dec. 4:    | <b>Final Exam</b> (Monday the 4 <sup>th</sup> )                                     |