

**Sociology 3341: Marriage and the Family**  
**Section 4: online**  
**Spring 2018**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Instructor:** Dr. Douglas H. Constance  
**Office:** 270W: CHSS  
**Phone:** 936-294-1514  
**E-mail:** soc\_dhc@shsu.edu

**Office Hours:** online or  
by appointment

**Required Texts:**

**Think: Marriage and Families 2013 (Pearson), by 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: February 12<sup>th</sup>; March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>; and May 7<sup>th</sup>. You will have **ONE HOUR** to complete each exam. The exam will CLOSE after 60 minutes. **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. This course does not require proctored examinations. There is no grade curve in this class.

Grades will be assigned based on the total number of points earned during the semester:

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 attendance is monitored via Blackboard and submission of class assignments.

**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>

**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:** Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of Sam Houston State University. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws. Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines that campus disruptive activities or disorderly conduct on component-owned or controlled property or at a component-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the component community or the component's social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities. <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.

**Evaluation:** Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the professor and the class during the latter part of the semester.

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

Week of:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Jan. 15:  | Chap: 1 – Introduction to Marriage and the Family   |
| Jan. 22:  | Chap: 2 – How to Study Marriage and the Family<br><b>Extra Credit #1: On Being Single due Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>.</b>                                     |
| Jan. 29:  | Chap: 3 – Communication, Power, and Conflict  |
| Feb. 5:   | Chap: 4 – The Role of Gender  |
| Feb. 12:  | <b>Exam 1: Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>.</b><br>Chap: 5 - Friendship, Affection, Love and Intimacy  |
| Feb. 19:  | Chap: 6 – Sex and Fertility   |
| Feb. 26:  | Chap: 7 – Choosing a Partner<br><b>Extra Credit #2: Online Dating due Friday. March 2<sup>nd</sup>.</b>   |
| March 5:  | Chap: 8 – Preparing for Children and Parenting  |
| March 12: | <b>Spring Break</b>   |
| March 19: | <b>Exam 2: Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>.</b><br>Chap: 9 – Family Variation<br><b>Extra Credit #3: The Paths to Cohabitation due Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.</b> |
| March 26: | Chap: 10 – Middle-Aged and Aging Families   |
| April 2:  | Chap: 11 – The Effects of Work and Economy  |
| April 9:  | Chap: 12 – Family and Social Institutions:<br><b>Extra Credit #4: Covenant Marriages due Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.</b>                                      |
| April 16: | <b>Exam 3: Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>.</b><br>Chap: 13 – Stress, Violence and Abuse   |

April 23: Chap: 14- Separation and Divorce  
May 30: Chap: 15 – Single Parent Families, Remarriage, and Stepfamilies  
Chap: 16 – Enduring Marriages and Families  
May 7: **Final Exam: Monday the 7<sup>th</sup>.**