

SE '02

**Chaminade University of Honolulu**  
**Spring Evening**  
**April 1 - June 10, 2002**  
**Pearl Harbor**

**COURSE:** Sociology 31160 Marriage and the Family

**TIME:** Mondays 16:45 - 20:55

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Telephone: 735-4822  
Address: P.O. Box 25054  
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**TEXTBOOK:** Bryan Strong, Christine DeVault, Barbara W. Sayad, and Theodore Cohen, 2001, 8th ed., The Marriage and Family Experience, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co.

**INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION:**

Family and marriage are cross-cultural universals; they occur in all human societies. Thus, most human beings get involved in some way with family and/or marriage. While family and marriage are universals, the specific form or forms they assume depend on the particular culture, sociological variables like economic class, and the historical period. This class will explore marriage and the family from the comparative and global perspectives, but with an emphasis on American society. The analysis will focus on theory and research regarding the structures, patterns, and trends of the marriage and family as basic social institutions.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

- \*to survey universal and particular aspects of family and marriage.
- \*to critically review the effect of cultural and social change on marriage and family.
- \*to understand and apply different approaches to the study of issues involved in marriage and family.
- \*to analyze factors related to problems in marriage and family.
- \*to help students deal better with their own personal involvement in marriage and family as well as with related sociopolitical issues as active members of various institutions in the local community and as active citizens of a state and the country.

**CLASS FORMAT:**

This class will be an interactive, cooperative learning experience for the students and the instructor. The format integrates lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, role plays, and debates. Students are encouraged and expected to actively participate in class activities. They are required to come to class with intensive reading to contribute to extensive discussion of the basic textbook and relevant videos.

Controversial issues identified by the students and instructor such as same-sex marriage, date rape, and physical punishment will be critically analyzed from all points of view through student debates.

In all of this, the instructor will apply perspectives from philosophy (critical thinking), women's studies and feminism, cultural anthropology, sociology, and ecology to help students gain a better understanding of the phenomena of marriage and family cross culturally.

**GRADING:**

The grading will be based on

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|----|--|---------|
| 1. | class attendance                                       | 10 pts. |
| 2. | class participation                                    | 10 pts. |
| 3. | group project and class presentation                   | 15 pts. |
| 4. | book chapter reports<br>(written 10 pts., oral 5 pts.) | 15 pts. |
| 5. | reflective journal                                     | 20 pts. |
| 6. | research report<br>(written 15 pts., oral 5 pts.)      | 30 pts. |

90-100 =A, 80-89 =B, 70-79 =C, 60-69 =D, 59 AND BELOW=F

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are required to be open minded and courteous in class discussion and to participate regularly in all class activities. Each student is expected to carefully read the assigned chapter in the textbook and be prepared to discuss it for the class period of the assignment.

**Only registered students are allowed to be in the class.**

SCHEDULE:

DATE                      TOPIC    READING (Chapter)

**April**

1                      Orientation and Introduction  
The Meaning of Marriage and the Family                      1

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8                      Group work preparation  
Group discussion on  
\*Dynamics and Diversity of families                      3

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15                      Studying of Marriage and the Family                      2  
Contemporary Gender Roles                      4

**TURN IN JOURNAL # 1**

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22                      Friendship, Love, and Commitment                      5  
Communication and Conflict Resolution                      6  
Singlehood, Pairing, and Cohabitation                      7

**TURN IN JOURNAL # 2**

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29                      **CLASS PRESENTATION OF THE GROUP PROJECT REPORT**

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**MAY**                      Understanding Sexuality                      8  
6                      Pregnancy and Parenting                      9  
Family Processes: Family Life Cycles                      10  
**TURN IN JOURNAL # 3**

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13                      Marriage, Work, and Economics                      11  
Family Violence and Sexual Abuse                      12  
Coming Apart: Separation and Divorce                      13

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20                      New Beginnings: Single-Parent Families,  
Remarriages, and Blended Families                      14  
  
Marriage and Family Strengths and Needs                      15

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27                      **MEMORIAL DAY NO CLASS** (REVIEW SAT.5/25 or 6/1)

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**JUNE**

3                      **FINAL RESEARCH REPORT CLASS PRESENTATION**

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10                      **FINAL RESEARCH REPORT CLASS PRESENTATION**

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The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to the syllabus and the schedule. The changes will be announced in class. Students are responsible to keep up with the class information and assignments if they miss any classes.