

SO 311 MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Bryan Man

OFFICE HRS: MF: 9-10 am; Th: 1-2 pm; or by appointment

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DESCRIPTION: Catalog: "Study of marriage and the family as basic institutions in American society. Emphasis is placed upon theory and research in this area with consideration given to social change and interpersonal relationships." In other words, the principles, concepts, problems, and trends in marriage and the family--basic institutions of American society--are discussed. Marriage and the family are studied as interrelated institutions which form a "Family System." Theories of the Family System will be presented and applied in our understanding of each institution, the Family System, and the changes and alternative models, which have developed in the Family System. Emphasis in the latter part of the course will be on the study of specific family patterns and problems found in the United States.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be exposed to the institutions of marriage and the family from a sociological perspective. Students are expected to:

1. apply basic definitions, concepts, and theories to the understanding of the fundamental processes of marital and family life;
2. understand the ethnic diversity with respect to marriage patterns and family types, here in the U.S. and abroad;
3. know the conditions, both interpersonal and social that surround the changing patterns found in the marriage and family system;
4. know the role of interpersonal communication in significant other relationships;
5. know the causes, correlates, and consequences of family violence;
6. know the functions of marriage to the couple members, and
7. develop the social and socio-psychological bases for competencies in the area of interpersonal and family relations.

Paper Requirement: Two options to choose from.

1) A 15-20 page term paper on an approved topic is required of students to determine their understanding of the issues covered, theory(ies) that apply, and previous research findings on the topic, or

2) A 26-28 hour service learning project can be substituted for the term paper. The service learning experience requires 3 training sessions, 10 2-hour weekly tutoring sessions, and a 5-6 page reflection paper of your experiences, personal growth, and your evaluation of the tutorial project.

GRADES: Tests will consist primarily of essay-type questions, with some objective questions (definitions). All papers are to follow the writing standards of Chaminade University. Use the reference and citation formats in the text. Paper assignments may be made as significant issues arise in class. No late papers will be accepted. Early papers will be. A missed test must be excused prior to the test time and made up before the next class period.

Two tests (100 pts. each)	200 pts	A = 427 - 475 pts
Final test (100 pts)	100	B = 380 - 426
Term Paper or Service Learning Project (100 pts)	100	C = 332 - 379
Participation, mini papers & attendance	50	D = 285 - 331
One quiz	25	F = less than 285
Total:	475 pts	



TEXT: Bryan Strong & Christine DeVault. The Marriage and Family Experience, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.  
St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 2001.

**COURSE OUTLINE: (TENTATIVE)**

- 1/13-17 Introduction. The Marriage and Family System--  
types & other concepts; contemporary issues. Ch.1
- 1/20 Father Chaminade/Martin Luther King Day—Offices Closed (No classes?)**
- 1/22-24 Family research; sociological theory & the family. Ch. 2
- 1/27 Quiz Chapter 1 & 2 and lectures**
- 1/27-31 The American Family: Changes through Time. Ch. 3
- 2/3-7 Gender Roles, Past and present. Ch. 4
- 2/17 Presidents' Day—No Classes**
- 2/19-21 Love and romance; commitment; intimacy. Ch. 5  
(video)
- 2/24 Test One—Chapters 1 through 5 & lectures, videos**  
**2/26 Video on the American Family**
- 2/28-3/5 Communication & Conflict. Ch. 6
- 3/7-12 Courtship: Marriage process, singlehood and cohabitation. Ch. 7
- 3/14-17 Sexuality; sexuality in relationships; consequence of sexuality in a relationship.  
Ch. 8
- 3/19-21 Pregnancy; childbirth. Parents; children. Ch. 9  
**3/21 or 31 Test 2—Chapters 6 through 9 & lectures & videos**
- 3/24-28 Spring Break—No Classes**
- 3/31-4/4 Family Processes & Life Cycles Ch. 10  
**4/4 Late Day to Withdraw from Classes**
- 4/7-11 Marriage, Work, & Economics. Ch. 11
- 4/14-16 Family Violence & Spouse Abuse. Ch. 12  
**4/18 Good Friday—No Classes**
- 4/21-25 Fractured Families: Separation & Divorce. Ch. 13
- 4/28-5/2 New Beginnings.... Ch. 14  
**4/28 Term Papers/Reflection Papers are due.**
- 5/5 Final Exam Chapters 10-14, videos & lecture materials**  
**Monday, 12:45-2:45 P.M., in H104**