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Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall Evening Program
October 2 - December 15, 2000
Pearl Harbor

COURSE: Sociology 31160 Marriage and the Family

TIME: Fridays 16:45 - 20:50

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

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TEXTBOOK: Strong, Bryan, Christine DeVault, and Barbara W. Sayad, 1998, 7th 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 abortion, same-sex marriage, and euthanasia 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, and ecology to help students gain a better understanding of the phenomena of marriage and family.

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 report
(written 10 pts., oral 5 pts.) | 15 pts. |
| 5. reflective journal
(written 15 pts., oral 5 pts.) | 20 pts. |
| 6. research report
(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.

All students will be graded on the following requirements:

- *come to class on time and stay for the whole period.
- *be courteous and professional in class discussions i.e. take turns in speaking, allowing others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and non-verbal language.
- *show respect and an open mind to different ideas and opinion from class members.
- *turn in assignments on time.
- *be responsible to cooperate and complete class/team projects on time.

BOOK CHAPTER REPORTS:

Students will be assigned to read chapter(s) from the textbooks and to turn in the following on the day when they take a leading role in class discussion:

- 1) a 1-2 page (typed double-spaced) summary of the chapter(s) including
- 2) 3 main points from the reading clearly stated in bullet or number format, and
- 3) 3 analytical questions for class discussion.

RESEARCH PROJECT:

The purpose of the project is for students to creatively apply knowledge from classroom to real life experience. Students may choose a research topic relating to the problems and issues of marriage and the family. The research methodology includes survey, interviews, and a literature review.

The written report of the research should be within the range of 7-10 double-spaced typed pages. It will be due on the last day of the class when the oral report is given.

Plagiarized work will lead to failure of the course. Also, it will be reported to the university for disciplinary action.

ORAL REPORT ON RESEARCH PROJECT:

Each student will have 10 minutes to share their project with the class. The oral report should be a brief summary of the student's written report. Reading from the written report is discouraged and points will be taken off. The grade will be based on the style of presentation, the ability to deliver information succinctly, and being conscientious about the 10 minutes time slot by not going over the time limit for each student.

REFLECTIVE JOURNAL:

Each student is required to keep a one page reflective journal at the end of each class. In lieu of the mid-term exam, students may select one specific topic from their previous collection of journal entries to analyze in details. This journal should reflect the student's understanding of the issues of marriage and the family experience. The student will orally present this journal in class and turn in all of the written journals on the day of the mid term class presentation. Each journal must be typed double-spaced. The total number of the journal entries is four. Each entry will be graded for its brief and insightful reflection of the issues of marriage and the family experience. The contents of class presentation journal should include:

- 1) reflective understanding of the chosen topic;
- 2) insightful comment on the topic; and
- 3) 3 analytical questions about the topic.

LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENT:

All of students' work will be evaluated for:

- *knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class lectures, discussion, videos, resources from research, outside class activities.
- *ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints.
- *ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society.
- *clarity and logical presentation.
- *demonstration of having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- *demonstration of achieving the objectives of this class.
- ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Students must turn in all class assignments and the exam in class on time. Points will be taken off for turning in assignments late. All work turned in must be typed double-spaced.

ONLY HARD COPY WILL BE ACCEPTED. EXAM AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL OR FAX.

