

# Sociology 462: Marriage and the Family

## Section 1: 12:00 -2:00

Summer 1: 2008  
Room 307 AB1

**Instructor:** Dr. Douglas H. Constance  
**Office:** 311D AB1  
**Phone:** 936-294-1514  
**E-mail:** soc\_dhc@shsu.edu

**Office Hours:** M/TH 9:00-10:00;  
or by appointment

### Required Texts:

**Sociology of Marriage and the Family (Wadsworth, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition)**  
Scott Coltrane and Randall Collins,

### 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.

**Tests and Grading:** There will be three exams during the semester for a total of 300 possible points. The exams will be worth 100 points each and will cover the readings and lectures. The exams will be true/false and multiple-guess. Students have the opportunity to do TWO OF THREE extra credit opportunities worth a possible ten points each. The extra credit opportunities will consist of research papers of five double-spaced pages, 12 point Times New Roman font and one inch margins. Students are required to do a review of at least three refereed journal articles as part of each paper. The due dates are listed in the syllabus. More specific requirements for the papers will be given out early in the semester. Grades will be assigned based on the total number of points earned during the semester: 270 or more points = A; 240 - 269 points = B; 210 - 239 points = C; 180 - 209 points = D; below 180 points = F. There is no grade curve in this class. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of extra credit opportunities made available during the semester.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes and participate fully in class activities. A record of attendance will be maintained by the instructor. Punctual attendance is also expected of each student. Please be respectful and arrive to class on time. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness and are also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work. Failure to do so will affect grades.

**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.

**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.

**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 due to “Religious Holy Days”.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to classtime. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases the students will be removed from the class.

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

June 3: Tues.	Chap: 1 - Sociological Theory: Explaining Families in a Stratified Society
June 4: Wed.	Chap: 2 - The Social Ingredients of Families: Gender, Love, and Property
June 5: Thurs:	Brazelton Film - “The Changing Family”
June 6: Fri.	Chap: 3 - History of the Family I: From Kinship Politics to Patriarchal Households
June 9: Mon.	Chap: 3 - History of the Family I: From Kinship Politics to Patriarchal Households
June 10: Tues.	Chap: 4 - History of the Family II: The Love Revolution and the Rise of Feminism
June 11: Wed.	Chap: 5 -Families Trends: The Twentieth Century and Beyond Extra Credit #1 due: On Being Single
June 12: Thurs.	Chap: 6 - Families and Work: The Economy, Social Class, and Inequality
June 13: Fri.	Chap: 7 - Race and Ethnicity: Understanding Structural and Cultural Differences
June 16: Mon.	Exam #1.
June 17: Tues.	Chap: 8 - Romantic Love: Love, Cohabitation and Marriage
June 18: Wed.	Chap: 9 - Erotic Ties: Marital and Nonmarital Sex
June 19: Thurs.	Chap: 10 - Contraception and Reproduction Extra Credit #2 due: The Paths to Cohabitation .

June 20: Fri.	Class does not meet
June 23: Mon.	Exam #2
June 24: Tues	Chap: 11 - Domestic Life: Housework, Power, and Marital Happiness
June 25: Wed.	Chap: 12 - Raising Children: Motherhood, Fatherhood, and Socialization
June 26: Thurs.	Chap: 13- Family Violence: Spouse Abuse, Child Abuse, and Elder Abuse
June 27: Fri	Class does not meet
June 30: Mon	Chap: 14 - Uncoupling-Recoupling: Divorce, Remarriage, and Stepfamilies Extra Credit #3 Due: Covenant Marriages
July 1: Tues.	<b>Final Exam</b> during regular class time.