

**SOCIOLOGY 120 - MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**  
**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE - FALL SEMESTER 2009**

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<u>Office Hours:</u>	7:30-8:00 a.m. (M-F) 1:15-2:00 p.m. (M-F) And by Appointment
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**I. TEXT:**

Choices in Relationships - An Introduction to Marriage and the Family, 10th Edition, by David Knox and Caroline Schacht, Wadsworth Publishing Co., 2110.

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course analyzes the sociological, physical, psychological, legal and economic aspects of the American family. Included are investigations of courtship and marriage relationships, preparation for marriage, family, parenthood, interpersonal relationships, and marital adjustment.

**III. COURSE GOALS:**

This course has the hopeful intention of offering students a way of studying courtship, marriage and family relations that can have definite pertinence in their own living experiences. It was designed for the student who is concerned about his/her own marriage and the family. Although based on theory and research, it cuts through to the relevant issues of the person, the time, and the reasons for marriage. These are discussed as the who, when, and why of marriage and the family.

- 1) Discuss insights of what courtship, marriage, and the family is and is not.
- 2) Examine practical and problem-solving approaches in dating, courtship, marriage, and the family.
- 3) Clarify and assess goals, attitudes, and values of courtship, marriage, and the family.
- 4) Improve interpersonal competence in such areas as communication, self-disclosure, and conflict resolution that are essential for building and maintaining intimate relationships.
- 5) Develop awareness-a realistic view of themselves, their partners, their relationships and to prepare for transitions encountered in dating, marriage and other intimate relations.

It is also desired that through this course, students develop, reinforce, and value such basic learning skills as:

- 1) Self-discipline, as applied to study habits, meeting deadlines, and completing assignments. The standard guideline is at least 2 hours reading and study time for each hour of class time.
- 2) Reading, writing and comprehending the English language.
- 3) Independent and critical thinking.

**IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCIES: <http://www.dmacc.edu/competencies>**

1. Review classification and functions of the family.
2. Assess yourself, feelings and perspectives on an array of courtship, marriage and family issues.
3. Acquaint the individual with current theories and research in courtship, marriage, and the family.
4. Analyze the reasons, decisions, and preparation for marriage.
5. Prepare for and achieve successful marital and family relationships.
6. Analyze marital adjustment, planning children, having children and rearing children. (Parenting)
7. Review and acquaint the individuals with alternatives, choices, and lifestyle diversity in marriage and the family.
8. Analyze the implications of love (types, theories), engagement, weddings, and honeymoons.
9. Discuss and explore human sexuality, sexual values and behaviors, family planning, and birth control techniques.
10. Analyze power, housework, gender roles, marital satisfaction, and improve communication and negotiation skills in relationships.
11. Discuss myths, realities, insights, and expectations of marriage.
12. Analyze qualities of "successful" and "resilient" marriage and family relationships.
13. Discuss traditional, contemporary, and dual-earner marriages and families.
14. Understand the dynamics of dating, cohabitation, courtship, mate selection, and identify a compatible marriage partner.
15. Understand child bearing, the birth experience, childrearing, and parenting skills.
16. Analyze social class, race, religion, age-discrepant, and ethnic variations in courtship and marriage patterns.
17. Discuss and analyze financial, economic, and legal aspects of marriage and the family.
18. Analyze transitions and future of the family.
19. Understand violence, abuse, managing stress, family crises, and therapies.
20. Discuss divorce, widowhood, remarriage, step families, and family in later life.

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

We will employ: lectures, class discussion, small group discussion, case study problems, videos, self-assessment inventories (marriage test, love test, parenting test, sex knowledge test), and the text.

<u>DATE (WEEK OF)</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING</u>
August 26	Choices in Relationships: An Introduction	Chapter 1
August 31	Love	Chapter 2
September 1	<u>LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES</u>	
September 7	<u>NO CLASSES (LABOR DAY)</u>	
September 8	Gender	Chapter 3
September 14	Communication Individual Autobiography	Chapter 4 Appendix A
	<u>FIRST EXAM</u>	
September 21	Singlehood, Hanging Out, Hooking Up and Cohabitation	Chapter 5
September 28	Mate Selection Prenuptial Agreement	Chapter 6 Appendix C
October 5	Marriage Relationships	Chapter 7
October 12	Same-Sex Couples and Families Family Autobiography	Chapter 8 Appendix B
	<u>SECOND EXAM (MIDTERM)</u>	
October 19	Sexuality in Relationships Sexual Anatomy & Physiology Sexual Dysfunctions HIV and STI's	Chapter 9 Special Topic 1 Special Topic 2 Special Topic 3
October 26	Planning Children and Contraception	Chapter 10
November 2	Parenting Family and the Economy	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
November 4	<u>LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES</u>	
November 9	<u>THIRD EXAM</u>	
November 16	Violence and Abuse in Relationships Stress and Crisis in Relationships	Chapter 13 Chapter 14

November 23	Divorce and Ending Relationships Remarriage and Beginning New Relationships	Chapter 15 Chapter 16
November 26, 27	<u>THANKSGIVING VACATION</u>	
November 30	Relationships in the Later Years Living Will Durable Power of Attorney Careers in Marriage and the Family Resources and Organizations The Future of Marriage and Family	Chapter 17 Appendix D Appendix E Special Topic 4 Special Topic 5 Epilogue
December 1, 2	<u>Project Due (Extra Credit)</u>	
December 8 (T)	<u>MAKE-UP EXAM</u> (9:40 a.m.-11:05 a.m., <u>TR Class</u> )	
December 9 (W)	<u>MAKE-UP EXAM</u> (10:10 a.m.-11:05 p.m., <u>MWF Class</u> )	
December 11 (F)	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> (10:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., <u>MWF 10:10 a.m. Class</u> )	
December 15 (T)	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> (9:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m., <u>TR 9:40 a.m. Class</u> )	

## VI. GRADING:

EXAMS: Exams will cover all assigned readings from the test and everything covered during the lectures. The exam questions will be a combination of 25 multiple choice, 30 true-false, and 5 essays.

There will be four exams of equal weight. The course will be based on total points (400). The final exam is NOT COMPREHENSIVE. Please bring a No. 2 lead pencil for the exams. A study guide will be provided before each exam. If class is cancelled on a test day due to inclement weather, the test will be given on the make-up day for Finals, Wednesday, Dec 16, 2009.

Make-up exams: All make-up exams must be taken during the LAST regular class meeting (the week before Final Exam--check above schedule). A student is allowed to make up only ONE exam. If two or more exams are missed, you will receive an F for the course. Failure to take the make-up exam or final will result in an F for the course.

**VII. CHEATING: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any student caught cheating will receive an "F" for the course.

Refer to the DMACC Student Handbook: <http://www.dmacc.edu/handbook/welcome.asp>

You are expected to complete your work without cheating or plagiarism. These constitute academic misconduct, and disciplinary action will be taken. Penalties include failure on the quiz, exam or paper, failure for the course, and filling an Academic Misconduct Form that will be placed in your college records. Information on avoiding plagiarism can be found at <http://www.library.dmacc.edu/PublicPages/Plagiarism.htm>.

**VIII. GRADE COMPUTATION:**

	<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>Your Score</u>
Exam #1	100	_____
Exam #2	100	_____
Exam #3	100	_____
Final	<u>100</u>	_____
 TOTAL POSSIBLE:	 <u>400</u>	 YOUR TOTAL _____

**IX. TENTATIVE GRADING SCALE:**

- 400-360 points = A
- 359-320 points = B
- 319-280 points = C
- 279-240 points = D
- 239-Below = F

Record your grade so you know where you stand.

**X. OTHER REQUIREMENTS: (2 Applied Projects)**

Two personal reflections will also be required. The purpose of these reflections is to evaluate your own ideas, feelings, and attitudes toward certain aspects of dating, marriage, and the family. Project 1 – Self-identity. Discuss long and short-term personal, and marital goals, expectations of partner and marriage, marital roles, values – religious , economic, recreational, and educational.

Project 2 – Marriage expectations inventory – answer questions on expectations of marriage, partner, in-laws, children, money, communication, religion, sex, leisure activities, careers, love, and parenting. These projects are subjective and are not graded but are mandatory for the course. If they are not completed, you will receive an incomplete for the course. SAVE COPIES OF YOUR PAPER.

**XI. ATTENDANCE - PARTICIPATION:**

I believe that attendance and class participation are especially important. I will be taking attendance and expect you to be in class. Contacting your instructor is not necessary if you occasionally miss a class. However, contacting your instructor is very important if you miss an extended number of classes. Class attendance is strongly recommended; missing classes can harm your grade. In the classroom, I will draw relationships between theory, concepts, and your everyday experiences in marriage and family relationships. Students should be

aware that good lecture attendance is strongly correlated with good performance on exams. Essay questions will come from lectures. You will be responsible for missed lecture notes. Students are encouraged to get involved in class participation and discussion at any time. This class will cover some highly sensitive and controversial issues regarding courtship, marriage, family, and sexuality. An open attitude is conducive to an effective learning experience. Questions, rebuttals, and debate are always welcome in this class. Students are encouraged to speak their minds at any time. Your values, attitudes, and beliefs may differ from others. Differences do not mean that one view is right and the other is wrong. Respect differences since education tolerates diversity of opinions. Derogatory terms and name calling are not acceptable. I expect you to express your opinions in acceptable language and exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Students are expected to be on time. Students who disrupt the class will be asked to leave.

## XII. WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

I want to help you succeed in this class. If you have a legitimate reason to be absent for an extended time, please contact me in order to arrange to make up missed work. I'll be happy to assign an "Incomplete" grade **if you request it** and if there is a reasonable probability that you will complete the missing assignment.

If you choose to drop the class, you **must** complete an official drop slip and return it to Student Records in Building 1. Without this drop slip, you will receive an F for the course. The last day to drop a class this semester is **November 4, 2009**.

## XIII. GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

You should become acquainted with the services provided in Bldg. 6, Rm. 20, the Academic Achievement Center (964-6558) and Rm. 23, the Testing Center (964-6595).

Academic Achievement Center	<a href="http://www.dmacc.edu/student_services/academic_achievement_center.asp">http://www.dmacc.edu/student_services/academic_achievement_center.asp</a> <b>Building 6, Room 20</b> Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. <b>NOTE:</b> Summer hours may vary
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It is a good place to seek individual help for your classes. Tutoring services, test taking skills, study skills, time management, writing lab, and a computer lab are also available.

Computer Labs	<a href="http://www.dmacc.edu/helpdesk/pc_labs.htm">http://www.dmacc.edu/helpdesk/pc_labs.htm</a> <b>Building 6</b> Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday – 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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The Counseling Center (Academic), located in Bldg. 1 is an invaluable help in many areas. A personal counselor is also located in Bldg. 2, Room 10B (964-6268).

Library	<a href="http://www.library.dmacc.edu/">http://www.library.dmacc.edu/</a> <b>Building 6, Room 3</b> Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday – 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
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## **Special Needs**

Accommodation: [http://www.dmacc.edu/student\\_services/disabilities.asp](http://www.dmacc.edu/student_services/disabilities.asp)

It is the policy of DMACC to accommodate students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires reasonable accommodation should contact the Special Needs Coordinator at (515) 964-6850 voice or (515) 964-6810 tty.

If you carry a cell phone or pager/beeper to classroom, please turn it off and DO NOT use during class time. If you have special circumstances that you feel warrant an exception to this policy, you must bring this to my attention in order to obtain permission.

Important Note: (Disclaimer) This syllabus is representative of materials that will be covered in this class; it is not a contract between the students and the institution. It is subject to change without notice. Any potential exceptions to stated policies and requirements will be addressed on an individual basis, and only for reasons that meet specific requirements. If you have any problems related to this class, please feel free to discuss them with me.

## **XIV. EXTRA CREDIT (10 points):**

I will offer two opportunities for extra credit. (10 points)

A. The student may write an extra credit report to improve his/her grade. The project is developing and designing your own marriage contract or prenuptial agreement. (5 points) Topics include: (5 points)

1. Names
2. Financial Matters
  - a. assets (property)
  - b. support and living expenses
  - c. managing income
3. Household Arrangements
4. Sexual Expectations
5. Children-family size and Child Care Responsibilities
6. Relationship with Others (friends, previous spouse)
7. Religion
8. Careers
9. Duration of Contract, Renegotiation, Review
10. Termination of Contract-Financial Settlement and Children

B. The student may also develop a budget. This will be discussed in class. (5 points)

Due Date: December 1, 2, 2009