SOCI 2301.083 – MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY Course Syllabus: Fall 2024

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."

CARMEN SHURTLEFF
Professor of Sociology and Social work

Monday - off campus
Tuesday - by appointment
Wednesday - by appointment
Thursday - 9am - 4pm
Friday - off campus

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This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description: 3 credit hours.
Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of lecture each week.
Sociological and theoretical analysis of the structures and functions of the family, the varied cultural patterns of the American family, and the relationships that exist among the individuals within the family, as well as the relationships that exist between the family and other institutions in society.

Required Textbook(s): Marriage & Family Digital Text with Connect. 9th edition. Lauer, Robert H. Lauer, Jeanette C. Copyright 2018

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Co. Inc., New York,   **ISBN Number:** 978-1-260-13113-0

Recommended Reading(s):

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate understanding of the family and marriage as social institutions through theoretical perspectives.
2. Examine the diversity and complexity of contemporary families.
3. Explore changing cultural attitudes about marriage and alternatives to marriage.
4. Critically evaluate such issues as sexuality, partner choice, resolving marital issues, having and raising children, and combining work with family.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between theories and research methods used in the scientific study of marriage and family.
6. Describe some of the historical changes and current trends regarding the structural nature of the American family including the role of gender in relationships.
7. Identify causes and consequences of relevant problems within contemporary families

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Theory Paper	100 points
Marriage and Family Portfolio	100 points
Discussions/Reflections	100 points
Mid-term	100 points
Final	100 points

Total Possible   **500 points**

Grading and evaluation--In general, a course grade of a "C" represents an acceptable level of work. A course grade of "B" represents a substantial effort and achievement. It is clearly a grade for the better than average product and effort. An "A" is awarded only in the case of both outstanding efforts and quality in the required products. The grades will be awarded on the following basis:

A = 90% to 100% of possible points
B = 80% to 89% of possible points
C = 70% to 79% of possible points
D = 60% to 69% of possible points
F = 59% and below of possible points

Tests/Exams: There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. Make-up examinations, as a rule, will not be permitted, unless the student's absence is excused in advance. A grade of incomplete ("X") will not be given unless the student contacts the instructor to make special arrangements for making up required work. Only emergency situation that prohibit the student from completing the course as planned will warrant consideration of the grade of "X". Midterm: April 15th and May 11th.

Minimum Technology Requirements:
Below are some technical requirements for using Blackboard that will help your experience in this course. You will see the NTCC Tech Support email address and phone number below. Please contact them if you run into any technical problems during the semester. Please let your instructor know you are having difficulties as well.   If you need further NTCC technical support services please contact IT at IT@ntcc.edu or 903.434.8140.

Blackboard will work on both a Mac and a PC. (Chrome Books are known to have issues with Blackboard.) It is best to access Blackboard through Fire-Fox or Chrome as your web browser. If you have trouble with any of the activities working improperly, you might change your web browser as your first solution. The Default Browser in Windows 10 in Edge. This browser does not do well with Blackboard! If you will go to Windows Accessories you will find Internet Explorer still on your computer, but is not your default browser. If you have any difficulties navigating with Edge, close it and go to Internet Explorer. You can download Blackboard
Student for your smart phone from the Play store or the App store. More information is available for Technology Requirements and Support under the Student Resources – Technical Support Tab in Blackboard.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

1. Communicate via email including sending attachments 2. Navigate the World Wide Web using a Web browser such as Internet Explorer 3. Use office applications such as Microsoft Office (or similar) to create documents 4. Be willing to learn how to communicate using a discussion board and upload assignments to a classroom Web site 5. Be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files 6. Have easy access to the Internet 7. Navigate Blackboard, including using the email component within Blackboard. Instructions and tutorials for this are provided in your course. For more information or technical assistance on using the Learning Management System, please refer to the Home Page, Orientation Module, in the important technical requirement, information and support folder in Blackboard.

Course Structure and Overview:
This is an online course. All class meetings will be reserved for lecture, speaking activities/drills and speech presentations. Students are expected to complete all the readings of the required e-book chapters, watch the instructional videos and complete the online chapter activities. You will see that the course is divided into 8 weeks in the Blackboard portion. Pay close attention to deadlines for all assignments. Assignments will not be accepted late! Technical difficulties are no excuse for late assignments. Class participation is an essential element in this course. Each student will be expected to participate in speaking drills/activities which will occur during class time. These activities will allow students to sharpen their presentations and enhance delivery skills.

Tests/Exams (SLO 3)(CT1)
Grading: 100 points per exam

There will be two tests (100 points each). Everyone must take the final exam. Exams will consist of multiplechoice, matching or definitions, and short essay questions. Make-up examinations, as a rule, will not be permitted, unless the student's absence is excused in advance. A grade of incomplete ("X") will not be given unless the student contacts the instructor to make special arrangements for making up the required work. An only emergency situation that prohibits the student from completing the course as planned will warrant consideration of the grade of "X".

Assignments:
All written assignments should be typed (12-point font), double-spaced, with one-inch margins, a title page, and stapled. Students are encouraged to submit written work that has been spell-checked and is free of grammatical errors. Students are expected to use APA style when citing reference materials. Students are advised that points will be deducted if these criteria are not met.

Theory Paper (SLO 1 & 5)
Grading: 100 points
ALL students enrolled in this section will be required to write a theory paper in which you may pick two themes related to marriage and family (for instance cohabitation, abortion, parenting, infidelity, etc.) and explain it in terms of the three theories learned in Chapter 1: Exchange Theory, Symbolic Interaction Theory, and Conflict Theory. The papers should be THREE-FOUR double-spaced, typed pages.

Marriage and Family Portfolio (SLO 2, 3, 6, & 7)
Grading: 100 points

Students are required to maintain a journal that reflects their growing confidence and independence, knowledge and understanding, skills and strategies, use of prior and emerging experience, and critical reflection/thinking in and about Marriage and the Family. The journal must be updated at least weekly

(minimum 15 entries total). Students can use a variety of strategies to reflect their growing understanding of the subject matter.

Several suggestions are listed below:

Create a portfolio of "cultural artifacts" (e.g. pictures of signs/billboards, YouTube videos, videos of commercials or links to TV shows, etc.) which relate to the sociology of marriage and the family;

Maintain an annotated bibliography of peer-reviewed literature in the sociology of marriage and the family; Explore popular/other literature as it relates to sociology of marriage and the family; Explore forms of art, music, poetry, etc. as they relate to the sociology of marriage and the family; Describe your own thoughts, perceptions, and feelings related to the course literature, activities, lectures, and films;

Write your own stories/music/poetry that has relevance to the sociology of marriage and the family; Describe events in your life (or others' lives) as they relate to the sociology of marriage and the family.

Address the following in each entry:

1. Summarize what it is. Describe it. What are you addressing, describing, etc.?
2. Critically evaluate each discussion and related it to some aspect or theory from your textbook.
3. What were your feelings about the topic?
4. What did you learn about yourself?
5. Did anything make your feel uncomfortable?
6. Can you relate to the experience?

Reflection/Discussion Boards (SLO 4)
Grading: 100 points

Discussion Board: A percentage of your grade is based on your posts on the Discussion Boards. If you are required to post on the discussion board, it will be clearly indicated in that week's assignment. You must post at least twice to each discussion board unless otherwise indicated in the assignment description. One post should be your response to the questions posed in the discussion board. The other post should be a thoughtful response to another student's post. In order to receive credit, you must post your response to the posted discussion board questions by Thursday at midnight. In addition, you must post a response to another student's post by Sunday at midnight. Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. Each discussion board assignment is worth 10 points. However, in order to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements: - Posts should be a minimum of 125 words - Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed, but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion - Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary appropriate for a college-level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated.

Questions to think about when writing your post:

Critically evaluate each discussion and related it to some aspect or theory from your textbook. What were your feelings about the topic?
What did you learn about yourself?
Did anything make your feel uncomfortable?
Can you relate to the experience?

Communications:
Emails will be responded to with 24 hours. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, then the email was not received.   Posts in the Discussion Forum "Questions, Comments, and/or Concerns?" will be monitored by the instructor. Responses by the instructor will be within 72 hours of post. The college's official means of communication is via your campus email address. I will use your campus email address Remind App, and Blackboard to communicate with you outside of class. Make sure you keep your campus email cleaned out and below the limit so you can receive important messages.

Institutional/Course Policy:
No late work will be accepted without prior approval by the instructor. Students are always expected to be respectful toward classmates and professor! Review Student Conduct in the Student Handbook. It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard for important information/announcements regarding the course. Students should be working on course material via Blackboard every week. Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit assignments in case of technology issues.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:
 In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (http://www.ntcc.edu/) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:
NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach, using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

Artificial Intelligence Statement:
Individual instructors may allow or disallow any use of AI software for coursework. It is the student's responsibility to follow any AI classroom policy and the course's guidelines set forth by the instructor. Integrating AI into the course can undoubtedly bring numerous benefits and advancements. However, any use of AI software must be cited, or it could constitute **academic dishonesty (plagiarism)**.
Recognizing the potential risks and ensuring that AI technologies are implemented responsibly and ethically is crucial. Students are fully accountable and responsible for any content, AI or non-AI, used in an assignment that is submitted. If any student has any questions surrounding the use of AI, please reach out to the instructor.

 ADA Statement:
 It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students

with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special population's page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law protecting student education records' privacy. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable U.S. Department of Education program. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when attending a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." A parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the student's written consent. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the student's written consent unless the student requests in writing. Directory information is defined as the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, the field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Student Social Support Resources:
At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often have concerns that could lead to barriers to success. If you are a student who needs support and/or guidance, NTCC offers Eagle Assist. Eagle Assist is a comprehensive hub for students to access resources beyond the classroom. Some of those services include classroom accommodations, mental health counseling, tutoring, CARE Center, Financial Literacy, and Emergency Assistance. NTCC supports alleviating barriers, enabling student value and success, regardless of lived experience. To access services, please email eagleassist@ntcc.edu. In addition, if you need additional community resources, please www.ntcc.edu/carecenter.