

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

SOCIOLOGY 316, 001

Marriage and Family

Syllabus

On-Line Course

Summer I, 2016

(June 6, 2016 to July 7, 2016)

R. N. Singh, Ph. D.

Professor

My University E-mail Address: raghu.singh@tamuc.edu

Office Hours By Appointment. Please e-mail me and send me your phone # if you needed to talk to me on phone, and I will call you, if needed.

COURSE INFORMATION

I. Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Textbook: Benokraitis, *Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices and Constraints*, 8th Edition, 2015, ISBN 978-0-205-91819-5 (7th Edition, 2012, is acceptable; ISBN: 10-205-00673-6.) Pearson/Prentice Hall.

You can contact the Texas Book Store located in 115 Sam Rayburn Student Center on our campus in Commerce. Visit the book store, or call at 903-886-5215, to buy it; or buy book through on-line.

II. Course Description:

Welcome to the SOC 316! It is an online course. Your syllabus as well as weekly discussions and study guides, (including all exams) are provided on line. YOU MUST LOGINTO ONLINE regularly every week.

I am confident that we will have a productive summer term in learning selected issues related to the sociological perspective on marriage and family. Your responsibilities in completing this course are stated below.

- 1. It will be very important that you all read regularly the syllabus and ALL Announcements posted at the home page of this course very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, etc. Ignorance about details given in classes as well as in the course syllabus and various announcements posted on the eCollege web site cannot be accepted as excuse in any manner. I urge that you FULLY understand course requirements, grading procedures, and details on exams and weekly discussions. That will be the key to doing well in the course. Also, please feel free to ask me questions about the course requirements. You can also post your questions at **VIRTUAL OFFICE** in the Home Page of this course.**
- 2. Read instructions under each week carefully. Your **study guide** (in terms each chapter's learning objectives, overview summary, and guidance for succeeding in fulfilling the requirements) is given under the headings of various topics or chapters.**
- 3. It is important that you log into each week and use the study guide to complete work regularly.**
- 4. All of your closed book exams will mainly be based on your text book and class discussions. Be sure to read carefully all reading assignments for each exam.**
- 5. Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your MyLeo account in the eCollege (but please do not send me any e-mail on MyLeo). If you have problem with your e-mail system, please contact the Instructional Technology office.**

II. Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This is a general survey course in the American institution of marriage and family, particularly focused on mate selection and intimacy process, gender issues, and marriage and family enrichment. You should read articles in journals related to marriage and family and relevant articles on the internet while working on your course. Through readings (text book or other materials and class discussions, we will pursue the following course objectives:

- 1. The course is aimed at providing you critical thinking and an in depth understanding of the sociological perspective to selected marriage and family issues and problems. It will help you to become familiar with the language and literature as well as the key ideas, concepts, theories, and issues commonly associated with discourse on marriage and family relations in the United States.**
- 2. It will enable you to consider American institution of marriage and family in a comparative, global perspective by examining examples of the institution in other nations in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America.**
- 3. The course will help you identify various sociological principles, theories and concepts relevant to marriage and family.**
- 4. You will examine critical issues relevant to crises in the institution of marriage and family, including ones such as mate selection, communication problems, problems of conflict and violence, and seriousness of the rising divorce rate. The course will provide you examples of research studies in the area.**
- 5. You will explore strategies of solving problems related to marriage and family. The course should also help you apply sociological principles to real-life marriage problems.**

The learning outcome assessment (SLOs) for the goals stated above will be based on exams and bonus-points weekly discussions to insure:

- 1. That you have learned basic concepts relevant to marriage and family in human society;**
- 2. That you understand the origin and forms of various issues involving marriage and family; and**
- 3. That you have developed critical thinking based on various sociological theories explaining marriage and family problems and issues.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading will be based upon **total 300 points accumulated from **2 out of 3 exams scores**. You will be provided bonus points in three weekly discussions to earn points for improving your grades. Details on all requirements and grading procedures are stated below:**

At the end of the course, based on 300 points, an “A” will be equal to 90+%, a “B” will be equal to 80-89%, a “C” 70-79%, and a “D” 60-69% of the total points out of the grand total.

Your final grade will be based on the following procedures given under A, B & C below :

A. Closed-Book Exams (a total of 300 points):

There will be three major exams. You will be required to take two out of the three exams. If you take all three of them, I will drop the lowest score. Each exam will constitute 150 points for the final grade. There will be no other make-up exam.

Dates for the three exams are given below (each exam will be available on-line starting past midnight each day and it closes at midnight on the same day it is scheduled):

⊖ Exam 1 consisting of 75 objective questions worth 150 points based on Chapters 1 to 8 available on-line under Topic 8 on **Monday, June 20, 2016. YOU WILL HAVE 90 MINUTES TO**

COMPLETE THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 90 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.

- ⊖ **Exam 2 consisting of 75 objective questions worth 150 points based on chapters 9 to 17 available under Topic 13 on **Monday, July 4, 2016**. YOU WILL HAVE 90 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM ON-LINE. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 90 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**
- ⊖ **Final (**Optional-Makeup, not required, comprehensive**) exam consisting of 75 objective questions worth 150 points based on all chapters (1 to 17) available under Topic 14 on **Thursday, July 7, 2016**. YOU WILL HAVE 90 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 90 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

If you have already taken the first two exams, you do not have to take the comprehensive final. However, if you are taking it to improve your bad score in one of the first two exams, it can only help you and will not bring your grade down even if you fail it. **The final will be required for passing the course if you have missed one of the first two exams.**

- ⊖ ***Additional instructions for each exam may be provided through my-leo e-mails to you when necessary. All exams will be closed-book.***
 - ⊖ **You must write dates for exams on your calendar. I **will not** change dates for any students. Since I have already allowed flexibility to you of dropping one exam, you should do fine.**
 - ⊖ **You will be logged out of each exam after the maximum allowed time. Do not take any break. Once you start the exam, you must complete it in one sitting. We cannot control circumstances if your personal computer freezes or has other technical problems. So time yourself carefully and make sure that no one will distract you while taking the exam.**
 - ⊖ **It is your responsibility if you log out of the exam. Please call Help Desk.**

B. WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS FOR EARNING BONUS POINTS (a total of 30 points)

I will post THREE discussion questions on a number of issues. Be sure you log into discussions at the home page of the course and respond to questions during the given weeks. You will be able to earn points for your participation in EACH discussion (up to 10 points).

Discussion 1 (available under Topic 3 online starting June 13 and ends on June 20 midnight);

Discussion 2 (available under Topic 6 online starting June 21 and ends on June 27 midnight); and

Discussion 3 (available under Topic 8 online starting June 28 and ends on July 3 midnight).

Although you are not required to participate in three discussions, your participation can help you to make higher grades. Your success in discussions will be depending on how meaningful you are through your reading of materials assigned that week in your comments, and how much critical thinking you demonstrate in your discussion comments based on logical arguments). That can add up and will make an impact on your grade in the course.

REMEMBER THAT EACH BONUS-POINTS DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE RESPONDED TO BY YOU DURING SPECIFIC DATES (AS STATED IN CALENDAR GIVEN IN THIS SYLLABUS AS WELL AS UNDER EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC) IN ORDER TO EARN BONUS POINTS. IF YOU MISS DISCUSSION, YOU SCORE A ZERO IN IT. DEADLINES FOR STARTING & ENDING DISCUSSIONS SHALL NOT BE CHANGED FOR ANYONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I will be able to find out through eCollege which one of you spent how much time on discussions and were meaningful and relevant in your comments. Elaborate in your discussion so that every one of you in class can understand what you are talking about. If someone in your class gives some arguments in discussions that

you agree or disagree, be sure to be courteous and state your views accordingly. This is meant to be a debate to promote critical thinking. I will give you credit for your discussions accordingly. Please take these discussions seriously as this will help you relate to our important issues and express views on them.

HOW TO DO WELL IN ESSAY QUESTIONS IN BONUS-POINTS DISCUSSIONS:

I want you to do well in answering essay questions in weekly discussions. The essay questions may not only help you to improve your scores but they represent critical thinking on your part on serious questions. I encourage all of you to do your best in essay questions.

If you lose some points in any essay, reasons for that could include:

- you may not have answered a question correctly;**
- you may not have answered all parts of each question;**
- you may have been too brief in your answer and might not have elaborated on your answer demonstrating your understanding;**
- you may have included irrelevant materials in your answers;**
- you may not have responded to others' discussion postings (be sure to respond to at least 2 postings by others) as these discussions are expected to stimulate debate and critical thinking; or**
- you may not have provided examples illustrating your points, where needed.**

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

In addition to interacting with me and other students in the class, you will need to let me know in class or privately in my office whenever you have challenges or questions.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

- ⊞ **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).**

- ⊞ **A Note on Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

As an example of academic honesty and professionalism, I will trust you but a few students who are unethical spoil reputation of all of us. It is my experience that students who cheat do not succeed in doing well in school and in developing meaningful careers.

- ⊞ **Special Needs: ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

CALENDAR CONTAINING DATES FOR YOUR DISCUSSIONS, EXAMS & ASSIGNMENT, SUMMER I, 2016

- 1. Started on Monday, 6/6 read syllabus very carefully. Read carefully chapters 1 to 8 assigned for Exam 1. Take Exam 1 on all day Monday, June 20 till midnight based on those 8 chapters in the textbook.**
- 2. Also work diligently for improving your grades based on three BONUS POINTS discussions. Work diligently, following guidelines in your syllabus, on the discussions as per the following schedule:**
 - **Discussion 1 from June 13 to June 20;**
 - **Discussion 2 from June 21 to June 27; and**
 - **Discussion 3 from June 28 to July 3.**
- 3. Read rest of the book and work seriously and take Exam 2 (stated under Topic 13), based on chapters 9 to 17 on Monday, July 4 till midnight.**
- 4. Take the make-up final exam based on a study guide covering ALL 8 CHAPTERS on Thursday, July 7. (Read syllabus about why you may want to take this comprehensive exam if needed to improve your grade.)**

PLEASE POST ALL DATES ON YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR SO YOU DON'T MISS ANY OF THESE DATES.

Your final grade will be available in the Gradebook on July 8.