



## **SOC 316-01W SOCIOLOGY OF MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY**

COURSE SYLLABUS: SRPING 2024

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Julia Meszaros, Assistant Professor  
Office Location: Ferguson 230  
Office Hours: : In office: Tuesdays, 12:00-2:00, Online: Mondays 2-5 and by appointment  
Office Phone:  
Office Fax: **903-886-5330**  
University Email Address: Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**  
Communication Response Time: 48 hours, M-F 9 to 5 PM

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Cherlin, Andrew. An Introduction to Public & Private Families. McGraw Hill. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (may use earlier editions)  
Software Required D2L

### **Course Description**

This course is a general introduction to marriage and family relationships in the United States, along with comparative examples of other cultures for critical thinking. Topics covered include an overview of the institution of marriage and family, theoretical perspectives on the institution, research approaches in studying the institution, gendered identities, love and intimacy, human sexuality, dating and courtship, the single life, kinship responsibilities, cohabitation, communication, dual career marriages, conflict and divorce, aging process, and marital adjustment and enrichment. This course is entirely online and your success in the course depends on consistently logging into D2L to track assignments, announcements, and deadlines.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will apply the Sociological imagination to topics surrounding marriage and family across different cultural and historical contexts.
2. Students will apply critical thinking skills to examine family structures across cultures
3. Students will analyze different media representations of family structures by using sociological theories regarding marriage and the family.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered entirely online. You must have access to D2L in order to complete the requirements for this course.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

You must log into D2L multiple times a week in order to be successful in this course. All course communications and assignments will be completed through D2L. If you have questions regarding access to D2L or technical requirements, information to reach out to Campus IT is provided below.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% 900-1000 points

B = 80%-89% 800-899

C = 70%-79% 700-799

D = 60%-69% 600-699

F = 59% or Below 599

### **Assessments**

#### **Short Research Paper (1 Paper @ 200 points total)**

Your research paper should relate to a topic about the Sociology of the Family; topics could include gay marriage, abortion, domestic violence, etc. You will need to consult at least 3 scholarly sources from real Sociology academic journals. The paper should be 5 pages double spaced, with a reference section that follows APA style. Your paper should provide some sort of argument and use the scholarly sources and information from the textbook to support your argument. If you have questions, please set up a zoom meeting with me to discuss potential topics, etc.

**Exams: 4 Exams (@150 points each, 600 Total)**

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The exams will be non-cumulative and only cover each week's reading materials from the assigned chapters. Exams will be 50 questions long, and you will have a time limit of 60 minutes. Exams will include multiple choice, and fill in the blank. All exams will be taken on D2L

**Weekly Assignments (10 @ 20 points each, 200 Total ):** Each week students will post to a discussion board analyzing two videos that highlight topics from the course in contemporary life examples. Each student will post a 500 word response to the prompt questions that relate to each video. Students will need to post responses to at least two of their classmates' post in order to engage with each other.

**Student Learning Outcome 1 will be assessed by assessed by through exams, the media analysis essay and weekly discussion posts.**

**Student Learning Outcome 2 will be assessed by through exams, the media analysis essay and weekly discussion posts**

**Student Learning Outcome 3 the media analysis essay and weekly discussion posts.**

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the

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availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities-- 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

### **Week One**

Read Chapter 1

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

### **Week Two**

Read Chapter 2

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Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Three**

Read Chapter 3

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Four**

Read Chapter 4

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Five**

Read Chapter 5

Exam online due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Six**

Read Chapter 6

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Seven**

Read Chapter 7

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Eight**

Read Chapter 8

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Nine**

Read Chapter 9

Exam online due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Ten**

Read Chapter 10

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Eleven**

Read Chapter 11

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Twelve**

Read Chapter 12

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Thirteen**

Read Chapter 13

Exam online due Friday by 11:59 PM

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**Week Fourteen**

Read Chapter 14

Weekly Activity due Friday by 11:59 PM

**Week Fifteen**

Read Chapter 15

Exam online due Friday by 11:59 PM

**FINALS WEEK**

Final Social Issue Project due May 8<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM