



COUN 414, Home & Family Living

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Michelle Fleming, M.Ed., LBSW-IPC, LCDC

Office Location: Adjunct

Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: vivien.fleming@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **903-833-9823**

Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Lamanna, M., Riedmann, A., Stewart, S. (2021). *Marriages, families, and relationships: making choices in a diverse society* (14th ed.). Cengage.

Optional Texts and/or Materials: American Counseling Association. (2014). ACA Codes of Ethics. Alexandria, VA: Author. Retrieved from

https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2014-code-of-ethics-finaladdress.pdf?sfvrsn=96b532c_2

Course Description

Home and Family Living. Three semester hours. Functional study of modern family with special attention to roles, marriage preparation and partner selection. Emphasis on marital adjustment and other essentials of successful home and family life. Examination of current, relative issues of human relations including family planning, sex education, divorce, communications, and marriages under special circumstances.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To introduce students to the diverse definition of “family.”
2. To help students understand the various theoretical perspectives on families.
3. To help students develop an awareness of how gender and women's roles have changed throughout history.
4. To develop an awareness of current statistical trends regarding the proportion of singles in the United States.
5. To develop an awareness of the value that Americans place on marriage and attitudes related to change.
6. Describe family characteristics associated with resilience.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

In this class, you will utilize the Learning Management System (LMS) entitled D2L for portions of instructional and learning methods, submitting assignments, participating in online discussions, and completing quizzes. You will need to utilize other technologies such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc. If you have issues with this system, it is your responsibility to contact the help desk immediately.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of lecture and didactic learning methods, small group discussions, and class assignments coupled with experiential learning and application. You will be expected to participate and complete all online tasks via D2L. In addition to this, small lecture, discussion, activities, and workshops may be utilized during this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

As a student in this course, you are responsible for the active learning process. Expectations of this course include the following:

1. You are expected to always display professionalism. Be respectful of your professor and peers. Be open to feedback, as you will receive this throughout the program.
2. Prepare for classes. Complete readings prior to class time.
3. Complete all assignments by the deadline.
4. Adhere to the university student code of conduct.

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5. You are expected to participate in all online discussions/activities.
6. All writing assignments must be done according to APA 6th edition.
7. Regularly check your university email. My suggestion is to check this at least once a day as your instructors and others from the department and University may contact you.
8. Begin your readings ASAP. Sometimes it may take more than one attempt to digest the material.
9. Deadlines are the last possible moment something is due—not the first moment to start. Work ahead. I realize this may not always be possible; however, when you can, do so.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Syllabus Quiz	5%	Extra Credit Assignment
Discussions	15%	
Weekly Quizzes	50%	
Assignments	30%	
TOTAL	100%	

Assessments

Syllabus Quiz

This quiz is to ensure you are familiar with the syllabus and university policies.

Post Test

You will have a total of 16 posttests over the course of the semester. Posttests are due Sundays by 11:59 p.m. If you **fail** to submit your test on time, you will receive a zero.

There may be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer responses. You will have 60 minutes for each posttest and one attempt.

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Discussions

Discussions will be posted throughout the course. These discussions will address various topics. You are required to contribute meaningful input to each discussion. You are not eligible to participate in the extra credit assignment if you are not actively participating in class discussions.

Writing Activities

There are two writing prompts required for this course. Each paper must be a minimum of three pages. The papers must be written in Times New Roman font, size 12, double spaced and 1" margins all around. Make sure you proof your paper and upload it to D2L. ****Note that I will not accept late assignments. ****

Extra Credit Writing Activity

There is one extra credit assignment offered for this course. **You must be actively participating in all aspects of the course including discussions to be eligible to participate in extra credit.** You may choose to write a third writing prompt on Deinstitutionalization of Marriage. This assignment will follow the same guidelines as the required written assignments. The deadline to submit extra credit is April 6, 2025.

Family in the Past Activity Chapter 1- Assignment 1 – **Final submission date February 9, 2025**

Family In the past, "family" referred to one's immediate relatives or kin; however, our society's definition of family is changing. Now, some people may refer to family as anyone who has had a significant role in their life, whether biologically related or not. For this activity, examine how our definition of family has evolved by examining two different definitions of family.

Interview someone from a different generation (e.g., grandparent, older mentor) and someone of your own generation about their definition of family. Analyze and compare each person's definition using one or two sociological concepts and theories and appropriate terminology from the text. Consider how the interviewees' definitions reflect the society and time in which they were raised. Be sure to (1) explain each concept, theory, and term applied, (2) explain how each concept or theory applies to the interviewees' thoughts, and (3) provide one to two reasons why the definitions are different, such as cultural or age variations between the interviewees.

Activity Relationship Ideologies Chapter 11 – Assignment 2 – **Final submission date April 6, 2025**

Relationship ideologies are what a couple expects in a relationship and are related to factors such as autonomy and conflict resolution. For example, some couples may find it appropriate to call or text each other often about small, daily decisions, while other

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couples expect to discuss only major decisions together. For this activity examine the societal implications of different relationship ideologies. You may consider your own expectations in romantic relationships, or interview individuals of two different generations in your life, such as a friend, a guardian, or a mentor. Identify and discuss two different people's relationship ideologies. Conduct interviews with your chosen subjects and use one to two major concepts and theories and appropriate terminology from the text to analyze differences in how the couples form and negotiate their relationship ideologies. For example, are there generational or cultural factors that influence what each couple expects in a relationship? Be sure to (1) explain each concept, theory, and term applied, (2) examine the similarities and differences in each ideology, and (3) analyze the societal implications of these ideologies, such as social norms for relationships and gender roles.

Deinstitutionalization of Marriage Chapter 7 Assignment 3 – Final submission date April 6, 2025

Traditionally, institutional marriage offered certain benefits and functions in society, such as economic stability. In recent decades, however, sociologists have argued that, in some societies, the deinstitutionalization of marriage is a growing trend. For this activity, analyze how marriage as an institution has changed over time in the United States, and what wider societal implications these changes may have. Consider how traditional social functions of family such as financial security and distribution of labor in the home may be affected. Examine statistics and other evidence from at least two to three sources to show changes in marriage trends in the United States. Use one to two major concepts and appropriate terminology from the text to (1) evaluate the factors that may influence the shift from institutional to deinstitutionalized marriage, (2) analyze the current status of marriage in the United States, and (3) evaluate how the changing status of marriage may affect social factors such as social norms and assignment of roles, and other factors such as work, income, and poverty.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M 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

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

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 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.

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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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

TAMUC Attendance

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

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

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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

East Texas A&M

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

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Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

		Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	January 13, 2025	Making Choices in a Changing Society	Read Chapter 1	Posttest

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Week 2	January 20, 2025	Exploring Relationships and Family	Read Chapter 2	Posttest
Week 3	January 27, 2025	Gender Identities and Families	Read Chapter 3	Posttest
Week 4	February 3, 2025	Our Sexual Selves	Read Chapter 4	Posttest
Week 5	February 10, 2025	Love and Choosing a Life Partner	Read Chapter 5	Posttest
Week 6	February 17, 2025	Nonmarital Lifestyles: Living alone, Cohabiting, and other Options	Read Chapter 6	Posttest
Week 7	February 24, 2025	Marriage: From Social Institution to Private Relationship	Read Chapter 7	Posttest
Week 8	March 3, 2025	Deciding about Parenthood	Read Chapter 8	Posttest
Week 9	March 10, 2025	Raising Children in a Diverse Society	Read Chapter 9	Posttest
Week 10	March 17, 2025	Work and Family	Read Chapter 10	Posttest
Week 11	March 24, 2025	Communication in Relationships, Marriages, and Families	Read Chapter 11	Posttest
Week 12	March 31, 2025	Power and Violence in Families	Read Chapter 12	Posttest
Week 13	April 7, 2025	Family Stress, Crisis, and Resilience	Read Chapter 13	Posttest
Week 14	April 14, 2025	Divorce & Relationship Dissolution	Read Chapter 14	Posttest
Week 15	April 21, 2025	Remarriages and Stepfamilies	Read Chapter 15	Posttest

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Week 16	April 28, 2025	Aging and Multigenerational Families	Read Chapter 16	Posttest .
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