

## SOCI 3337

### THE FAMILY

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#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A comparative study of the family in various cultures, both historical and contemporary, with attention to the family in terms of social organization, social change, and social disorganization.

#### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Lamanna, Mary Ann and Riedmann, Agnes, *Marriages and Families*, 7th ed., Wadsworth. ISBN 0-534-52507-5

#### **COURSE PROCEDURE**

Correspondence courses such as this give you the freedom to set your own pace in reading and assimilating the subject matter, unlike regular campus courses which have a structured time schedule. For a non-traditional student who has to work full-time to support a family or for a new mother, correspondence courses are an ideal solution for securing college credits. However, this solution also has some setbacks. If you do not have the self-discipline and resolve to work by yourself, this correspondence course is not a viable option. By and large, though, most of you who opt to take correspondence courses have a valid reason for doing so, and have a chosen career goal to work toward. Correspondence courses require you to have the resolve and determination to set up and rigidly adhere to a daily schedule in which you allocate your time for each of the courses you have signed up for. If you do not have such a regimen, and if you do not strictly follow the regimen, you will fall behind your work each day and soon it will become impossible for you to catch up. The first thing you need to do is to decide how many hours you need for each of the subjects you have signed up for, and to make that amount of time available for your studies. Make sure that no matter what the temptations are, you do not break the routine. The [Course Study Schedule \(.pdf\)](#) will help you plan your time and submissions.

There are ten lessons in this course, each tailored to be completed in approximately one week. Some of these lessons are more demanding than others, and you may have to spend more time on those lessons. The first thing to do is to decide when you want to take the exams. Be realistic and expect that it will take a minimum of twelve to fourteen weeks to complete the course. Use the [Course Study Schedule \(.pdf\)](#) to help you map out a plan for the course. You must strictly adhere to this timetable in order to be successful in this course. If you follow this routine, you will find the whole experience exciting and fruitful. Begin each lesson by reading the assigned chapter(s) from the text; one or more text chapters will be assigned for each lesson. I suggest that you take careful notes as you read the chapters, paying special attention to terms, information in boxes, case studies, tables and figures. Then, read the course content. After completing all reading, attempt the self-assessments. Find out where you went wrong and two or three days later, try the same questions again. This time you are bound to get them all correct. Then, complete the written assignment to help consolidate the information you have gained from the readings. You will be responsible for the content of self-assessments as well as other material on the midcourse and final examinations.

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING**

### *Written Assignments*

Assignments will vary, requiring you to answer questions, define and give examples of terms, diagram models, and discuss perspectives. Please ensure correct, university-level neatness, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Answer questions with more data rather than less. I have no way of knowing your grasp of concepts, terms, and other material unless you show me in your assignments.

Do not plagiarize. This means that you should always answer questions in your own words, even though there may be perfectly good definitions in the text. Refer to the academic honesty policy on the following pages.

### *Examinations*

You must take closed-book midcourse and final examinations. Questions on the midcourse examination will be divided equally among material in Lessons 1 through 5. Ninety percent of the final examination will cover Lessons 6 through 10; the remaining ten percent will be comprehensive (including material in Lessons 1 through 5).

You must receive graded Assignments 1 through 5 before requesting to take the midcourse exam. You must receive graded Assignments 6 through 10 before requesting to take the final exam.

Examinations will include discussion and objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, and matching). Objective questions will count one point each; discussion questions will usually count from four to ten points each.

Three hours will be allowed to complete each examination. At your testing site, you will be provided with a blue book for use in answering questions.

### *Grading Criteria*

Your grade for the semester will be determined as follows:

Written Assignments (10 @ 25 points each): 250 points

Midcourse examination: 100 points

Final examination: 100 points

Based on a 450-point scale, your letter grade will be as follows:

A: 405 - 450 points

B: 360 - 404 points

C: 315 - 359 points

D: 270 - 314 points

F: 269 points or below

Please note that plus and minus grades are not used as final grades.

**You must pass the final examination with a grade of 60 percent or higher to receive credit in the course.**

### **FREE ONLINE TUTORING**

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. All correspondence students have access to several hours of free online tutoring from Smarthinking for subjects ranging from grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the [Texas State Writing Center](#). For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's [Free Tutoring](#) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library and from the [Math Lab](#) in Derrick 233.

### **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

The [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their education goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations (e.g., testing accommodations, information in alternative format, sign language interpreting services) need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](http://www.ods.txstate.edu/) (<http://www.ods.txstate.edu/>), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, (512) 245-3451 (voice/TTY) of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

### **TRACS TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

Texas State's Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for TRACS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To take advantage of these services, visit [ITAC online](#) or call 512.245.ITAC (4822). Note also that a number of online TRACS tutorials are available from [TRACS Facts](#).

Before beginning this online course, it is recommended that you review the minimum hardware and software requirements and other important information available on the ITS [Course Information page](#).

### **CORRESPONDENCE COURSE INFORMATION**

As a correspondence studies student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with correspondence-related policies and services. To this end, I encourage you to review the [Correspondence Course Information \(.pdf\)](#) page as well as the [Correspondence Studies Student Handbook](#).

### **ACADEMIC HONOR CODE**

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standards of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.

### **SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

As members of the university community, students are expected to be aware of and abide by university policies regarding academic honesty. By the same token, members of the faculty within the university community are expected to enforce those policies. Members of the Department of Sociology operate on the assumption that each student has thoroughly reviewed the university policies regarding academic honesty and that the policies will be followed. Accordingly, members of the Department of Sociology will enforce all policies related to

academic honesty. The specific policy statements in this regard are to be found at the following websites: [Texas State Student Handbook](#) and [UPPS No. 07.10.01](#). The following is not a substitute for the statement of policies found in the above referenced material. Rather, it serves to call each student's attention to the breadth and depth of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes the following: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or abuse of resource materials. Each term or phrase is defined in some detail in the above referenced material. Because the offense of plagiarism can be confusing to students, the following information is provided as essential reading by all students. "Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit" (Texas State University Handbook, UPPS No. 07-10-01). Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- downloading or buying a research paper
- cutting and pasting information from several sources to create a paper
- leaving out quotation marks around quoted material, placing quotation marks around some but not all copied information
- leaving out quotation marks around copied information but adding a citation implying that the information is the student's summary of the source
- leaving out quotation marks for more than three consecutive words taken directly from a source
- providing a reference/bibliography page but leaving out the reference citation in the body of the paper
- faking a citation
- unintentionally using words or ideas or quotes without citing them in the body of the paper and on the reference/bibliography page

(<http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm>)

Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism or having plagiarized in the past without having been penalized does not excuse such acts in the Department of Sociology. Any student charged with plagiarism may appeal in writing in accordance with Texas State University policy.