Marriages and Families

**SOC 320 01 Professor Grace E. Young, Ph.D.**

**Fall Term 2019 Office Location: MCD 380**

**Tuesday and Thursday Office Hours: Monday 8:00 to 11:00 am**

**9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Tues &Thurs 2:30 to 3:30 pm**

**Room: MCD 310 Phone: 587-7878**

## CRN: 14742 Email: [geyoung@adams.edu](mailto:geyoung@adams.edu)

This course is organized to give students a sociological overview of marriages and families. We will:

1. Distinguish a broad range of family types and marriages.
2. Describe the impact of gender and gender inequities on the family
3. Describe marriage and family through major theoretical perspectives
4. Explain the current patterns of family formation and dissolution
5. Compare and contrast traditional and nontraditional and/or alternative family forms and structures
6. Discuss the ways in which the institution of family is impacted by other social institutions (work, school, government, media, etc.)
7. Develop effective writing skills.

This course will provide an overview of the family from a sociological perspective. The family is considered to be one of the most private and pervasive institutions in society. All of us have had contact with at least one family, and many of us will be involved in several different families during our lifetime. Our experiences point to the numerous transformations in family life. To obtain a better understanding of these changes, recent sociological research and data on the family will be utilized in this course. In addition to examining the history of the family, the course will study the contemporary family and its diversity. The course will examine traditional marriage/family arrangements and alternative processes of mate selection and family formation. Finally, the course will examine parenting, the relationship between work and family, divorce and reconstituted families.

Prerequisites: SOC 201 Minimum Grade: C- OR SOC 201 Minimum Grade: T

### READING

The attached schedule indicates the reading assignments and activities for each class period. The Chapters refer to readings in Mary Ann Schwartz and BarBara Scott*, Marriages and Families: Diversity and Change*. It is required for the course and is available online only. You may also use older editions. I have placed on older edition on reserve at the library. The page numbers listed in the participation assignments are for the new edition.

Schwartz, Mary Ann and BarBara Marliene Scott. 2018. Marriages and Families:   Diversity and Change. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Publishing. Eighth Edition. ISBN 9780134636016

### OFFICE HOURS

If you want to talk with me about your assignments, if you have questions about the material, if you want to talk about teaching, research, or if you want to talk about yourself, I will be available in my office (unless otherwise posted or announced) on Mondays from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. If these times are not convenient, please make arrangements with me before or after class to meet at another time. You can also contact me by email: geyoung@adams.edu or by phone at 587-7878.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Discussion-Debate Assignments*

There are three Discussion-Debate assignments. To prepare for these assignments, students read and prepare answers to the assignment questions. In class the issue will be presented, and students will present their answers. Remember: you cannot be considered for full credit if you are not present on the day of the Discussion-Debate assignments. Together these assignments represent 17% of your grade. I will not accept late Discussion-Debate assignments beyond the section (the end of a section is designated by an exam) of the course in which the assignment falls.

1. *Participation Assignments:*

During the course of the class, there will be five times that everyone will be asked to prepare a response to questions and to participate by sharing those responses. The participation assignments are listed in your CLASS SCHEDULE (see below). For each of these participation assignments, you cannot be considered for full credit unless you are in class and participate. I will not accept late Participation assignments beyond the section of the course in which the assignment falls. Together these assignments represent 17% of your grade.

1. *Exams*

There will be three exams over readings and class sessions. Each will consist of multiple-choice, true-false, matching questions, and short essay questions. The exams will be over material in the textbook, the readings, and class sessions. They are not cumulative. Together the exams represent about 75% of your grade. ASU has scheduled this class’s final exam for Tuesday, December 13th at 10 a.m. This is the time students will take the last exam. No student may take the exam early. If a student cannot take the exam on the scheduled date, the student will need to arrange with the professor to take it when they return and receive an incomplete until they complete the exam in January.

### GRADING

Discussion-Debate Assignments (25 points each X 3 assignments) 75

Participation Assignments (15 points each X 5 assignments) 75

Exams (100 points each X 3 exams) 300

TOTAL 450

### GRADING SCALE

405-450 = A

360-404 = B

315-359 = C

270-314 = D

0 - 269 = F

HANDLING EMERGENCIES: Unfortunately, emergencies do arise. If you are unable to attend a class, please contact me as soon as possible. Take care of the emergency first, and then let me know why you missed class. You can contact me by phone, 587-7878, and leave a message if I am not available, or by email, [geyoung@adams.edu](mailto:geyoung@adams.edu)

### CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1:

Aug 20 Who are we and what is this course about?

Hand out Syllabus, Participation Assignments and Discussion-Debate Assignments

Aug 22 **Is the Family on the Decline?**

Read Chapter 1 Marriages and Families Over Time

Week 2:

Aug 27 **Due Participation Assignment #1: How Do You Define Family?**

Aug 29 Class Review: Chapter 1

Week 3:

Sept 3 Class Review: Chapter 2

Sept 5 Class Review : Chapter 3

Week 4:

Sept 10 Class Review: Chapter 4

Sept 12 **Discussion-Debate #1: Is the American Family in Trouble?**

Week 5:

Sept 17 **How Does Gender Impact Our Marriages and Families?**

Read Chapter 3 Understanding Gender: Its Influence in Intimate Relationships

Sept 19 **How is Love Culturally Conditioned and Defined?**

Read Chapter 4 The Many Faces of Love

Review Sheet for Exam I Posted

Week 6:

Sept 24 Read Chapter 5 Dating, Coupling and Mate Selection

Sept 26 **Due Participation Assignment #2: Mate Selection**

Week 7:

Oct 1 **Exam I: Over Chapters 1 through 5**

Oct 3 Return and go over Exam I

**Does Good Sex Make Good Relationships?**

Read Chapter 6 Sexuality and Intimate Relationships

Week 8:

Oct 8 **Why Do People Cohabit?** Read Chapter 7 Nonmarital Lifestyles

Oct 10 FALL RECESS

Week 9:

Oct 15 **How Is Marriage Changing?**

Read Chapter 8 The Marriage Experience

**Participation Assignment #3: Relationship Contract**

Oct 17 **What does it Mean to Parent?**

Read Chapter 9 Reproduction and Parenting

Contraception Exercise

Week 10

Oct 22 Film: I had an Abortion

Oct 24 **Discussion-Debate #3: Should a 17 Year Old (or younger) Girl Seeking an Abortion Be Required to Obtain Her Parents’ Permission?**

Week 11

Oct 29 Film: A Timeless Way

**Participation Assignment #4: Parenting**

Oct 31 **How Do People Juggle it All and Still Stay Together? How Can Governmental Policies Impact Parenting?**

Read Chapter 10 Evolving Work and Family Structures

Review Sheet for Exam II Posted

Week 12

Nov 5 **Exam II: Over Chapters 6 through 10**

#### Nov 7Go Over Exam II

#### **Why does it Lead to Violence?**

Read Chapter 11 Violence and Abuse

Week 13

Nov 12 **Why Do People Divorce and What’s the Long Term Impact?**

Read Chapter 12 The Process of Uncoupling: Divorce in the U.S.

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Nov 14 **Isn’t it Just Like the Brady Bunch?**

Read Chapter 13 Remarriage and Remarried Families

Week 14

Nov 19 **Marriage and Family in Later Life**

Read Chapter 14 Marriages and Families in Later Life

Nov 21 **Discussion-Debate #4: Right to Die Debate**

*Thanksgiving – Whole Week Off – Nov 26 & 28 – No Classes*

Week 15

Dec 3 Read Chapter 15 Issues Confronting Families at Home and Abroad

Dec 5 **Participation Assignment #5: Thinking About Later Life**

Review Sheet for Exam III Posted

**FINAL** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:50 a.m.

**Exam III: Over Chapters 11 through 15**

**Academic Misconduct**

Students should abide by all student ethical conduct, especially those rules pertaining to cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty in this course can expect a failing grade for the course and formal charges to be brought before the Department Chair.

**Student Sexual Misconduct Policy**

Our school is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students’ academic success and we encourage students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need.

Confidential support can be found at the Adams State University Counseling Center located in Richardson Hall 3100 and may be contacted at 719-587-7746. Students may also fill out an anonymous “concern form” at https://www.adams.edu/students/ccc/. Crisis support can be found in the San Luis Valley community 24/7 at San Luis Valley Comprehensive Mental Health Center: 719-589-3671 or Tu Casa: 719-589-2465. Tu Casa offers services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Alleged violations can be reported to the Adams State University Title IX Office, Director Ana Guevara, at 719-587-8213 or at anaguevara@adams.edu. The ASU Title IX Office is located in the Student Union Building (SUB) room 327. Reports to law enforcement can be made to Adams State University Police Department at #1 Petteys Hall or contacted at 719-587-7901, 911, or 24 hour dispatch at 24 hour dispatch: 719-589-5807 (State Patrol).

**Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as a responsible employee as designated under Title IX. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on Adams State University Campus or that may be impacting an ASU student. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Adams State University Counseling Center at the Adams State University Counseling Center located in Richardson Hall 3100 or contacted at 719-587-7746. You may also fill out an anonymous “concern form” at https://www.adams.edu/students/ccc/. Crisis support can be found in the San Luis Valley community 24/7 at San Luis Valley Comprehensive Mental Health Center: 719-589-3671 or Tu Casa: 719-589-2465. Tu Casa offers services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

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**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**: Adams State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Adams State University is committed to achieving equal educational opportunities, providing students with documented disabilities access to all university programs, services and activities. In order for this course to be equally accessible to all students, different accommodations or adjustments may need to be implemented. **The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) is located in Richardson Hall 3-100, or available at** [OAS@adams.edu](mailto:OAS@adams.edu)**, and** [**719-587-7746**](tel:203-254-4000%20ext.%202615)**.** They are your primary resource on campus to discuss the qualifying disability, help you develop an accessibility plan, and achieve success in your courses this semester. They may provide you with letters of accommodation, which can be delivered in two ways. You may give them to me in person, or have the Office of Accessibility Services email them. Please make an appointment with their office as early as possible this semester so that we can discuss how potential accommodations can be provided and carried out for this course. If you have already received letters of accommodation for this course from OAS, please provide me with that information privately so that we can review your accommodations together and discuss how best to help you achieve equal access in this course this semester.