



## **SOCIOLOGY 316, 01W**

### **Marriage & Family Patterns**

**Fall 2015 (August 31 to December 18)**

#### **ON-LINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

R.N. Singh, Ph. D., Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice

Office: Social Sciences Bldg., Room 230, Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429,

(903) 886-5324

E-mail: [Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu](mailto:Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu)

**Office Hours:** by appointment requested through e-mail

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

##### **I. Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

**Required Textbook:** Benokraitis, *Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices and Constraints*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015, ISBN 978-0-205-91819-5 (7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2012, is acceptable; ISBN: 10-205-00673-6) Pearson/Prentice Hall. Older than 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the book may not work.

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 online!

I am confident that we will have a productive semester 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 the course**

syllabus and various announcements sent through myleo e-mails to you or 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 post your questions at VIRTUAL OFFICE in the Home Page of this course.** The virtual office will serve our learning needs of being in touch with not only me but with all persons in the class whenever you have questions or comments about the 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 weeks 1 to 14 (not counting official holidays).
- 3. It is important that you log into each week and use the study guide to complete work regularly.** Although there is some flexibility given to you for illness, emergencies, or travel, it is necessary that you **log into the course regularly and timely for at least 3 hours per week** in order to succeed in making the highest grade.
- 4. All of your closed book exams (as well as open-book weekly discussions essays) will mainly be based on your text book.** In addition, you may consult web sites through Google search and other suggested readings to work on your course requirements. Go over guidelines about chapter objectives and other components of information under each of the 14 weeks. That will help you like a study guide in order to share and focus on course contents.
5. You can e-mail me ([Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu](mailto:Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu)) whenever you have challenges or questions. **Please provide in your e-mail info on: your full name and the course # you are enrolled in so that I check your record before responding to your need or question.**
- 6. 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. Do follow university deadlines in schedules (such as last date to drop the course) given at the university's website.

## **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, on-line materials, and other appropriate books/articles) 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 for the goals stated above will be based on essays exams, weekly discussions, and assignments to insure:**

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

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

Grading will be based upon **total 400 points** accumulated from 2 exams scores and 10 weekly discussions. Details on all requirements and grading procedures are stated below:

At the end of the course 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:**

#### **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; no exceptions):**

⊖ Exam 1 consisting of 75 objective questions worth 150 points based on **Chapters 1 to 8** available on-line on **Monday, October 12, 2015**. 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** on **Monday, November 30, 2015**. 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 **Optionl-Makeup** exam consisting of 75 objective questions worth 150 points based on **all chapters** (1 to 17) available on **Monday, December 14, 2015**. 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 if you have missed one of the first two exams. If you missed both of the first two exams, you must have dropped the course by the university deadline for dropping to avoid receiving a failing grade in the course.**

- *Additional instructions for each exam may be provided ONLY 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 be able to 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. It will be a good idea if you take the exam at one of the computer centers on Commerce, Metroplex or Navarro campuses particularly if your computer is older or if you might get disrupted at home. 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 unless you are taking it in one of computer labs in Commerce or other campuses stated above and the person supervising the computer lab can certify that the technical problem was unavoidable. Please call Help Desk and you may e-mail me immediately if that happens giving the name, phone #, and/or e-mail address of the person in-charge of the computer lab. I will then let you know what needs done.

## **B. WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS (a total of 100 points)**

**I will post TEN discussion questions on a number of issues at least once a week for the first 10 weeks.** Be sure you log into discussions at the home page of the course and respond to questions during almost each week. **You will be able to earn points for your participation in EACH discussion** (up to 10 points for each week's topic 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 WEEKLY DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE RESPONDED TO BY YOU DURING SPECIFIC DATES OF EACH WEEK (AS STATED IN Calendar given in this SYLLABUS AS WELL AS UNDER EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC) IN ORDER TO EARN POINTS.**

**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 weekly 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 WEEKLY 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 can also e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates in regular classes.

Please **specify the following in your e-mail:** your full name and the course # you are enrolled in so that I can check your record before responding to your need or question.

My goal is to guide each of you in every possible way to succeed in the learning process in this course. I will be objective, professional, and nurturing in my approaches as your teacher.

Although we will not meet as a class, I will be available to interact with each of you and guide you to do your best in the course.

## 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. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and decide punishment independent of this professor's actions. I will use the technology to scan your answers and discussions to determine if anyone has copied contents from other students, on-line sources, and from published works. No credit will be given to anyone for giving or taking help toward any form of plagiarism beside punitive action in serious cases. While I trust my students, precautions are needed to protect those who genuinely work on the course.

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**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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- Room 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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

#### **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.

### **CALENDAR CONTAINING DATES FOR YOUR WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS AND REQUIRED EXAMS**

**Week 1: Monday, 8/31 to Saturday, 9/5: Read Chapters 1 & 2 and work on Discussion 1 on time.**

**Week 2: Monday, 9/7 to Saturday, 9/12. Read Chapter 3 & work on Discussion 2.**

**Week 3: Monday, 9/14 to Saturday, 9/19: Read Chapter 4 & work on Discussion 3.**

**Week 4: Monday, 9/21 to Saturday, 9/26: Read Chapter 5 & work on Discussion 4.**

**Week 5: Monday, 9/28 to Saturday, 10/3: Read Chapters 6 & 7 & work on Discussion 5.**

**Week 6: Monday, 10/5 to Saturday, 10/10: Read Chapter 8 & work on Discussion 6.**

***Take EXAM 1, covering chapters 1 to 8, on Monday, October 12 online till midnight.***

**Week 7: Monday, 10/12 to Saturday, 10/17: Read Chapter 9 & work on Discussion.7.**

**Week 8: Monday, 10/19 to Saturday, 10/24: Read Chapter 10 & work on Discussion 8.**

**Week 9: Monday, 10/26 to Saturday, 10/31: Read Chapter 11 & work on Discussion 9.**

**Week 10: Monday, 11/2 to Saturday, 11/7: Read Chapter 12. Work on Discussion 10.**

**Week 11: Monday, 11/9 to Saturday, 11/14: Read Chapters 13 & 14. Work on preparing Exam 2.**

**Week 12: Monday, 11/16 to Saturday, 11/21: Read Chapters 15 to 17. Work on preparing for Exam 2.**

**Thanksgiving Break.**

***Take EXAM 2, covering chapters 9 to 17, on Monday, November 30 online till midnight.***

**Weeks 13-14, 12/1+: During the remaining days in the semester, you may work on preparing for the make-up final exam.**

***Take FINAL COMPREHENSIVE-Make-Up EXAM, covering ALL chapters and topics covered by exams 1 & 2, on Monday, December 14 onlinetill midnight.***

***(Final Grade available to you on December 16.)***