

Coffeyville Community College

FACS-107
COURSE SYLLABUS
FOR
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Cari Redden
Instructor

COURSE NUMBER: FACS-107 **COURSE TITLE:** Marriage and the Family

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Cari Redden

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

PREREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Knox, David and Schacht, Caroline. *Choices in Relationships: An Introduction to Marriage and the Family*, 8th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, California, 2005.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study of all kinds of relationships within the marriage and family experience, including premarital relationships. The differences among families and marriages, family structures and functions, changes throughout the family life cycle, and the history of marriage and family in American culture will be examined.

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss choices in relationships
2. Understand the role of gender in relationships and how it has changed over time
3. Understand the role that love plays in various relationships, including various theories on the origin of love
4. Describe the concepts of hanging out, pairing off, and cohabitation
5. Understand the role of sexuality in relationships
6. Understand that being single and same-sex relationships have become recognized ways of life
7. Recognize the cultural, sociological, and sociobiological factors involved in mate selection
8. Understand marriage as a unique relationship

9. Understand the process of communication and conflict resolution in marriages and families
10. Understand planning children and the various forms of contraception available
11. Recognize the great importance of parenting
12. Understand the issues of balancing work and family
13. Understand stress and crisis in relationships
14. Understand the impact of violence and abuse in a relationship
15. Recognize common factors for divorce and the consequences of divorce and separation
16. Understand some basic facts regarding remarriage and stepfamilies
17. Understand the effects of aging in marriage and family relationships

LEARNING TASKS

ASSESSMENT OF OUTCOMES:

GRADING POLICY:

Grades of A(100-90%), B(89-80%), C(79-70%), D(69-60%), and F(59-0%) will be given in this course. Incompletes given at the semester's end will only be given if previously agreed upon by the student and instructor with a specific time designated for the completion of the course requirements.

At all times the student must do his own work. Plagiarism or cheating will cause immediate dismissal from the class with a "W" or "F". Any assignment which is submitted after the due date may receive a grade one letter grade lower than it would have received if it had been submitted on time.

ATTENDANCE

POLICY:

Students are expected to check email and the discussion board at least twice weekly and to submit all assignments by their due date as noted on the course calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in a timely manner if there are any difficulties with submitting an assignment by its due date.

COMPETENCIES:

DISCUSS CHOICES IN RELATIONSHIPS

1. Identify five elements that help to define the concept of marriage.
2. Make the case for marriage in terms of the benefits of marriage and the liabilities of singlehood.
3. Review the debate over marriage education courses in the public school system and review the data on their effectiveness.
4. Define “family” according to the U.S. Census Bureau definition and explain how other social definitions of “family” vary from the U.S. Census Bureau definition.
5. Describe various types of families, including family of origin, family of procreation, nuclear family, binuclear family, and extended family.
6. Distinguish between familism and individualism and how these philosophies influence choices in relationships.
7. Identify the differences between marriage and family in the United States.
8. Explain how the Industrial Revolution affected family life.
9. Describe how marriages and families have changed since 1950.
10. Give examples of various facts to keep in mind when making interpersonal choices (e.g., not to decide is to decide; some choices require correction; choices involve trade-offs; choices include selecting a positive or negative view; choices vary with the family life cycle; some choices are revocable while others are not).
11. Give examples of structural and cultural influences on choices.
12. Discuss how one’s family of origin, unconscious motivations, habit patterns, personalities, and previous relationship experiences influence choices in relationships.
13. Discuss various theoretical frameworks for viewing marriage and the family, including structural-functional framework, conflict framework, feminist framework, symbolic interaction framework, family life course development framework, social exchange framework, systems framework, human ecological framework, and stratification/race framework.

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF GENDER IN RELATIONSHIPS AND HOW IT HAS CHANGED OVER TIME

14. Define and distinguish between the following terms: sex, gender, gender identity, gender role, hermaphrodite, gender role ideology, gender dysphoria, transgendered, transgenderist, transsexual, and transvestite.
15. Summarize and compare various theories of gender role development, including sociobiology, identification, social learning, and cognitive-developmental theory.
16. Discuss how the various agents of socialization (family, peers, race/ethnicity, religion, education, economy and mass media) influence gender role development.
17. Review the gender roles operative in Afghanistan under the Taliban, traditional China, Pakistan (Punjab), Sweden, and Africa.
18. Identify the positive and negative consequences of traditional female and traditional male gender role socialization. Explain how both sexes may be oppressed and restricted by

- narrow conceptions of femininity and masculinity.
19. Discuss the concept of androgyny, gender role transcendence, and gender post modernism as they relate to the future of gender roles.

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE THAT LOVE PLAYS IN VARIOUS RELATIONSHIPS, INCLUDING VARIOUS THEORIES ON THE ORIGIN OF LOVE

20. Know what college men and women mean when they say, "I love you."
21. Identify the benefits of being in love for the individual and for relationships.
22. Review Sternberg's elements of passion, commitment, and intimacy as present in a variety of love types.
23. Review social policy positions in the workplace regarding love relationships.
24. Describe ancient Buddhist, Greek, and Hebrew conceptions of love, conceptions of love in medieval Europe, and modern conceptions of love, including six love styles identified by John Lee.
25. Discuss the differences between romantic and realistic love and identify the demographic characteristics of those most likely to have the respective views.
26. Explain Cancian's term "the feminization of love" and discuss the consequences of the feminization of love for women and men.
27. Discuss the evolutionary, learning, sociological, psychosexual, ego-ideal, ontological, biochemical, and attachment theories of love and note the criticisms of each theory.
28. Identify the various social, psychological, physiological, and cognitive conditions under which love develops.
29. Discuss how love may provide a context for various problems and questionable choices.
30. Discuss causes of jealousy in relationships and identify the potential positive and negative consequences of jealousy for individuals and relationships.
31. Identify the factors involved in making a decision to have sex with and without love.

DESCRIBE THE CONCEPTS OF HANGING OUT, PAIRING OFF, AND COHABITATION
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32. Discuss the degree to which couples "hang out" versus date exclusively as a couple.
33. Explain the functions of hanging out in the U.S.
34. Identify various mechanisms for meeting new people such as video chatting, video dating services, and speed dating. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of finding a new partner on the Internet.
35. Identify the issues involved in becoming involved with a divorced person as compared with a single, never-married person.
36. Discuss the concept of "blind marriage" in regard to traditional Chinese marriage.
37. Explain what, how, and why "bundling" was used in courtship during the Puritan era.
38. Identify how the Industrial Revolution changed the courtship in the United States.
39. Discuss changes in dating in the United States over the past fifty years.
40. Identify the reasons for the increase in cohabitation among unmarried couples.

41. Identify 8 types of cohabiting individuals and their motivations for doing so.
42. Outline the potential advantages and disadvantages of living together.
43. Explain why cohabitation is associated with an increased risk of divorce.
44. Discuss the legal aspects of living together, including common-law marriage, palimony, child support, and child inheritance.
45. Identify the primary reason many college students end relationships and six considerations in deciding to do so.

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF SEXUALITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

46. Define sexual values, discuss their functions/sources, and compare the basic types.
47. Discuss the concepts of “friends with benefits,” “hooking up,” and “secondary virginity.”
48. Identify the various considerations in deciding to have sex with a new partner.
49. Describe and explain gender differences in sexual behavior.
50. Compare marital sexuality with sexuality among the never married and the divorced.
51. Identify seven prerequisites for sexual fulfillment.
52. Discuss the causes/treatments for the primary sexual dysfunctions of women and men.

UNDERSTAND THAT BEING SINGLE AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BECOME RECOGNIZED WAYS OF LIFE

53. Discuss the effect of the women’s movement, gay liberation movement, and sexual revolution on the acceptance of singlehood in our society.
54. Describe and compare three categories of singles, including never-married singles, separated or divorced singles, and widowed singles.
55. Compare the benefits of singlehood and the limitations of marriage.
56. Identify the stereotypes of the single woman.
57. Assess if the single lifestyle is right for you.
58. Discuss the challenges faced by single parents.
59. Discuss the demographics, values, and work patterns of Twin Oaks commune.
60. Define homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality and explain why the distinction between these concepts is not as clear-cut as it appears.
61. Discuss the origins of sexual orientation and homophobia.
62. Argue for and against the legalization of same-sex marriages.
63. Give examples of discrimination against homosexual/bisexual relationships.
64. Contrast gay male and gay female relationships.
65. Discuss coming out to one’s parents, spouse, and children.

RECOGNIZE THE CULTURAL, SOCIOLOGICAL, AND SOCIOBIOLOGICAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN MATE SELECTION

66. Discuss endogamy and exogamy as cultural forces that profoundly influence one’s marriage and family

- selection of a particular mate.
67. Identify eight ways homogamous mate selection is illustrated.
 68. Explain how spirituality/religion influence mate selection and relationship happiness.
 69. Identify and discuss complementary needs as an explanation for mate selection.
Criticize the theory of complementary needs.
 70. Discuss exchange theory of mate selection using and giving examples of the terms, rewards, costs, profit, loss, and alternatives.
 71. Define the principle of least interest and give examples of how it operates in relationships.
 72. Identify the personality characteristics typically sought in a mate by women and men.
 73. Predict whether a couple will remain married on the basis of various personality characteristics in one or both partners.
 74. Explain and criticize the sociobiological theory of mate selection.
 75. Identify the questions to ask a potential partner.
 76. Evaluate premarital programs
 77. Know the functions of a prenuptial agreement and what should be included.
 78. Discuss how marriage license requirements might affect marital relationships.
 79. Identify eight conditions under which it might be advisable to postpone a wedding.

<h3>UNDERSTAND MARRIAGE AS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP</h3>

80. Identify individual motivations for and societal functions of marriage.
81. Describe marriage as a commitment from person to person, family to family, and couple to the state.
82. Explain how weddings and honeymoons are rites of passage.
83. How have divorce laws been reformed to strengthen marriage?
84. Discuss changes that often occur after marriage, including personal changes; changes in relationships with parents, in-laws and friends; legal changes; sexual changes; and interactional changes.
85. Discuss racial variations in marriages, interracial marriages, cross-national marriages, interreligious marriages, age-discrepant marriages, and mixed marriages involving a music obsession.
86. Identify the definition of and characteristics of successful marriages.
87. Discuss the issues involved with having a partner's night out and parents living with the married couple.

<h3>UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES</h3>
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88. Discuss use of verbal/non-verbal communication in casual/noncasual relationships.
89. Describe basic principles and techniques of effective communication, including asking open-ended questions, using reflective listening, and using "I" statements.
90. Explain the effect of self-disclosure on relationship stability.

91. Discuss the pervasiveness of dishonesty in intimate relationships and how relationships depend on some level of dishonesty.
92. Identify the legal consequences for not revealing one's HIV/STD status to a new partner.
93. Discuss how women and men differ in their communication patterns and how sociological theories may be used to conceptualize communication.
94. Recognize that conflict in relationships is inevitable and explain how conflict can be healthy and productive for a couple's relationship.
95. Identify various sources of conflict in relationships.
96. Compare different styles of conflict.
97. Describe and be able to use the various factors involved in conflict resolution.
98. Describe and give examples of various defense mechanisms (escapism, projection, rationalization, and displacement).

<p>UNDERSTAND PLANNING CHILDREN AND THE VARIOUS FORMS OF CONTRACEPTION AVAILABLE</p>

99. Discuss social influences motivating individuals to have children.
100. Discuss the individual motivations for having children.
101. Discuss the lifestyle changes and financial costs associated with having/rearing children.
102. Discuss the characteristics of couples and women who remain childfree.
103. Discuss the types and causes of infertility as well as six reproductive technologies available to help a couple have a baby.
104. Name the demographic characteristics of persons seeking to adopt a child, discuss the attitudes toward and issues involved in transracial adoptions, and the differences between "open" and "closed" adoptions.
105. Discuss foster parenting- definition, motivations, and number of children in foster homes.
106. Discuss Jadelle®, Depo-Provera®, NuvaRing®, and Ortho Evra® as hormonal methods of birth control.
107. Discuss the male/female condom, intrauterine device, and diaphragm as barrier methods.
108. Explain why douching and withdrawal are considered "nonmethods" of contraception.
109. Identify conditions under which emergency contraception is used and discuss two emergency contraception methods.
110. Describe methods of female and male sterilization.
111. Describe the types and incidence of abortion and the demographic characteristics of individuals who get an abortion.
112. Discuss the respective positions of pro-life and pro-choice. What does research say about the psychological risk to women who have an abortion?
113. What are the physical complications of having an abortion?

<p>RECOGNIZE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF PARENTING</p>

114. Identify and discuss six roles of parenting.
115. Explain and give an example of how the absence of a parental decision is a decision.
116. Identify the five basic choices of parenting.
117. Compare baby blues and postpartum depression of a new mother adjusting to her baby.
118. Compare the adjustment of heterosexual and lesbian mothers to new motherhood.
119. Compare children who do and do not have a father actively involved in their lives.
120. Discuss the transition of a married couple to a family in terms of marital satisfaction.
121. Identify the conditions under which bed sharing is associated with SIDS in children.
122. Discuss four styles of parenting based on responsiveness and demandingness.
123. Identify and discuss the various influences on the development of a child.
124. Identify and discuss several principles of effective parenting.
125. Identify and discuss issues unique to gay parenting.
126. Discuss five approaches to childrearing.
127. Compare time out and corporal punishment as methods of discipline.
128. Identify effective methods of discipline.
129. Discuss different views of rewarding or not rewarding positive behavior.

<h4>UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES OF BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY</h4>

130. Discuss social meanings of money.
131. Discuss the prevalence of and patterns in dual-earner marriages.
132. Describe the effects of two incomes on women, men, marriages, and children.
133. Discuss the degree to which day care facilities in the U.S. meet minimum standards.
134. Compare strategies individuals use to balance the demands of work and family.
135. Describe the benefits of and give examples of work-family policies and programs.
136. Discuss the importance of leisure in our lives and identify several barriers to leisure.
137. Identify safety precautions when leaving children at home unattended.

<h4>UNDERSTAND STRESS AND CRISIS IN RELATIONSHIPS</h4>
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138. Identify the prevalence of positive functioning on the part of the U.S. adult population.
139. Define stress, crisis, and resilient families. Discuss the characteristics of the latter.
140. Describe the ABC-X model of family stress and give specific examples.
141. Identify and discuss nine positive strategies for crisis management and note the strategies that do not work.
142. Identify the primary method of coping with life's difficulties identified by African-American men and women.
143. Discuss issues confronting couples dealing with physical illness and/or disability.
144. Discuss types of and explanations for infidelity in a marriage.

145. Describe how unemployment affects individuals, couples, and families.
146. Discuss the problem of drug abuse in the family and offer ways parents might respond to their teenager's drug use.
147. Discuss how university administrators are responding to alcohol abuse on campus.
148. Discuss issues confronting individuals coping with the death of a child and parent and with the suicide of a loved one. Describe gender differences in coping with grief and loss.
149. Discuss the availability of marriage and family therapy, the value of solution based therapy, and the status of on line marriage therapy

<p>UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN A RELATIONSHIP</p>

150. Identify various forms of abuse in relationships (physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse/rape, and neglect).
151. Identify and discuss the cultural, community, individual, and family factors that contribute to violence in intimate relationships
152. Discuss the prevalence and nature of the abuse in dating relationships, acquaintance and date rape, abuse in marriage relationships and child abuse.
153. Discuss the effects of partner abuse on victims.
154. Discuss the effects of partner abuse on children.
155. Discuss the cycle of abuse and explain why some people stay in abusive relationships.
156. Identify and discuss causes of and contributing factors to child abuse.
157. Describe the effects of physical, verbal, and sexual abuse on children.
158. Describe forms of parent, sibling, and elder abuse.
159. Discuss the various perceptions individuals have of ending an abusive relationship.

<p>RECOGNIZE COMMON FACTORS FOR DIVORCE AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE AND SEPARATION</p>

160. Define divorce and explain three ways of describing its prevalence.
161. Provide 8 macro and 7 micro factors which help to explain why we have such a high divorce rate in the U.S.
162. Identify twenty characteristics associated with people who divorce.
163. Discuss the emotional, psychological, financial and sexual consequences of divorce for spouses.
164. What is shared parenting dysfunction and identify eight ways to minimize the negative effects of divorce on children.
165. Define parental alienation syndrome and give 10 specific examples.
166. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of joint custody.
167. Identify 12 conditions of a "successful" divorce.
168. Compare divorce mediation and litigation in terms of how long it takes, how much it costs, and the psychological outcomes for spouses, parents, and children.
169. What are the alternatives to divorce for an unhappy married couple?

170. Discuss why formal (legal) separations are recommended more often than informal separations

UNDERSTAND SOME BASIC FACTS REGARDING REMARRIAGE AND STEPFAMILIES

171. Identify the characteristics of those who remarry first.
172. Identify the ways in which individuals prepare for remarriage and the stages of involvement in a remarriage.
173. Discuss remarriage among the widowed.
174. Discuss the stability of remarriages. How does the length of time a couple has been remarried affect their stability and happiness? Why?
175. Identify the various types of blended families and discuss the differences between nuclear families and blended families. Why is the term “blend” not an accurate one?
176. Describe the stages involved in becoming a stepfamily.
177. Discuss the strengths of stepfamilies. Define stepism.
178. Discuss the issues faced by women, men, and children in stepfamilies.
179. Describe the developmental tasks for blended families.
180. Discuss the various considerations involved in man without children marrying a divorced woman with children, a woman without children marrying a divorced man with children, and two former spouses with children marrying each other.

UNDERSTAND THE EFFECTS OF AGING IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
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181. Identify five ways age is conceptualized.
182. Differentiate between the “young-old,” “middle-old” and “old-old.”
183. Review how ageism is similar to racism, sexism, and heterosexism.
184. Define gerontology and identify/describe six theories of aging.
185. Discuss care giving of the elderly and why members of the sandwich generation will increase.
186. Discuss income, health (physical/mental), housing, retirement and sexuality issues of the elderly.
187. What factors are associated with “successful aging”?
188. Review relationships of the elderly with their spouse, siblings, and children.
189. Discuss the styles, levels of involvement, and satisfactions of grandparenthood.
190. Discuss the death of one’s spouse and involvement with new partners among the elderly. .
191. Discuss how the elderly prepare for death.

This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notification to the student by the instructor.