

Syllabus

NOTE: Be sure to read this syllabus over thoroughly and carefully. Some items are explained in more detail in the Week 1 Learning Module and in your Assignments instructions. The course syllabus is considered a contract between instructor and students. Your continued enrollment in the course indicates your agreement to abide by the terms of this contract.

Instructor Information

Name: Carol Holdt

Email: Use D2L email tool – Please include our course id (SOC339U) in the subject line of your email! holdtc@pdx.edu Please use only if D2L is unavailable.

Office Hours: Virtual, using D2L. I will respond to questions in Q&A Discussions and D2L email on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, whenever possible.

Mentors/Teaching Assistants: Bethany Peterman, Erin Niemela, Josh Coyle, Shauna Nemelka - available via D2L email tool

See Grading information below regarding the role of our mentor/assistants.

Course Information

Course Title, Number: Marriage and Intimacy, Sociology 339U

Course Delivery: This class is fully online and available to you at all times except when systems maintenance is performed. There are no face-to-face meetings.

Required Textbooks

REQUIRED for the course: *Marriages and Families: Diversity and change*, by Mary Ann Schwartz and Barbara Marliene Scott, Prentice Hall, **Sixth Edition/2010** **and** a student access code to MyFamilyLab.

Choose 1 of these 2 options:

1. MyFamilyLab with ebook – ISBN #02005-689175 (Access to the familylab includes the ebook so you decide if you need/want the printed copy.)

OR

2. Printed book with MyFamily Lab access code – ISBN #0205-740979

If you purchase the book new from the PSU Bookstore, it is packaged with a **MyFamilyLab** access card, which is also required. If you purchase a used book from any source, you must also purchase the MyFamilyLab access from the publisher. Click on the “Setting up access to MyFamilyLab” page in Course Content to see the detailed instructions for purchasing, registering and accessing the MyFamilyLab.

NOTE: Check the title, authors, ISBN and edition carefully! There are many similarly named books out there. You **MUST** have the correct edition of the text **AND** the family lab access code in order to succeed in this course.

Course Description and Goals

In this course, students will be introduced to sociological and social psychological perspectives on intimate relationships and all stages of family life. We will explore the wide diversity of ways in which people "do family." We'll examine the effects of historical and current social environments and the role of gender, race, and class in shaping our personal choices and experiences. We'll learn about important research being conducted and sociological theories that help to explain family experiences.

The general course objectives I hope students will achieve:

- To become familiar with recent research findings regarding families and intimate relationships
- To understand the various theoretical approaches used to study families and intimate relationships
- To become increasingly aware of the cultural influences that affect the decisions we make around family and intimate relationships

Student Learning Objectives

We will approach this course with the following learning objectives:

Through active participation in weekly group discussions, students will learn to:

- Ask and answer questions about the readings
- Differentiate between fact and opinion
- Explain opinions to others
- Invite opinions from others
- Give feedback to one another
- Integrate various group members' ideas and opinions
- Respond to different standpoints and preferences among group members

Through required reading and writing exercises, online discussions, students will learn to:

- Analyze the dynamics of intimacy and family life
- Analyze and interpret the research findings
- Analyze the authors' arguments
- Compare and contrast your own views to those of the authors
- Apply ideas and research findings from the readings to our own experiences and those of others
- Compare and contrast real life experiences to those described in the readings

Course Requirements – What is required of you in this course

Workload:

As a general rule, in any 4-credit course, students would be expected to spend 4 hours per week in the classroom and about 8-12 additional hours per week doing coursework outside the classroom. Since this class does not meet in the classroom, you should expect to spend between **12-16 hours per week** completing required coursework. The time commitment may vary from week to week, depending on the amount of reading and other assigned work. Some weeks may require significantly fewer hours, some may require more.

Throughout the course materials, I have included many reminders to you regarding the work that you must complete for this course but it is especially important in a fully online course for students to take responsibility for noting and meeting all course requirements and deadlines.

Active Participation:

Your participation in weekly online lessons is critical to your success in this course and therefore required. You must have access to the Internet on a regular basis so that you can log on to the class **at least every three days** to check for announcements and email.

D2L:

Again, you must log on to the D2L course at least every three days to check for announcements and email.

All coursework must be submitted in the D2L course.

If you encounter problems with D2L, click on D2L Help at the top of the page. It's a very good idea to print a copy of the contact info found there in case you are unable to access D2L at some point during the term.

Problems with your computer are NOT acceptable reason for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer problems that cannot be resolved in time, you should use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines. It's a good idea to have an alternative computer or two identified BEFORE you run into problems.

MyFamilyLab:

Again, you must purchase an access code in order to complete the weekly family lab assignments. Click on the "Setting up access to MyFamilyLab" page in Course Content to see the detailed instructions for purchasing, registering and accessing the MyFamilyLab.

Course Policies

Deadlines:

During the quarter you will most likely encounter some type of logistic or technical problems that prevent you from accessing the Internet, accessing D2L, or successfully submitting your required coursework. This is a very large class and it is difficult to accommodate every problem that arises. For that reason, please plan to complete all your coursework well ahead of deadlines. This will give you and me more opportunity to correct the problem in time for you to meet the deadline. The longer you wait to attempt to submit your work, the less likelihood there is of correcting a problem in time. Don't count on help being available during evenings and weekends! For example, if you wait until Saturday evening to attempt the quiz and encounter a problem, the chances are very poor that you will be able to find assistance from me or the Help Desk and you may lose those valuable points. On the other hand, if you are able to contact me well before the deadline, chances are good that we can solve the problems so you can meet that deadline.

Throughout the course materials, I have included many reminders to you regarding the work that you must complete for this course but it is especially important in a fully online course for students to take responsibility for noting and meeting all course requirements and deadlines.

- Students should complete all coursework prior to the date indicated in this syllabus, the course calendar, and the assignment instructions on D2L.
- Problems with your computer are **NOT** acceptable reason for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer problems, use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines.
- Quiz deadlines are firm. One missed quiz will not impact your course grade and therefore may not be made up. Subsequent missed quizzes may only be made up in the case of illness.

- Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. Since this is a group activity, it is not possible for an individual to make up this work after the deadline.
- **Original Post:** You must submit your original post by no later than midnight **Wednesday** night.
- **Response Posts:** Submit your response posts between Thursday morning and midnight **Saturday** night.
- **Missed exams** Makeup exams are only allowed up to one calendar week after the closing date of the original exam. If you are ill during the exam availability period, you should contact me as soon as possible so an extension can be negotiated. If you miss an exam for any other reason, 20% will be deducted from your score on a makeup exam.

Conduct:

It is required that you act appropriately and demonstrate mutual respect for everyone involved in this course, including the instructor, mentor/assistants, and your classmates. Disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, allowing online access by unauthorized guests, profanity, verbal abuse or threats directed to others, general disrespect of others, will negatively impact your grade and may result in an F in the course.

I reserve the right to delete any posts that I or your classmates find to be non-academic and offensive. Please review the University's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) that you agreed to when you received your PSU network access. These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise.

Plagiarism:

It is extremely important that you do not represent another person's work as your own (plagiarism), whether intentional or not. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourself with the intricacies of academic writing and the appropriate use of another person's work and/or ideas.

Please review the University's [Student Code of Conduct](#). These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise. You will not receive credit for any coursework that is not your own, original work. Any subsequent offense will result in an F in the course.

Grading:

I have developed very detailed grading criteria and rubrics for scoring your discussion posts and exams. Although most of the actual grading is done by your assigned mentor/teaching assistant (TA), the evaluation and scoring of your work is done under my close supervision. They follow my instructions and I check their work regularly.

Refer to [PSU's Grading System](#) for an explanation of the letter grades and other grading policies. Be sure to note that a C indicates satisfactory work. Meeting minimum requirements in a satisfactory manner is C work, NOT A work! In other words, students must do work that is significantly above and beyond the minimum requirements to earn a grade higher than C.

Students taking the course with a Pass/No Pass grading option must earn a C- (70%) or better in the course in order to pass.

Students with Disabilities:

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Students with accommodations approved through the DRC are responsible for contacting me prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through the DRC should contact the DRC immediately at 503-725-4150.

Required Coursework:

The various types of coursework are weighted at 25% of your overall course grade. For each piece of work, other than quizzes, take your total points, divided by the points possible and this will give you your percentage score. Multiply that percentage score by 25 to get your weighted points. For quizzes, drop the lowest score, and average the remaining scores. Divide the average by 30 to get your average percentage score. Multiply the percentage by 25 to get your weighted quiz points.

The scores on your coursework will be weighted as follows:

Coursework	Weighted points
Midterm exam	25
Final exam	25
Weekly quizzes	25
Weekly discussions	25
Total	100

Extra credit: There will be one opportunity to earn extra credit. This will be in the form of an additional essay question on the final exam.

Course Structure:

This course is organized in weekly learning modules. **The weeks begin at 6:00 am Sunday morning and end at midnight on Saturday night.** This weekly structure may not be consistent with other online courses you have taken, or are currently taking, so please be sure to note this schedule so you can plan accordingly.

Required online activities are described in the [Weekly Learning Modules](#), which are accessible in the CourseContent area of the course.

Each weekly learning module includes:

* Online Lecture

Includes important course content provided by the instructor, often intended to supplement other required readings. This material will be covered on quizzes and exams.

* Reading Assignment

Indicates which text chapters and online articles are required reading each week. This material will be covered on quizzes and exams.

* Group Discussion Assignments

You will be assigned to a discussion group along with several of your classmates. Click on the Discussions link in the learning module to see the instructions.

Each week you will be required to discuss a particular topic in your group, then respond to a minimum of two group members' postings.

Original Post: You must submit your original post by no later than midnight **Wednesday** night.

Response Posts: Submit your response posts between Thursday morning and midnight **Saturday** night.

Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday.

Your participation in weekly discussions is worth 25% of your overall course grade. Your posts will be evaluated based on the evidence of thoughtful consideration of the course material and group members' comments using the scoring rubric found in the Tip Sheets module.

* Quiz

Each week, you are required to complete a quiz covering the week's course materials. The quizzes consist of 30 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes are open book and cover material from the online lectures, textbooks and online readings.

Quizzes are available beginning at 6 am Sunday mornings and must be completed prior to midnight on **Saturday** nights.

You are allowed 2 attempts at each quiz and a different but similar set of questions will be presented with each attempt. Your highest score will be recorded. I suggest you complete the assigned readings, take the first attempt, then print your quiz and look up all the questions you missed. Some of the same questions are likely to be included in your second attempt as well. You should print your completed quizzes and use them as study guides for exams.

At the end of the term, your lowest quiz score of the quarter will be dropped. Thus, if you do miss one quiz, it will not affect your grade. The remaining scores will be averaged and weighted at 25% of your overall course grade.

Once you begin a quiz, do not exit until you have completed it. Doing so may use up one of your two attempts and may prevent you from using any additional attempts. If you encounter any problems, click on D2L Help at the top of the page.

Course Exams

There will be two online, open-book exams. The midterm will be available from Thursday through Saturday of **week 5**; the final will be available from Thursday through Saturday of **week 10**. **NOTE:** Week 10 is the last week of regular classes and is the week BEFORE Finals Week.

Each exam is timed and you will have just one attempt to complete it. The exams will cover all online lectures, textbook readings, and online readings and will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. As is standard with all essay exam questions, your responses will be evaluated based on the number of relevant ideas you take from the course readings and incorporate into your response.

Generally, the more relevant ideas you correctly and clearly incorporate in your response, the more points you will receive.

You must take both exams in order to pass the course.

Exam	Availability from	To	Material covered
Midterm exam	6:00 am Thursday, April 28	11:59 pm Saturday, April 30	weeks 1-5
Final exam	6:00 am Thursday, June 2	11:59 pm Saturday, June 4	weeks 6-10

Missed exams - See deadline policy above.

Study Aids:

Although I do not provide a study guide for your exams, our textbook is full of helpful study aids. You can easily use the end-of-chapter Summary, Key Terms, and Questions for Study and Reflection study tools to prepare your own study guide for the quizzes and exams. Each chapter includes boxes with various ways to consider the material you're reading and apply it to real life. See the **Tip Sheets** module for more study ideas.

Additionally, there are pre- and post-tests for each chapter available in the **MyFamilyLab**. There are short quizzes available in **Quick Review**. It's a good idea to get in the habit of taking these quizzes before you take the weekly quiz on D2L.

Questions?

If you have trouble using any of the D2L tools, and you believe it is a technical problem, contact the Help Desk for assistance.

If, at any time during the term, you have questions about any of the course requirements or other information in the syllabus, assignment instructions, or learning modules, please post your question in the **Ask the Instructor Q & A area in Discussions**, where I will answer your question so that everyone can see the response.

If you have a question that is personal or confidential, that you just don't want your classmates to see, please feel free to contact me using the **D2L email** tool. Whenever you email me, be sure to include the course id (**SOC339U**) in the subject line.

If you have a specific question about how a piece of your work was evaluated and graded, please feel free to contact me using the email tool. And please note that all of the grading criteria and scoring rubrics were developed by me, your instructor. Your TA has very little leeway in assigning scores to your work. Together, we will be sure to get all your questions answered.

If you have a question about a quiz question, please wait until the quiz has closed before posting the question in the **Q&A Discussions** area. If you believe a question was worded improperly or the answer was incorrect, please contact me through D2L email and be sure to include the question text, specific reasons why you believe it is in error and the relevant page number(s) from the readings.