

Sociology

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Course Title:	Marriage & Intimacy
CRN:	63229
Credits:	4
Course Location:	Online in D2L
Course Meeting Schedule:	None; fully online

COVID-19

~~~ Portland State has been working diligently to address the health, safety, and well-being needs of the entire PSU community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every effort is being made to provide an accurate and efficient flow of communication to all students, staff, and faculty. As questions and concerns arise, a multitude of campus resources are available to you. If you are ever unsure how to find a resource you need or want, explore the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' website at [pdx.edu/clas/covid-19-resources-for-students](https://pdx.edu/clas/covid-19-resources-for-students). Help is near. Reach out.

## Course Description

In this course, students will be introduced to sociological and social psychological perspectives on all stages of family life, including intimate relationships. 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

This course is an elective for the Bachelor's in Social Work and Child and Family Studies majors and an approved Cluster Course in the Families and Society Cluster. The course expands on

the ecological framework introduced in the Families and Society Sophomore Inquiry class and related major areas of study.

## Course Outcomes/Learning Objectives

Through required reading and active participation in reflective writing, students will create a learning community in which they will learn to:

- Discuss the historical and present day dynamics of intimacy and family life
- Identify and explain common theoretical approaches to the study of marriages and families
- Apply theory and research findings to our own experiences and those of others
- Identify and discuss cultural and economic influences that affect decisions we make around family and intimate relationships
- Assess and discuss policy implications of research findings

## Course Prerequisites

Sophomore class standing.

## Required Materials

### Textbook:

***The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change***, 2e, Second Edition, by Philip N. Cohen, WW Norton & Company, 2018.

Choose 1 of these three options:

- ebook: (least expensive) purchase from publisher's website here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/thefamily2>
- Paperbound: (most expensive) ISBN: 978-0-393-63932-2
- Loose-leaf: ISBN: 978-0-393-63935-3

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 to succeed in this course.

## D2L:

You must have access to a computer and an Internet connection. You can customize [account notifications](#) to receive alerts about instructor announcements and upcoming assignment deadlines. You must log in to the D2L course at least every three days to check for emails and announcements.

All coursework must be submitted in the D2L course. If you encounter problems with D2L, click on Help in the bar above. If you are unable to access D2L at some point during the term, outside the scheduled outages, contact the PSU Help Desk for assistance.

If you are new to D2L, please check out PSU's [Online Class Support](#) for an outline of D2L's basic tools.

## Course Structure and Major Assignments

This course is organized in 11 WEEKLY MODULES, which are located in the Content tab in D2L. **The weeks begin at 6:00 am Sunday morning and end at 10:00 pm 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. As long as you follow the weekly modules, you should not miss any assigned work.

## **WEEKLY MODULES include:**

**Week Number** and start date.

### → **Overview**

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

### → **Review Quiz**

Chapter Review Quizzes are available each week beginning at 6 am Sunday mornings and must be completed by 10:00 pm on **Saturday** nights. (One exception is made for the first week of class – See my Announcement during Week 1.)

The quizzes consist of 20 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes are open book and cover material from the current week's online lectures, textbook and any assigned online readings.

You have one hour in which to complete each quiz attempt. 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.

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. After submission, you will be able to view the questions you answered incorrectly. I suggest you complete the assigned readings, take the first attempt, then print your quiz and look up all the questions you missed, then take your second attempt.

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.

### → **Reflection**

Reading, listening, and viewing activities vary each week and may be followed by a written reflection. There are four Reflection assignments this term. At the end of the term, your average Reflection score will account for 25% of your overall grade.

Reflections cannot be made up after the Saturday deadline. No points will be given for any reflections submitted after 10 pm Saturday.

You Reflections should be between 450-550 words in length. Carefully read the assignment instructions each week. Be sure you answer all parts of the assignment. Reflections should reference at least two ideas described in the book or other assigned material AND each reference should have a proper citation attached to it.

Push yourselves, give things more thought, and remember that it's okay to question traditional thoughts if you see something differently.

→**Checklist**

Each week I provide a checklist so you can check off the work as you complete it and know if there is more work to be completed.

**Exams:**

There will be two online, open-book exams. Each exam score is weighted at 25% of your overall course grade.

You will have two hours and just one attempt to complete each exam. The midterm exam will be available **Friday and Saturday of Week 5**; the final exam will be available **Sunday and Monday of Finals Week** (week 11).

The exams cover all online lectures, textbook readings, and online readings and will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. **No outside sources are allowed for exams.**

**Essay Questions:** As is customary with essay questions, your responses will be evaluated based on the number of relevant ideas you take from the course readings and successfully incorporate into your response. Generally, the more relevant ideas you correctly and clearly incorporate in your response, the more points you will receive. Refer to Academic Integrity policy section below! No points will be given for essay responses that are not properly paraphrased to avoid plagiarism.

Each exam score is weighted at 25% of your overall course grade. You must complete both exams in order to pass the course.

**Exam Schedule:**

| Exam                | Availability from                | To                                 | Material covered  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Midterm exam</b> | <b>6:00 am Friday<br/>May 1</b>  | <b>10:00 pm Saturday<br/>May 2</b> | <b>weeks 1-5</b>  |
| <b>Final exam</b>   | <b>6:00 am Sunday<br/>June 7</b> | <b>10:00 pm Monday<br/>June 8</b>  | <b>weeks 6-10</b> |

Missed exams - See deadline policy below.

**Course Calendar/Schedule**

**Be sure to follow the weekly learning modules for full weekly assignment information. This is only an overview!**

| Week # | Dates       | Chapter(s) | Activities       | Other/comments                   |
|--------|-------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1      | 3/29 – 4/4  | 1          | Quiz, reflection | Introductions                    |
| 2      | 4/5 – 4/11  | 2          | Quiz             | Finish up Week 1 & 2 assignments |
| 3      | 4/12 – 4/18 | 3          | Quiz, reflection |                                  |
| 4      | 4/19 – 4/25 | 4          | Quiz             |                                  |
| 5      | 4/26 – 5/2  | 5,6        | Quiz, exam       | Midterm exam Friday and Saturday |
| 6      | 5/3 – 5/9   | 7,8        | Quiz             |                                  |
| 7      | 5/10 – 5/16 | 9,10       | Quiz, reflection |                                  |
| 8      | 5/17 – 5/23 | 11         | Quiz             |                                  |
| 9      | 5/24 – 5/30 | 12         | Quiz             |                                  |
| 10     | 5/31 – 6/6  | 13         | Quiz, reflection | Course evaluation                |
| 11     | 6/7 – 6/13  |            | Exam             | Final exam Sunday and Monday     |

## Grading Structure

I have developed very detailed grading criteria and rubrics for scoring your Reflections 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. My assistants follow my instructions and I check their work regularly.

The various types of coursework are weighted at 25% of your overall course grade. The scores on your coursework will be weighted as follows:

| Coursework   | Weighted points |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Midterm Exam | 25              |

|                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| Final Exam                                | 25  |
| Review quizzes (average of 9 quiz scores) | 25  |
| Reflections (average of 4 reflections)    | 25  |
| Total                                     | 100 |

## PSU Grading System

<http://pdx.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2017-2018/Bulletin/Undergraduate-Studies/Grading-System-for-Undergraduates>

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.

## Course Policies

### Deadlines:

Please plan to complete all your coursework well ahead of deadlines. This will give you and me more opportunity to correct any problems 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 and the assignment instructions on D2L.
- Problems with your computer or Internet connection are **NOT** acceptable reason for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer problems, use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines.
- Deadlines will NOT be extended due to work schedules or travel plans.
- Review Quiz deadlines are firm. One missed quiz will not impact your course grade and therefore quizzes may not be made up except in the case of documented illness.
- Reflection deadlines are firm and will not be extended except in the case of documented illness.
- Missed exams:
  - Makeup exams due to documented illness are only allowed up to 5 calendar days 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. Documentation is required, unless the illness is due to a documented disability.
  - If you miss an exam for any other reason, makeup exams are only allowed up to 3 calendar days after the closing date of the original exam. Ten percent (10%)

will be deducted from your score if the exam is completed within 1 day of the original closing date, 20% will be deducted from your score if the exam is completed within 2 days of the original closing date, 30% will be deducted from your score if the exam is completed within 3 days of the original closing date.

### **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, inappropriate discussion posts and emails, and any general disrespect of others, **will negatively impact your grade in this course.**

I reserve the right to delete any discussion posts that I or your classmates find to be non-academic and offensive.

Please review the University's [Student Code of Conduct](#). These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a vital part of the educational experience at PSU. Please see the [PSU Student Code of Conduct](#) for the university's policy on academic dishonesty.

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 rules and intricacies of academic writing and the appropriate use of another person's work and/or ideas. See the Tip Sheet in the Content tab for help with avoiding plagiarism.

**You will not receive credit for any coursework that is not your own, original work.**

If you are not familiar with the rules of writing, you should consult a writing manual or seek support from the PSU Writing Center or a writing tutor. Here is a good online resource you may use - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/>.

I expect you to submit work that is appropriate for a 300-level college course. While content should be our main focus, I will not accept any form of plagiarism.

### **Disability Access Statement**

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu), <https://www.pdx.edu/drc>.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations. Students who need

accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.

- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the [Fire and Life Safety webpage](https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety)(<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety>) for information.

## Safe Campus Statement

Portland State University desires to create a safe campus for our students. As part of that mission, PSU requires all students to take the learning module entitled Creating a Safe Campus: Preventing Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Assault. See <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/safe-campus-module>. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources on PSU's Enrollment Management & Student Affairs: Sexual Prevention & Response website at <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault>

## Title IX Reporting

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available.

Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672 or schedule Online at <https://psuwrc.youcanbook.me>.

You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to:

- PSU's Title IX Coordinator: Julie Caron by calling 503-725-4410, via email at [titleixcoordinator@pdx.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@pdx.edu) or in person at Richard and Maureen Neuberger Center (RMNC), 1600 SW 4th Ave, Suite 830
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Yesenia Gutierrez by calling 503-725-4413, via email at [yesenia.gutierrez.gdi@pdx.edu](mailto:yesenia.gutierrez.gdi@pdx.edu) or in person at RMNC, 1600 SW 4th Ave, Suite 830
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Dana Walton-Macaulay by calling 503-725-5651, via email at [dana26@pdx.edu](mailto:dana26@pdx.edu) or in person at Smith Memorial Union, Suite, 1825 SW Broadway, Suite 433

Please be aware that all PSU faculty members and instructors are required to report information of an incident that may constitute prohibited discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence that may have violated university policy or student code of conduct, I have to share the information with my supervisor, the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of the Dean of Student Life. However, the Title IX Coordinators will keep the information confidential and refer you to a confidential advocate.

For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus in your D2L.



## Incomplete Policy

Students do not have a right to receive or demand an Incomplete grade. The option of assigning an Incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor when the following criteria are met.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Required satisfactory course completion/participation.
2. Reasonable justification for the request.
3. Incomplete grade is not a substitute for a poor grade.
4. Written agreement. (See [Incomplete Contract](#) )
5. Resolving the Incomplete.

For the full Incomplete Policy see <http://pdx.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/Bulletin/Graduate-Studies/Enrollment/Incompletes>

## Flexibility Statement

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional, weather, or class situations.

## Drop/Withdraw Deadline

<http://pdx.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2017-2018/Bulletin/Undergraduate-Studies/Grading-System-for-Undergraduates/Drops-and-withdrawals> ]

## Questions:

If you have trouble using any of the **D2L tools**, click on Help at the top of the page. It is 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. If you are unable to access D2L, please contact the PSU Help Desk (503-725-HELP or help@pdx.edu).

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 appropriate Ask the Instructor Q & A area in the Discussions tool, where I will answer your question so that everyone can see the response. Go to Activities>Discussions and scroll until you find the appropriate Q&A area.

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. Go to People>Classlist and click on my name.

If you have a specific question about how a piece of your **work was evaluated and graded**, please feel free to contact me or my TA via D2L email. Just go to People>Classlist and click on our name(s). Please note that all of the grading criteria and scoring rubrics were developed by me, your instructor. My TA has very little leeway in assigning scores to your work. But please contact us with any questions. Together, we will be sure to get all your questions answered. Any requests for deadline extensions or makeup work must be directed to me.

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 quiz number, your attempt number, question number, question text, specific reasons

why you believe it is in error and the relevant page number(s) from the readings. We sometimes do find errors in the quiz questions so please don't hesitate to ask me about it.