

## **Sociology**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Virtual, using Canvas. Phone by appointment.
<b>Course Title:</b>	Marriage & Intimacy
<b>Credits:</b>	4
<b>Course Meeting Schedule:</b>	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 <https://www.pdx.edu/new-way-forward/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***, 3e, Third Edition, by Philip N. Cohen, WW Norton & Company, 2021.

Choose 1 of these three options:

- ebook: (least expensive) purchase from publisher's website here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/thefamily3>
- Paperbound with 180 days ebook access: ISBN: 9780393537291
- Paperbound: (most expensive) ISBN: 9780393537314
- Loose-leaf with 180 days ebook access: ISBN: 9780393537321

NOTE: Check the title, authors, ISBN! There are many similarly named books out there.

## Canvas:

You must have access to a computer and an Internet connection. You must log in to the Canvas course at least every three days to check for emails and announcements.

All coursework must be submitted in the Canvas course.

## Course Structure and Major Assignments

This course is organized in 11 WEEKLY MODULES. **The weeks begin at 6:00 am Sunday morning and end at 11:59 pm (midnight) 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 midnight **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 overview, 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.

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, 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 three Reflection assignments this term. At the end of the term, your average Reflection score will account for 25% of your overall grade.

Reflections should be submitted by 11:59 pm (midnight) Saturday. A 48-hour grace period will be allowed.

Your 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. 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 overviews, 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 |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Midterm exam | 6:00 am Friday<br>Feb 4  | Midnight Saturday<br>Feb 5 | weeks 1-5        |
| Final exam   | 6:00 am Sunday<br>Mar 13 | Midnight Monday<br>Mar 14  | weeks 6-10       |

Missed exams - See deadline policy below.

### Grading Structure

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:

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.

- **Review 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 with my approval.
- **Reflection** deadlines are stated but I will allow a 48 hour grace period.
- **Missed exams:**
  - Makeup exams 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.
  - 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, teaching assistant, 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

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. See the Tip Sheet in the Content tab for help with avoiding plagiarism. You may also need to seek assistance from the PSU Writing Center.

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.**

## Academic Writing

If you are not familiar with the rules of academic writing, you should consult a writing manual or seek support from the PSU Writing Center or a 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 300-level college course. While content should be our main focus, I cannot accept any form of plagiarism. If your writing skills are deficient, you may be referred to the PSU Writing Center before you are given credit for your written work. I will notify you if this applies to you.

## Acceptable sources:

You should not use any materials other than those identified in this course. Acceptable sources include all instructor notes, textbook readings, linked articles and blogs identified in the assignments in the weekly learning modules. I will be checking up on this throughout the term. **Failure to use acceptable sources may negatively affect your grades.**

## Title IX: Sex/gender discrimination, sexual harassment and interpersonal violence:

Portland State is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and PSU policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex/gender, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We expect a culture of professionalism and mutual respect in our department and class. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/ or other forms of prohibited discrimination to [Office of Equity and Compliance](#) or the [Office of the Dean of Student Life](#). If you would rather share information about sexual harassment or sexual violence to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact a confidential advocate at 503-894-7982 or by scheduling on-line ([psuwrc.youcanbook.me](http://psuwrc.youcanbook.me)). This [Sexual Misconduct resource webpage](#) provides a complete list of those confidential employees and off campus resources.

## ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

PSU values diversity and inclusion; My goal is to create a learning environment that is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. I am committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. Additionally, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, and other disabilities.

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.

If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received your faculty notification letter from the DRC so we can discuss your accommodations.

The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150 or, [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu). Visit the DRC online at <https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center>.

## 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. 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>

## 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.

## Questions:

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything you read about in our text or activities, please post those in the Questions about the Reading Material topic in Activities>Discussions. If you prefer a private conversation, feel free to email me instead.

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 **Activities>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 by email. Whenever you email me, please be sure to include the course id (**SOC339U**) in the subject line.

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 by email and be sure to include the quiz number, attempt number, question number and text, specific reasons why you believe it is in error and the relevant page number(s) from the readings.