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**

**Instructor Name:** Carol Holdt  
**Course Email:** Use D2L email tool - Enter holdtc@d2l.pdx.edu in the To Field and please include our course id (SOC339U) in the subject line.  
**Business 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 most evenings, when possible.  
**Mentors/Assistants:** Justine Green, Rachel Jones, Kelly Howland, Anita Merlo - available via D2L email and in the Discussions area.

***See Grading information below regarding the role of our mentors/teaching 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 (See course homepage for dates and times of outages). There are no face-to-face meetings.

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.

**Required Textbooks**


**Choose 1 of these options:**

3. Etext rental through www.coursesmart.com - Search on title, be sure to check authors, edition.
4. Etext purchase through Pearson. Go to http://www.pearsoncustom.com/or/psu_families and follow the instructions below.
1. Click on the URL above to access the e-text website.
2. Click **Purchase Access** under **Register/Purchase Access**
3. Read the License Agreement and Privacy Policy and click **I Accept**
4. Under **Do You Have a Pearson Education Account:**
   a. **If Yes** - fill in your username and password (TIP! Choosing “Yes” and using your existing account will allow you to use the same username and password you use for your other Pearson products)
   b. **If No** - Create a username and password per the guidelines provided.
   c. **If Not Sure** - Enter your email address and click Search
   d. **Follow through the registration** and pay with credit card.
   e. **You are now registered and can sign in to the site.**

**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.

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**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.

**Work Independently:**
All coursework must be completed individually, without help from other students or anyone else.

**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.

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**Required Coursework and 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weighted points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes (average score)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussions</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams** - 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.

**Quizzes** - Drop your lowest score, and average the remaining scores. Since all quizzes have 25 points possible, your average will be your weighted quiz points.

**Discussions** - This one is a bit more complicated. Each week, your original post is worth up to 3 points and your response posts are worth up to a total of 3 points, for a max of 6 points per week. If you are earning 6 points per week, you can expect to earn all 25 weighted points. If you are earning around 5 points each week, this is a B range so you can expect to earn around 20 weighted points. If you are earning around 4 points per week, this is the C range and you can expect to earn around 17 weighted points, and so on.

**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.

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**Course Structure and Assignment Instructions:**

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 modules, which are accessible in the Course Content area.**

Each weekly module includes:

* **Instructor’s 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' original postings.

**Original Post:** You must submit your original post by no later than midnight **Wednesday** night. (A maximum of one point will be awarded for original posts submitted between Thursday and Saturday.) Each week, carefully read the discussion assignment instructions. In order to receive 3/3 points on your original post, it must be submitted within the required timeframe and answer all of the questions I asked. Also, it must go above and beyond by contributing more analysis and thought to the discussion. A score of 3 not only shows that you put thought into your posting but also that you've introduced an original idea or ideas about the topic. What did you read about this week that you can relate to the discussion? I am looking for you to make connections to the lecture material and/or the readings. Be sure to cite the page numbers of the ideas you are tying into your post. Try to think a bit more analytically about the topic/topics at hand. What questions do you have? What qualms do you have? What is something that you can bring from the outside that is interesting to add to the conversation?

**Response Posts:** Submit your response posts between Thursday morning and midnight **Saturday** night. (A maximum of one point will be awarded for response posts submitted prior to Thursday.) Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. In order to get a 3/3 on your response posts, respond thoughtfully to at least 2 or 3 other people’s ORIGINAL posts. Perhaps you can help the other students think about an issue in a new or different way or probe them as to why they believe a certain idea. Provide your own insight. Again, make connections to the readings. Pull in a couple of points or ideas from the week’s assigned chapters and cite the page numbers.

Push yourselves, give things more thought, and remember that it's okay to question traditional thoughts if you see something differently. 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. If you earn 6/6 points, this means that you are making outstanding original posts AND outstanding responses to your classmates’ original posts.

**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.

**Checklist**
You can use the checklists to check off each piece of work to make sure you have completed all of the assignments for the week.
Course Exams

There will be two online 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Availability from</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Material covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>6:00 am Thursday, Oct 29</td>
<td>11:59 pm Saturday, Oct 31</td>
<td>weeks 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>6:00 am Thursday, Dec 3</td>
<td>11:59 pm Saturday, Dec 5</td>
<td>weeks 6-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Missed exams - See deadline policy below.

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.

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 or Internet access are **NOT** acceptable reason for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer/Internet access 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. No points will be awarded for response posts submitted prior to Thursday.

• 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.

**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. (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 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. Just enter “holdtc@d2l.pdx.edu” in the To field. Whenever you email me, please 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 or your assigned TA 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 (holdtc@d2l.pdx.edu) 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.