

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
SOCI 3364 / 01

Class Meets every Friday: 11:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

Class Location: NSS Bldg. Room # 2025

Instructor: Dr. Judy Brown-Allen

Office Location: NSS Bldg 4069

Phone: 678-797-2070

E-mail: jallen12@kennesaw.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The family constitutes one of the primary social institutions, and for most people the most important social institution, within which such social relationships are activated. The goals of this course are to examine the organization of different family forms, highlight emerging family trends and patterns in contemporary America society, with cross-cultural comparisons. The course also examines the triggers, effects and implications of changes of patterns in marriage and family. Specific topics to be examined include patterns of family formation, serial monogamy, fertility behaviors, parenting, and patterns of marriage and family problems, among others. We will also explore the future prospects for marriage and family in light of the many changes. This course will examine pertinent issues on a personal level as it relates to marriage and families while applying theoretical views. Students will identify social policy issues related to marriage and family with which U.S. Society is confronted. Students will examine gender role, courtship, love, divorce, marriage and family patterns in other cultures and societies. Students will look critically at race, age, religion, economic and educational differences in regard to marriage **and family in the U.S.** Students will examine relationships that are traditional and non-traditional while replacing speculation with facts and sociological theories.

Text is required for this Course:

Marriages & Families by Lamanna & Riedmann 10th Edition

Required reading assignment: Please Read Chapters One & Two before the start of the second class meeting. Further reading material (s) may be assigned by the Instructor.

1. Family Commitments:

- Making Choices in a Changing Society
- Defining Family / The Freedom & Pressure of Choosing etc.

2. **American Families in Social Context**
 - Historical Events / Age Structure / Race and Ethnicity /
 - The Economy and Social Class
 - Technology and the Family
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3. **Exploring the Family**
 - The Family Development Theory
 - Structure – Functional Perspective
 - The Interactionist Perspective
 - Feminist Perspective
 - Biosocial Perspectives
4. **Our Gender Identities**
 - Gender Expectation
 - Cultural Messages
 - Cultural Expectations
 - Male Dominance
 - Biologically and Society Based Arguments
 - Gender and Socialization
 - Theories of Socialization
 - Gender in Adult Lives
5. **Loving Ourselves and Others**
 - Do Men and Women Care Differently?
 - Love and Intimacy: Commitment to Sharing
 - Two Things Love Isn't
 - Self Worth as a Prerequisite to Loving
6. **Our Sexual Selves**
 - Sexual Development and Orientation
 - Theoretical perspectives on Human Sexuality
 - The Four Standards of Non-marital Sex
 - Sexuality Throughout Marriage
 - HIV & AIDS
 - Sexual Responsibility
7. **Choosing a Marriage Partner**
 - Arranged Marriages
 - The Marriage Market
 - Narrowing the Pool of Eligibles
 - Family Diversity
 - Cohabitation and Marriage
 - Mate Selection and Marital Stability
8. **Marriage, a Private and Public Relationship**
 - The Marriage Premise of Permanence and Sexual Exclusivity

- Sub-Cultures with Norms Contrary to Sexual Exclusivity
- Getting Married and Changing your Name
- Same Sex Couples and Legal Marriage
- Marital Satisfaction and Choices Throughout Life

9. Alternatives to Marriage

- Living Alone
- Cohabitation
- Domestic Partnerships
- Other Options
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Professor will lecture, lead discussions, and provide relevant examples and other assistance to students in an effort to help them grasp complex materials. Instructor will provide students with prompt feedback on examinations and written assignments, and be available for conferences with students. Instructor will maintain office hours, and adhere to all other official regulations, and will perform administrative functions in accordance there with. And instructor will construct and implement measures to evaluate whether this course fulfills its objectives.

Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend all class meetings, and to arrive on time. (Students will not be allowed to enter the classroom 30 minutes after the class official beginning time).

Evaluation and Grading Procedures:

Satisfactory performance on both in class and out of class assignments and examinations is required to obtain a grade of “C” or better in this course. Quizzes, both announced and unannounced, examinations, class participation, and writing assignments **make-up quizzes will not be given: Examinations may be made up only if an official excused absence is obtained from the office.** Not feeling well is not an official excuse for missing a test and the only way to make it up is by securing a doctor’s note. The final grade is based on the following categories and grade weights: Any assignments turned in without a written excuse will receive a 25 point deduction for lateness if not turned in when assignments are taken up at the start of the class. Being late for class is not an excuse to turn your assignments in late and a penalty will be assessed for lateness.

Components of Students’ Grades

1. Attendance and Class Participation	25%
2. Unit Test (combined)	25%
3. Writing Assignments	25%
4. Comprehensive Final Examination	25%

