This course is intended to address three related concerns. First, we will consider the notion of contemporary marriage. This course is designed to introduce students to what to expect in their own family: what information is worth knowing, what problems may be expected, what practical techniques are available for dealing with issues that arise. Second, we'll consider the family as an institution in society. We'll be concerned with what a family is in general, why it takes particular forms in particular societies, and what forces are responsible for changing and shaping it as the world moves into a new phase. What makes this study so timely is the fact that we are living through a period of major change in the history of the family.

Finally, we will see that the family is the locus of a series of practical issues that bear on the work of many different professions which students are aspiring toward; from social work to retailing, from lawyers to educators, from counselors to marketing specialists, from police work to fine artists, from doctors to politicians, and more. The family is deeply implicated in the problems of poverty, crime and delinquency, school achievement and career success, drug use and abuse, child and spouse abuse, marital and extramarital sex, illegitimacy, abortion, divorce, child custody, remarriage and aging.

While it is not possible to actually prepare oneself for one's own marriage by taking a sociology course like ours, a student should have as a by-product a greater ability to anticipate what will happen in one's own marriage, and to act intelligently in regard to social problems connected with the family.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:
Each student's final grade will reflect the degree to which she/he accomplishes the following STUDENT OBJECTIVE....
1. To become familiar with objective scientific analysis of marriage and family research and data.
2. To learn to perceive and deal with an EMOTIONAL argument in contrast to an INTELLIGENT argument.
3. To learn to think CRITICALLY and to argue INTELLIGENTLY.

The final grade of:
A - Indicates a superior degree, or mastering of material.
B - Indicates a high degree of accomplishment of material.
C - Indicates a satisfactory degree of accomplishment of material.
D - Indicates a minimal degree of accomplishment of material.
P - Indicates an inadequate degree of accomplishment of material necessary to pass this course.

NOTE: The grade of "W" (for WITHDRAW) WILL NOT be given to a student by this professor beyond the "last day to withdraw from class without academic penalty" (please see catalog). This semester that date is: 10-30-06. After this date, being dropped (e.g.,
for excess cuts), or dropping by your own choice results in an "F" final grade.

Each student's final grade will be arrived at by using the following formula:
75% - Average of three semester tests.
25% - One semester paper (explained below).

100% - Final grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Requirements for this course fall into three areas - tests, assignments and attendance.

1.) TESTS: There will be three tests given during the semester. The tentative dates are: 10/5, 11/9, 12/19

Tests are not cumulative. Each test will consist of 50 multiple(185,773),(932,944)
section number, semester, date and my name.
- ONE BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGE with at least our textbook listed in proper (i.e. - APA bibliography form.
- ONE "AFTERWORD" PAGE.
- ONE BLANK PAGE for the professor's comments and grade.
- Completed papers MUST be fastened together with a PAPER CLIP ONLY! Please, no staples, plastic or paper binders will be accepted.

DUE DATE: 3291 - 11/21 (23RD MEETING)

NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNCLEAR OR UNSURE ABOUT ANYTHING, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO CONSULT WITH YOUR PROFESSOR.
One of your main concerns and goals should be to produce a CRITICALLY OBJECTIVE AND INTELLIGENT PAPER. So, do not compose subjective and emotional papers.
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
GOOD LUCK! GET STARTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON EACH PAPER.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
- Get at least two classmates' names and phone numbers, NOW!
  1.
  2.

- NO CELL PHONES OR BEEPERS PERMITTED IN CLASS!
- ABSOLUTELY NO LEAVING THE CLASSROOM, ESPECIALLY DURING TESTS!
- Start a STUDY GROUP early in the semester.
- Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions.
- Should a student miss a lecture, it is the student's responsibility to get lecture notes from another student.
- The professor's notes will not be released to any student.
- In the event a student is falling behind or is having difficulty with material, it is the student's responsibility to seek out the professor or a tutor before it is too late in the semester to catch up.
- "SCAN-TRON" test forms are used for all multiple choice parts of TEST SERIES. They can be purchased at the College Book store.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

* = Test date.  
# = CANCELED MEETING
** = Paper due date.  
< = PRE-TEST  > = POST-TEST

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FIRST THIRD
Read chapters:  1 - THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY
  2 - STUDYING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
  3 - DYNAMICS AND DIVERSITY OF FAMILIES
  4 - CONTEMPORARY GENDER ROLES
  5 - FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND COMMITMENT

3
All readings are to be completed before TEST SERIES #1.

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| 7          |         |       |         | 10/5 |

SECOND THIRD

Read chapter:

6 - COMMUNICATION, POWER, AND CONFLICT
7 - SINGLEHOOD, PAIRING, AND COHABITATION
8 - UNDERSTANDING SEXUALITY
9 - FAMILY PROCESSES, FAMILY LIFE CYCLES
10 - SHOULD WE OR SHOULDN'T WE?

All readings are to be completed before TEST SERIES #2.

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FINAL THIRD

Read chapters:
11 - EXPERIENCING PARENTHOOD
12 - MARRIAGE, WORK, AND ECONOMICS
13 - FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE
14 - COMING APART: SEPARATION & DIVORCE
15 - NEW BEGINNINGS

All readings are to be completed before TEST SERIES #3.

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**NOTES**