

## CHFD 2100: Introduction to Family Development

Spring 2007

Forestry Resources Auditorium

T & R 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Leslie Gordon Simons  
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Office Hours: T & R 9:30- 11:00 and *by appointment*

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Office Hours:	Mon: 1:30-5:00 Tues: 9:30-12:30	Office Hours:	Wed: 11:30-4:00 Thurs: 9:30-11:00

### Course Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to the topic of family development. It will focus on family as a basic social institution, the various theoretical perspectives on the family, and present an overview of the contemporary social scientific research on the family. The history, structure, and functions of the family will be addressed as will topics such as dating, cohabitation, marriage, parenting, family violence, and divorce. The objective of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of the concepts, methods, and principles used in studying families from a social science perspective.

This course will follow a lecture format. These lectures are meant to complement the information contained in the chapters. There will be topics covered in your reading that are not addressed in lecture. Similarly, I will cover material in lecture that is not addressed in the text. You are expected to know all of the material. I will encourage class discussion and occasionally I will show a video. There will be no review sessions or study guides provided. There will be one extra credit assignments. Occasionally, class announcements will be posted on WebCT. You are responsible for checking those postings and for the information contained within any postings.

### Required Text

LaManna, M. & Riedmann, A. *Marriages and Families*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Belmont: Wadsworth

### Attendance

Regular attendance is expected and students are encouraged to attend each class session. Lecture will begin at 8:05. You should arrive on time and plan to stay for the entire class. If you come in late or must leave early, please sit in the back of the room by the door. Turn off your cell phones and pagers during class. I do not provide lecture notes to students so you are responsible for getting class notes whenever you cannot attend. You are also responsible for the content of any videos or guest speakers. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from a classmate what you missed. If you experience an illness, accident, or other personal circumstances that prevents your attendance in class for an extended period of time, you should contact the VP Office for Student Affairs in the Holmes/Hunter Academic Building. They will assist in contacting your professors on your behalf. [www.uga.edu/studentaffairs](http://www.uga.edu/studentaffairs)

### Quizzes

Periodically, there will be quizzes administered at the end of class. They will not be announced in advance. The quiz will cover information from the beginning of that day's lecture. If you are not present at the beginning of class, you will not have the information to answer the questions correctly and if you leave early you will not have the opportunity to turn in a quiz for that day. There will be a total of 10 quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points.

## Exams

There will be four non-comprehensive exams each worth 100 points (50 multiple choice questions worth two points each and based on material from lecture, text, guest speakers, and videos). The fourth exam will take place on the day of the scheduled final. Exams will be administered via WebCT. Class will not meet on exam days but you will be responsible for completing your exam online between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. You will have access to the exam on WebCT for 75 minutes. You can log on to your account from any computer but you can only begin the test once. Please note: When you log off, you will not be able to come back to the exam, even if you have not completed the exam. If you lose connection due to a WebCT error, we will receive an instant electronic report from WebCT and can give you clearance to sign in again. If you have a failure on your own computer, you are responsible for contacting the TA in charge of testing and getting to another computer. If you have problems with the online exam, please contact Cathrine Arndt ([cathrine@uga.edu](mailto:cathrine@uga.edu), 706-542-4939).

**Make-up exams:** Students who miss an exam will be able to take it on the day of the final exam, immediately following completion of the final exam. The final and all make-ups must be completed in the period of time scheduled for by the university for this final exam period (3 hours). The only exception this policy is for students who miss an exam due to participation in an official event related to a university team, organization, or other group. In that event you must make arrangements with one of the TAs *in advance* to take the missed exam within one week after the original exam date.

**Final exam:** The final exam is non-comprehensive and will follow the format of the first 3 exams. It will consist of 50 multiple choice questions which will include material from chapters, lecture, guest speakers and videos covered since exam 3. The date for the exam is Tues, May 8 from 8:00 – 11:00. It will be administered via WebCT.

## Study Guides

I do not provide study guides to the class. However, a web-based study guide is available through Wadsworth publishing (<http://sociology.wadsworth.com>). The text-specific resources for *Marriages and Families* are available through Virtual Society, the Wadsworth Resource Center. The site for LaManna and Riedmann includes chapter-by-chapter outlines and study tools.

## Student Evaluation

<b>Class Requirement</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
Exam 1	100	
Exam 2	100	
Exam 3	100	
Exam 4	100	
Quizzes (10 pts. each)	100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	

## Calculation of Final Grades

### Total Points

A = 93-100	463-500
A- = 90-92	448-462
B+ = 87-89	433-447
B = 83-86	413-432
B- = 80-82	398-412
C+ = 77-79	383-397
C = 73-76	363-382
C- = 70-72	348-362
D = 60-69	298-347
F = 60 and below	0-297

To be fair to all students, grade cutoffs are final and will be held to strictly. Sorry, no exceptions.

### Tentative Schedule of Class Sessions and Reading Assignments

The following represents a general outline for our progress through the material. Actual dates and topics may change as we move through the semester. Significant changes in the schedule will be announced during class and/or on WebCT.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Jan 9	Introduction to the Course	Chapter 1
Jan 11	What is a Family?	Chapter 2
Jan 16	The American Family in Historical Context	
Jan 18	Theoretical Perspectives on the Family	Chapter 3
Jan 23	Methods of Studying Families	
Jan 25	Gender Socialization	Chapter 4
Jan 30	TBA	
Feb 1	<b>Exam 1</b> (via WebCT from 7:45-9:30am)	Do not come to class today.
Feb 6	Romantic Love	Chapter 5
Feb 8	Sexuality	Chapter 6
Feb 13	TBA	
Feb 15	Cohabitation	Chapter 9
Feb 20	Kinship	
Feb 22	Homogamy and Arranged Marriage	Chapter 7
Feb 27	<b>Exam 2</b> (via WebCT from 7:45-9:30am)	Do not come to class today.
Mar 1	Marital Quality	Chapter 8
Mar 6	Marital Satisfaction	
Mar 8	Communication and Conflict in Marriage	Chapter 13
Mar 13-15	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 20	Work and Family	Chapter 12
Mar 22	TBA	
Mar 27	Becoming a Parent (or not)	Chapter 10
Mar 29	Parenting	Chapter 11
Apr 3	<b>Exam 3</b> (via WebCT from 7:45-9:30am)	Do not come to class today.
Apr 5	Family Violence	Chapter 14
Apr 10	Divorce	Chapter 16
Apr 12	TBA	
Apr 17	Remarriage and Step-Families	Chapter 17
Apr 19	Families and Crisis	Chapter 15

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
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Apr 24	Families and Delinquency	
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Apr 26	Families in Later Life	Chapter 18
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Tuesday, May 8      **FINAL EXAM** 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. via WebCT (do not come to the classroom)  
This exam is non-comprehensive.

### Student Needs

1. Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course should make an appointment to speak with the instructor or graduate assistant as soon as possible so that those needs can be met.
2. The computer lab, located in Dawson Hall, is available to students enrolled in CFD courses.
3. If you are not happy with your performance on your exams, there are ways to improve chances at making a better grade on future exams. You might want to visit the TAs during their office hours and look over your previous exams. Are you having trouble with questions based on class lecture or the book? That might help you decide where you need to emphasize your efforts. Some things that will help you perform well in this class:
  - Attend every class meeting.
  - Arrive on time and be prepared. This means you have read the chapter assigned for that day and you have paper and pencil for taking notes.
  - Be alert, listen to lecture, take detailed notes, and stay for the entire class period.
  - Ask questions if something being discussed in class is not clear to you.
  - If you miss a class, get a copy of that day's notes from a classmate (Neither I nor the TAs give out our copies of class notes).
  - Before each exam, re-read the chapters and study your notes.
  - Use the publisher's online study guide to quiz yourself on the readings.
  - Join a group of fellow students for a study session.
  - Get a good night's sleep the night before the exam.
  - Recognize that the scientific study of human behavior is NOT "just common sense." Sometimes patterns are exactly what you expect but at other times they are counter-intuitive. You need to understand the theories and the social science research in order to be able to answer complex questions about family relationships. While our experiences in our own family may provide some insight regarding the way families work, research focuses on the central tendency of large samples. In other words, your experiences may not be generalizable to the population at large. Don't count on your own experience, tradition, conventional wisdom, common sense, etc to lead you to an A in this class. Be prepared to challenge preconceived notions and learn about what the scientific research has taught us about the ways that families and relationships work. You WILL have to attend class regularly and read the chapters as assigned to do well in this class.

### Academic Honesty

"The University of Georgia seeks to promote and ensure academic honesty and personal integrity among students and other members of the University community. A policy on academic honesty has been developed to ensure these goals. All members of the academic community are responsible for knowing the policy and procedures on academic honesty." For more information see <http://www.uga.edu/~vpaa/polprac/ahpol/main.html>.