

CHFD 2100: Introduction to Family Development

Spring 2006

T & R 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Instructor: F. Ryan Peterson
Office: 103 Dawson Hall
Phone: 542-4939
Email: frp6565@uga.edu
Office Hours: T– 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
R- 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and *by appointment*

Teaching Assistants:	Catherine Arndt	Jennifer Conley
Office:	103 Dawson Hall	103 Dawson Hall
Phone:	542-4939	542-4939
Email:	cathrine@uga.edu	jen44@fcs.uga.edu
Office Hours:	W – 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. R – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and <i>by appointment</i>	M – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. T – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and <i>by appointment</i>

Course Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to the topic of family development. I will focus on family as a basic social institution, discuss 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 sociological 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. 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

Seccombe, Karen & Rebecca L. Warner (2004). *Marriages and Families: Relationships in Social Context*. 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 prevent 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

Extra Credit

There will be opportunity to receive 15 extra credit points throughout the semester. In order to receive the points, you will need to attend a UGA sponsored speaker (selected by the instructor) or complete an activity created by the instructor. These opportunities will be related to issues regarding the family. In addition, you will need to write a two-page response paper. The paper will include a one page summary of the activity and a one page personal response (double spaced, 12 point font). The extra credit paper must be given to the instructor or TA no later than one week after the date of the activity. The paper will be worth a maximum of 5 points and will be graded on clarity and thoughtfulness. There will be two extra credit opportunities throughout the semester but each student can only turn in one paper. In addition, you will have the opportunity to complete an in class research activity that will be worth 10 extra credit points. The survey will occur during class time and no summary paper will need to be written. The total amount of possible extra credit is 15 points. Since these are Extra Credit points, you will not be hurt if you choose not to complete the activity and paper or the survey. At the end of the semester, these points will be added to the total number of points earned throughout the semester. It may be possible to earn enough extra credit points to get a higher grade if the average grade is “on the border” between two letter grades. For example, if you earn a total of 366 points on exams 1-4 and class participation, that is an 86.1% average for the semester, which is a B. If you earn the 15 bonus points, your total points would be 381 or 89.6%, which is an A.

Class Participation

Throughout the semester there will be class participation activities that will be conducted during lecture. These activities will go along with the lecture topic for that day. Each participation activity will be worth 5 points (25 points total). Therefore, there will be five lecture days that will include class participation points. These points will not be able to be made up unless there is a university excused absence or official documentation stating that you were sick or had a serious injury.

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, and videos). The fourth exam will take place on the day of the scheduled final. You should bring two sharpened pencils to all exams. We will provide the bubble sheets needed for each exam.

Make-up exams: If you miss an exam, contact the teaching assistant immediately. In the case of serious injury or illness (must have official documentation) you may formally request permission to make up an exam at an alternate time. You must schedule and complete the make-up less than one week after the original exam date. Otherwise, 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).

Final exam: The final exam is a non-comprehensive exam and will follow the format of the first 3 exams. It will consist of 50 multiple choice questions which will cover material from chapters 15-18 as well as material from lecture, videos, or guest speakers.

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>). On the left side of the page, under “select a course,” click on ‘marriage and family.’ Then, click on “student book companion site” under title of your text. If you need additional help, I suggest you use WebCT to initiate discussions with your classmates and to set up study groups before exams.

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.” See <http://www.uga.edu/~vpaa/polprac/ahpol/main.html>. for more information.

According to the University of Georgia, *academic honesty* “means performing all academic work without cheating lying, tampering, stealing, receiving assistance from any other person or using any source of information which is not common knowledge (unless that assistance or use is authorized by the person responsible for supervising that academic work or fairly attributed to that source of assistance or any information).” *Academic dishonesty* “means knowingly performing, attempting to perform, or assisting any other person in performing any academic work, which does not meet this standard of academic honesty.”

Student Evaluation

Class Requirement	Possible Points	Points Earned
Exam 1 (Ch 1-5)	100	
Exam 2 (Ch 6-9)	100	
Exam 3 (Ch 10-14)	100	
Exam 4 (Ch 15-18)	100	
Class Participation	25	
Total Points	425	
Add any Extra Credit		

Calculation of Final Grades

A = 380 - 425 points (90% and above)
B = 338 – 379 (89%-80%)
C = 296 – 337 (79%-70%)
D = 253 – 295 (69%-60%)
F = 252 and below (59% and below)

To be fair to all students, grade cutoffs are final. You will have the opportunity to earn extra credit points throughout the semester and they will count toward your final point total. This is the only way that you can raise your grade beyond your exam scores. I know it is painful to miss getting a higher grade by only 1-2 points, but these cutoffs 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. Any changes in the schedule will be announced during class and/or on WebCT.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Jan 10	Introduction to the Course	Chapter 1
Jan 12	Exploring the Family	Chapter 1

Jan 17	Exploring the Family	Chapter 2
Jan 19	American Families in a Historical Context	Chapter 2
Jan 24	Our Gendered Identities	Chapter 3
Jan 26	Our Gendered Identities	Chapter 3
Jan 31	Exam 1	
Feb 2	Research Activity (10 Extra Credit Points)	Chapter 4
Feb 7	Loving Ourselves and Others	Chapter 4
Feb 9	Loving Ourselves and Others	Chapter 4
Feb 14	Our Sexual Selves	Chapter 5
Feb 16	Our Sexual Selves	Chapter 5
Feb 21	Committing to Each Other	Chapter 6
Feb 23	Committing to Each Other	Chapter 6
Feb 28	Marriage, a Private and Public Relationship	Chapter 7
Mar 2	Being Single: Living Single and Cohabiting	Chapter 7
Mar 7	Exam 2	
Mar 9	To Parent or Not to Parent	Chapter 8
Mar 14	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 16	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 21	Parenting	Chapter 8
Mar 23	Power and Violence in Marriage	Chapter 8
Mar 28	Communication and Conflict in Marriage	Chapter 9
Mar 30	Communication and Conflict in Marriage	Chapter 9
Apr 4	Parents and Children Over the Life Course	Chapter 10
Apr 6	Work and Family	Chapter 10
Apr 11	Exam #3	
Apr 13	Divorce: Before and After	Chapter 11
Apr 18	Remarriages and Stepfamilies	Chapter 12
Apr 20	Remarriages and Stepfamilies	Chapter 13
Apr 25	Aging Families	Chapter 14
Apr 27	Family Stress, Crises, and Resilience	Chapter 15
Tuesday, May 9	FINAL EXAM 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. in our regular classroom This exam is non-comprehensive (it covers material from chapters 15-18 plus lectures, videos, or guest speakers since exam 3).	

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.