

CHFD 2100: Introduction to Family Development

Fall 2006

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: 12:00-3:00 Tues: 9:30-10:45, 2:45-4:30 Fri: 10:00-1:00	Office Hours:	Wed: 10:00 – 1:00 Thurs: 9:30 – 10:30, 2:00-4:00 Fri: 10:00- 1:00

Tyler and Marissa will take turns keeping office hours on Fridays.

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. There will be no 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*, 9th 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

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, 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: 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 a non-comprehensive exam and will follow the format of the first 3 exams. It will consist of 50 multiple choice questions which will include material from chapters covered since exam 3 as well as material from lecture, videos, or guest speakers. The date for the exam is Tues, Dec 12 from 8:00 – 11:00 in our usual classroom.

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

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

Calculation of Final Grades

A = 450 - 500 points (90% and above)
B = 400 – 449 (89%-80%)
C = 350 – 399 (79%-70%)
D = 300 – 349 (69%-60%)
F = 299 and below (59% and below)

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>
Aug 17	Introduction to the Course	Chapter 1
Aug 22	What is a Family?	Chapter 2
Aug 24	The American Family in Historical Context	
Aug 29	Theoretical Perspectives on the Family	Chapter 3
Aug 31	Methods of Studying Families	
Sept 5	Gender Socialization	Chapter 4
Sept 7	Exam 1	
Sept 12	TBA	
Sept 14	Romantic Love	Chapter 5
Sept 19	Sexuality	Chapter 6
Sept 21	TBA	
Sept 26	Cohabitation	Chapter 9
Sept 28	Kinship	
Oct 3	Homogamy and Arranged Marriage	Chapter 7
Oct 5	Exam 2	
Oct 10	Marital Quality	Chapter 8
Oct 12	Marital Satisfaction	
Oct 17	Communication and Conflict in Marriage	Chapter 13
Oct 19	TBA	
Oct 24	Work and Family	Chapter 12
Oct 26	FALL BREAK	
Oct 31	Becoming a Parent (or not)	Chapter 10
Nov 2	Parenting	Chapter 11
Nov 7	Exam 3	
Nov 9	Family Violence	Chapter 14
Nov 14	Divorce	Chapter 16
Nov 16	TBA	
Nov 21	Remarriage and Step-Families	Chapter 17
Nov 23	THANKSGIVING	

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Nov 28	Families and Crisis	Chapter 15
Nov 30	Families and Delinquency	
Dec 5	Families in Later Life	Chapter 18
Tuesday, Dec 12	FINAL EXAM 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. in our regular 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>.