

CDFS 112 – 7D1

Introduction to Marriage and Families Online – May 2022



Course Description

Introduction to Marriage and Family is an introductory level course. It is designed to provide the student with key research on marriage and family studies. Through the semester, the student will explore various dimensions of self-development and personal preference relevant to dating, mate selection, marriage, childbearing and rearing, divorce, and remarriage.

Alternative perspectives on marriage and family are also presented.

As this is an online course, you will be able to find all course material on

WVU's eCampus system. Once you log into eCampus, click on the course name (CDFS 112). Then, by clicking on Course Information, you will be able to access the course content for the entire 3 weeks. We will be using Discussions to have weekly, asynchronous discussions on course topics, and you will also need to access Quizzes in order to take your weekly quizzes.

Finally, by accessing the Assignments tab, you will be able to complete your weekly Thought Paper Assignments and the Movie Paper.

For online discussions, I would encourage each of you to edit your discussion posts thoroughly prior to posting. Any language that is offensive and/or disrespectful will be addressed. Depending on the severity of the language, points may be deducted. Course discussion posts should further the course discussion, not make other students feel nervous about stating their opinions. Before posting, you should assess whether or not the comment will help the discussion or hinder it. If you disagree with an existing post, you can certainly disagree, but should do so respectfully.

Course Details

Instructor: Katie Rasmussen

Format & Length:

- 3-credit hours
- Undergraduate level
- Delivered 100% online
- No prerequisites


Required Materials:

- Olson, D., DeFrain, J., & Skogrand, L. (2019). *Marriages and families: Intimacy, diversity, and strengths*. ISBN9781259914294
- *Yours, Mine, and Ours* (2005 movie) by Raja Gosnell
 - Available via Amazon Prime and other platforms

Course Objectives

1. Define family and describe the various family forms.
2. Explain changes in family philosophy and trends in marriage and intimate relationships.
3. Describe basic characteristics and problems associated with diverse class and cultural differences in families.
4. Explain the importance of family background and its influence on individual and family development.
5. Understand the nature of intimate relationships including dating, mate selection, cohabitation, and marriage.
6. Describe the qualities essential to healthy and successful intimate relationships.
7. Understand the basic facts about human sexuality and reproduction.
8. Explain the transition to parenthood and the parenting role.
9. Discuss the decision-making process, communication, and conflict resolution in intimate relationships.
10. Discuss the important factors associated with the decision to divorce and those related to remarriage.

Course Expectations

- This is a very fast paced course, meaning there is a lot of work to be completed in a short amount of time. You are responsible for completing all work by their respective due dates.
- If you have questions or problems, please ask them. 
- Please check both your MIX and eCampus accounts. I often send reminders and updates to you via MIX and post the information on eCampus.
- To get the most out of this course,
 - Read the textbook.**
 - Don't be afraid to ask questions if something doesn't make sense.**
 - Review the additional chapters materials when available.**
- Please be courteous in your writings. I will listen with an open mind and be respectful of your opinions and viewpoints within written responses. I also expect that you will be respectful and courteous of your classmates' opinions.

Three Before Me



Questions are sure to arise within the course of the semester. Before emailing me with questions, please follow the “Three Before Me” rule, where you should check in three places before emailing me:

- 1) Syllabus
- 2) eCampus
- 3) Classmate

Make-Up Work Policy

I will not allow students to make-up missed assignment deadlines without a University-sanctioned reason for missing the assignment, documentation will be required. Requests for make-up work must be made in writing to the instructor via email, and within 24 hours of missing the assignment.

Late Work Policy

Any work that is submitted late, except quizzes, can only receive up to 50% credit. Students have until **11:59pm on January 6th** to submit any late work.

Quiz Make-up Policy. I will not allow students to make-up quizzes without a legitimate reason for absence, documentation will be required.

Technology Policy

This class utilizes eCampus for all assignments:

If you encounter any technological issue, please email a screenshot and a description of the issue **PRIOR** to the assignment’s due date. Issues emailed to me after the assignment due date will result in a zero or late work penalty (if applicable).

Keep in mind that a technological issue is a problem which prevents you from submitting an assignment (e.g., website down), not user error (e.g., submitted to wrong folder). It is still your responsibility to double check that an assignment is submitted.

Netiquette

What you post on the discussion board, reflects something about who you are. Hence, it makes sense to read your posts carefully to ensure that they are grammatically correct and free of spelling errors. Common courtesy is the guiding rule of internet communications. Please take a few minutes to read the **Introduction** on the **Netiquette Home Page** <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

Re-Taking the Course: *For Students who are taking CDFS 112 again*

Students who are re-taking CDFS 112 must complete all assignments again (i.e., students may NOT hand in papers which were completed in previous semesters). Any student who re-submits papers will receive a "0" on the assignment, and maybe reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Please see your instructor with any questions or concerns.

Privacy

All reasonable efforts will be made to insure your privacy. To facilitate this effort, class grades will be posted via "My Grades" tool. **It is good practice to frequently check your grades in order to keep up to date on your performance.** It is my policy that no grades will be given out over the phone.

LIVE TEXT: For CDFS Birth to PreK Majors Seeking Certification Only

As of the Fall 2010 semester, all students enrolled in the Preschool Education Program in the College of Human Resources & Education at West Virginia University are required to obtain a LiveText account. This is a one-time purchase that will be used for assessments during this last semester or year of your program. LiveText includes a student file manager that allows you to store documents, files, videos, etc. and access them from any computer in the world. If you have further questions about LiveText, you can contact Ashley Martucci (Ashley.Martucci@mail.wvu.edu).



Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course.

For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code at <http://www.arc.wvu.edu/rightsa.html>. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me *before* the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs (OSJA). Possible penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to a grade reduction or an automatic "F" on the assignment, and/or an "F" for the course, to be determined by the instructor and/or by OSJA.

CDFS Academic Integrity Statement

The CDFS follows the [WVU policy on Academic Integrity](#). Per the [WVU policy and procedures](#), any suspected instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the WVU Office of Academic Integrity and are penalized. Penalties for academic dishonesty could include, but are not limited to: point reduction on an assignment, failure of an assignment, or failure of a course.

Additional University Policies

[For additional information on University policies, please visit this site: https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#7](https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements#7)

Additional Resources

Inclusivity

Office of Accessibility Services (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>) Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>)

Campus Safety

WVU Police (<https://police.wvu.edu/>)

Sexual Misconduct

Title IX (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/confidential-resources>)

Carruth Center: 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline)

Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center: 304- 292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline)

Assignments

Quizzes

210 points

(6 quizzes x 35 points)

You will be given 6 quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will be 35 questions each and include multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes can be found using the Quizzes folder or in the Course Content tabs on eCampus.

You can start your quizzes anytime during the week they are due, but they will be due by 11:59 PM on the due date for that week. Once the quiz is open, you will have 1 hour to complete the quiz. **Because you have many days in which to finish each quiz, there will be no make-ups allowed unless a University-documentation is provided. QUIZZES ARE AVAILABLE FROM MONDAYS AT 12:00AM AND DUE EACH FRIDAY BY 11:59PM.**

Below are the due dates for each quiz:

Quiz 1 – Chapters 1-2

Quiz 4 – Chapters 8-10

Quiz 2 – Chapters 3-4

Quiz 5 – Chapters 11-13

Quiz 3 – Chapters 5-7

Quiz 6 – Chapters 14-16

Thought Paper Assignments

150 points

(6 thought papers x 25 points)

For each section that your book covers, you will be asked to apply the course material to media content. Thought papers will be completed 6 times throughout the semester as announced on the syllabus. Each thought paper is worth 25 points. I expect responses to be about one to two pages. You are most likely to earn top points on the assignment if you follow all directions, clearly explain the concepts and your arguments, and use course material in your explanations. Specific directions regarding the thought paper assignments will be posted on eCampus in the Thought Assignments or in the Course Content tabs on eCampus. You can start them at any time, but they need to be turned in by 11:59pm on the date they are due, as listed below and on the syllabus. Because you have many days in which to finish each Thought Assignment, there will be no make-ups allowed unless a University-documentation is provided.

Assignments

Below are the due dates for each Thought Paper Assignment: Thought Paper 1

Thought Paper 2

Thought Paper 5 Due

Thought Paper 3

Thought Paper 6 Due

Thought Paper 4 Due

Discussion Posts

15 points

(5 points x 3 responses)

Throughout the 3-weeks, you will need to respond to 6 discussion prompts. Each posting will be worth a total possible of 5 points. These responses are meant to apply the concepts and ideas from the reading. You must incorporate at least one course concept in your post and you must cite your concept. Specific directions regarding discussion posts will be posted on eCampus. You can access these discussion prompts by clicking on the Discussions tabs on eCampus. Discussion posts are due by 11:59 pm on the date they are due, as listed on the syllabus.

Below are the due dates for each Discussion Post:

Discussion Post 1

Discussion Post 2

Discussion Post 3

Responses to Classmates' Posts

24 points

(2 points x 12 responses)

In addition to posting original posts, you'll also be required to respond to your classmates' posts 24 times (4 per week) throughout the semester. You can agree or disagree with what a student has written, as long as it is done in a respectful manner. Responses must be content driven, meaning that they cannot just state agreement or disagreement with the post (e.g., "I agree", "I feel the same way"). Posts that lack substantive content will not be counted. No more than 4 responses for one week will be counted (in other words, if a student posts 6 responses in one week, only 4 will count).

Assignments

Below are the due dates for the Responses to Classmates' Postings:

Response Posts 1-4

Response Posts 5-8

Response Posts 9-12

Movie Paper **35 points**

Each student will watch Yours, Mine, and Ours directed by Raja Gosnell (Available on Amazon Prime and other platforms, if you do not have access to this movie, email me) and write a 3-page paper on how the movie connects to course concepts. Specific directions regarding the movie paper assignment will be posted on eCampus.

Grading Procedures

Final grades will be determined by the total points earned over the semester from the following:

Quizzes	210
Thought Papers	150
Discussion Posts	15
Responses to Classmates' Posts	24
Movie Paper	35
Total	434

Final Grades

Final Grades will be calculated according to the scale below:

390 - 434 points	– A
347 - 389 points	– B
304 - 346 points	– C
260 - 303 points	– D
< 259 points	– F

All work must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the last day of class.

No work will be accepted after this date.

Incomplete Grades

A grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade assignment used when unforeseen, non-academic circumstances arise that prohibit students from completing the last assignment at the end of the semester. The grade of Incomplete is typically assigned because of an excused absence from the final examination, or because the work is unavoidably incomplete, as determined by the faculty member in consultation with the Dean. Students who are failing a course (exclusive of the incomplete work) may not request an Incomplete.

Students who want to be considered for an Incomplete must apply to their instructor prior to the end of the term; if the instructor agrees, the instructor and the student must negotiate the conditions under which the grade of "I" will be changed to a letter grade and sign a contract. The date to submit the incomplete work should not be set beyond the last day of class of the following semester. To remove the grade of I, a student does not register for the course again. If a student does not complete the course requirements as stipulated in the contract or by the expiration date, the I grade will be replaced with an IF.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Reading	Reminders/Items Due
Week 1	<p>Perspectives on Intimate Relationships</p> <p>Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure</p>	Chapters 1 – 4	<p>Discussion Post 1 due</p> <p>Thought Paper 1 & 2 due.</p> <p>Response Posts due.</p> <p>Quiz 1&2 due</p>
Week 2	<p>Understanding Marriage and Family Dynamics</p> <p>Communication and Intimacy</p>	Chapters 5 - 10	<p>Discussion Post 2 due:</p> <p>Thought Paper 3 & 4 due</p> <p>Response Posts due</p> <p>Quiz 3 & 4 due</p>
Week 3	<p>Conflict and Resolution</p> <p>Sexual Intimacy</p> <p>Gender Roles and Power in the Family</p>	Chapters 11 - 16	<p>Discussion Post 3 due</p> <p>Thought Paper 5 & 6 due</p> <p>Response Posts due</p> <p>Quiz 5 & 6 due</p>