**SOC3400/Marriage and intimate relationships 2016 SEMESTERFV** Instructor: Dr. Luceal J. Simon Course Name and Number: Soc3400/Marriage and Intimate Relationships Course Location: 1165 Old Main Course meeting times: Fridays: 09:35AM - 12:20 PM (8/31-12/12 2016) Office hours: Fridays 1:00-1:45, before and after class. Please schedule appointments via email at ac3787@wayne.edu. Office Location: Sociology Department room 2250 Faculty Administration Bldg.

1). **Required Text: Robert H. and Jeanette C. Lauder. 2012. Marriage and Family: *The Quest for Intimacy*, 8th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-811162-4** 2). Additional reading materials will be posted on Blackboard or handed out in class

**Important dates:**

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| 09/02/2016: Soc3400 /Marriage and Intimate Relationship class begins |  |

09/09/2016: Weekly reflective essay submissions begin

11/25/2016: NO Classes Holiday-University Closed

12/12/2016: Classes End

12/016/2016: Final Exam

Course Description: The course provides a sociological perspective on marriage and intimate relationships. Major emphasis is placed on description and analysis of changes in traditional and nontraditional marital forms. It also, offers a basic understanding of marriage and intimate relationships related to societal and personal concerns of students.

Expected Learning Outcomes **Students completing the course will:**

1. Acquire an understanding of marriage and intimate relationships and gain insight on ways to feasibly enrich the quality of marriage and intimate relationships.

2. Attain the ability to apply sociological perspectives to explain and describe how marriage and intimate relationships are influenced and effected by cultural, political, and economic social structures.

3. Obtain the capability to use sociological methods to enhance understanding of the nature, causes, and complications of marriages/intimate relationships as they relate to the societal and personal concerns of students.

4. Enhance knowledge of sociological methodologies and theoretical applications used in the study of marriage / intimate relationships.

5. Engage in class discussions and team work where opposing viewpoints and hypotheses on marriage / intimate relationships are presented.

6. Strengthen presentation and public speaking abilities.

**Class Structure**: The course is comprised of reading, writing, class discussions, research methods, class presentations and a final exam. Some of the text, documentaries, and videos explore sensitive material which may make some students uncomfortable however students must struggle with the material under discussion. It is also imperative that students keep up with the pace of work as falling behind will make it difficult to catch up.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend ALL classes. Excessive absences, late arrivals and or early departures will negatively affect your overall grade. Students who accumulate more than 3 absences and or a combination of absences, late arrivals and early departures should consider dropping the course.

**Chapter / Article Reflections:**  Students are given weekly reading assignments and are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to class. The weekly readings are designed to make students write about their thoughts on the topic discussed. In addition to think facilitate discourse and incorporate the learning into active participation in class discussions.

**Reflection Essays:** Chapter/article reflections must be written in essay format. In your essays, concentrate on the content of the material presented in the chapters/article readings and reflect on what you’ve learned from the reading, your thoughts on the material presented, and what you’d like more to gain more information on. Examples of personal and or societal experiences on the topic must in addition, 3 questions for class discussion must be included in each essay. IMPORTANT NOTE: Papers in the incorrect format are returned unread and with a failing grade.

**Class Participation**: Class participation is essential in this course. Classroom participation means voicing ideas, asking questions, and carefully listening. Therefore ALL students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to each class session and come to class prepared to actively participate in class discussions. Students are also expected to respond to questions asked by the instructor and their classmates. Note: The instructor will call on students who do not voluntarily participate in class discussions. Students who dominate the conversation of the assigned readings will be asked to refrain from doing so to allow others to participate.

**Assignments:** All assignments for the course must be submitted at the start of the class in which they are due. Students must be in attendance to hand in assignments. Emailed assignments will not be accepted and cannot be made up without prior permission from the instructor. Students who are not in attendance will not be allowed to leave them in my office mailbox the following day.

**Late Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted to the Instructor at the beginning of the class period which they are due. Late papers and assignments will be accepted with the penalty of a reduction of 1 point for each day the paper is submitted late. Papers and assignments submitted after 1 week will not be accepted.

**Missed Assignments**: Require the Instructor’s approval. Approval of make-up work will only be allowed under the following conditions: a written note from a Physician (or other health care provider) indicating that health issues prevented you from being able to complete the course work or take the exam on the date due. No other documentation will be accepted. Physicians’ notes must be submitted to the Instructor prior to but no later than the next class meeting. A hard copy of the approved missed assignment must be completed and submitted at the beginning of the next class meeting.

**Classroom Behavior:** This course maintains an environment that encourages full participation thus students are encouraged to create an environment that assures everyone’s participation, regardless of ideological differences or personal beliefs.• Students are expected to carry themselves in a manner respectful not only to the instructor, but to fellow students. •Students are to treat each other with respect, refrain from personal attacks during class discussions, and maintain decorum while in class. •Any disruptive behavior will result in the disruptive student being asked to leave the classroom for the day and/or Public Safety will be alerted for removal and full disciplinary action will be brought against the student.

**Final Exam**: The exam consists of ALL materials covered in the course throughout the semester inclusive of all readings (whether or not they were covered in class), class lectures, class discussions, etc.

**Power Point Presentation**: Each student is to prepare a 10 minute Power Point Presentation (PPT) on a topic of marriage/intimate relationships of their choice. Presentations must include: 1) 3 scholarly articles, 2) sociological perspectives, and 3) a reference page showing article citations.

**Grading:** All assignments will be rated in 5 areas –a thorough understanding of the subject matter, a thoughtful understanding of the subject matter, a basic understanding of the of the subject matter, a limited understanding of the subject matter, and little or no understanding of the subject matter (5 points for exemplary, 4 for very good, 3 for acceptable, 2 for needs improvement, and 1 for unacceptable). Note: For example: To earn an “A” you must earn some 5 evaluations on assignments. Earning 4 points in each category mean a rating of very good on assignment. To pass with a “C” mean earning at least a “3” in each category of the 5 areas. If you earn only 1 point in each category it is a failing grade.

**The following grading scale will guide the grading policy in the course and Final Grade**

Final Exam: (1@ up to25 pts each) 25

Chapter & article reflective papers (15 @up to 5 pts) 75

Assignment#1: marriage views interviews (0 to15) 15

Assignment#2: marital responsibilities interviews (0 to 15) 15

Power Point Presentation (0 to10) 10

Class Participation (10x5) 50

Attendance (10x1) 10

Total Points 200

Grade Chart

100% = A+ 95-99% = A 90-94% = A- 88-89% = B+ 84-87%= B 80-83% = B -

78-79% = C+ 74-77% = C 70-73% = C- 68-69% = D+ 64-67% =D 60-63% = D- 0-59% = F

**Grade Discussions:** Grades are discussed during scheduled office visits only. If you have questions or concerns on a graded assignment (i.e. if you believe you have been graded unfairly or there was an oversight in grading) feel free to contact me via email to schedule an appointment for a second evaluation. Please note that a reexamination may or may not result in an improvement in your grade on that assignment. If after the second evaluation you still believe that you have been graded unfairly, you must submit a written explanation of why you believe the grade should be evaluated for a third time. In your request for a third evaluation you must be very specific by providing evidence from course readings, along with your original graded assignment. However, a written statement of what you believe is an unfair grade does not automatically mean a grade change. If you are able to show you were graded unfairly then I will gladly change your grade, but keep in mind the grade can stay the same or go down as a result of the second review. If you are still not satisfied you must go through proper channels in the Department of Sociology. A third party reviews the assignment. Again, based on the third party review, the grade(s) may go up, remain, or decrease.

**Incompletes and Withdrawals:** Students must complete all assignments by the end of the semester as time extensions request via incompletes cannot be granted for the fall 2016 semester. Withdrawals: Students who are not doing well should withdraw from the course. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate action for a formal withdrawal. Students who do not officially withdraw but stop attending class and/or do not take scheduled exams will receive a failing grade.

**Electronic Devices:** Cellular phones, computers and all other electronic devices must be turned off for the entire class session. Students will not be allowed to be online, text message, play computer games, talk on their cell phones (or leave the class room to talk on the cell phone) while class is in session, do homework for other classes, write papers, engage in side conversations with fellow students during class discussion, browse through magazines and newspapers, or be disrespectful to other students, during class sessions. Anyone caught engaging in the aforementioned activities will be asked to leave class and will receive an absence for the day and 0 class participation points.

**Violations of Academic integrity:** Wayne State University violations of academic integrity Plagiarism, cheating on exams and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will adhere to the university guideline for dealing with acts of dishonesty by taking the following course of action: (a) giving a failing grade on the assignment; (b) giving a failing grade for the course; or (c) suspension or exclusion. Information on procedures is available in the Office of the Dean.” The Student Code of Conduct can be found online at the Dean of Students Office (DOSO) website at: www.doso.wayne.edu/ under Student Judicial Services. Information on procedures is also available in the Office of the Dean.”

**Special Needs & Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only).

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| Readings and Assignments \* Subject to change at Instructor’s discretion |
| Week 1  9/02/16: Introduction to course, syllabus review, student expectations, and question and answers. |
| Week 2 Lecture: History of Marriage lecture |
| Week 3 The Context of Intimacy  Readings: Chapter 1: Marriage and Family in America pgs. 01-24  Chapter 2: Diversity in Families pgs. 25-53 |
| Week 4 The Context of Intimacy  Readings: Chapter 3: Gender Roles pgs. 55-75  Chapter 4: Sexuality pgs. 77-103 |
| Week 5 Seeking Intimate Relationships  Readings: Chapter 5: Getting Involved pgs. 107-127  Chapter 6: Falling in Love pgs. 129-147 |
| Week 6 Seeking Intimate Relationships  Readings: Chapter 7: Selecting a Life Partner pgs. 149-169  ***Assignment #1 is due at the beginning of class:***  *Interview Assignment#1: Interview 2 women (your mother and grandmother or women their ages) about their marriage/intimate relationship expectations and experiences.* |
| Week 7 Intimacy in Marriage and Family Life  Readings: Chapter 8: Getting Married pgs. 171-191  Chapter 9: The challenge of communications pgs. 193-212 |
| Week 9  Readings: Chapter 12: Becoming a Parent pgs. 257-281  Chapter 13: Family Crises pgs. 283-307  **Assignment#2 is due at the beginning of class:**  *Observational Assignment#2: Watch 4 TV shows (2 shows from the 1950, 1960s, or 1970s and 2 shows from the 2000s. Look critically at how traditional and nontraditional marriage relationships are portrayed in TV shows, also how the shows deal with families and family issues. Look critically at the 4 shows, compare and contrast the two time periods and discuss what is being promoted about marriage/ intimate relationships through these shows.* |
| Week 10  Readings: Chapter 14: Separation and Divorce pgs. 309-332  Chapter 15: Remarriage and Stepfamilies pgs. 333-352 |
| Week 11  Readings Chapter 16: Intimacy in the later Year’s pgs. 355-371 |
| Week 12  Student Presentations |
| Week 13 Nov./24: NO Classes Holiday-University Closed    Readings and Assignments \* Subject to change at Instructor’s discretion |
| Week 14 Student Presentations |
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| Week 15 Student Presentations |
| Week 16 Dec. 16 Final Exam |

\*Note: Revisions may be made to the assigned readings and documentaries shown.