

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
OFFICE OF EXTENDED STUDIES**

**Summer 2010**

**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

**SOC 120-948: Introduction to Family Studies (3 credits)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mel Moore

**Notice**

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

**Course Description**

Survey the characteristics, issues and problems of the family as a social institution. Topics discussed include: marital satisfaction, conflict, mate selection, alternatives and social change.

**Course Goals and Content**

We will examine the science of family-- the research on basic family structures, practices and policies. Course goals include an understanding of this research and the theoretical foundations of basic family issues, along with the stimulation of your sociological imagination with respect to family. Additionally, we will discuss current issues in the family.

This course has the following learning outcomes:

- \* understand the framework, worldview, or philosophical assumptions of the discipline.
- \* understand the methods and research skills used by the discipline.
- \* understand the principles and theories of the discipline.
- \* demonstrate familiarity with current problems.

**Required Text and Materials**

Marriages and Families by Mary Ann Lamanna and Agnes Riedmann (2009, 10th edition, Wadsworth).

You also are responsible for the lecture material for each unit (located under Course Materials on the course website). Readings should be completed by the date listed in order to keep up with the course. In addition to readings, lecture material, and the content of the class-wide online discussions, you may be interested in videos or other materials presented on the website associated with your textbook (<http://academic.cengage.com/sociology/lamanna>). The text website offers study guides and allows you to take practice tests similar to the exams you will be given in this course. There is a link to the textbook site on blackboard under External Links. If you have questions or concerns about anything, you are encouraged to contact me throughout the course.

## Evaluation

Grades will be based on three equally weighted exams (75% of final grade) and assignments (25% of final grade). More specifically, the maximum number of points possible for each evaluative component is as follows:

Exam 1	= 100 pts
Exam 2	= 100 pts
Exam 3	= 100 pts
Introduction to group	= 10 pts
3 essays/discussion posts in Unit 1	= 30 pts
3 essays/discussion posts in Unit 2	= 30 pts
3 essays/discussion posts in Unit 3	= 30 pts
<hr/>	
Total possible points	= 400

Your grade for the course is calculated based on the percentage of the total possible points that you obtain-- A = 90% - 100%; B = 80% - 89%; C = 70% - 79%; D = 60% - 69%; F = 59% or less. Detailed descriptions of exams and assignments are discussed below.

### Exams:

Exams may include short answer, true-false, multiple-choice, and essay questions. Note that all course material, including readings, lectures, class-wide discussions and any other posted material may appear on exams. Exams will be available online on the date of the exam from 7am to 7pm only. You will only be able to take the exam once, and once you start the exam, you must finish and submit it within the designated time limit. You will not be able to go back to questions you have already answered. So for each exam date, decide in advance on free time that day in which you will be at a secure internet connection where you will have quiet so that you can focus on your exam. Also, note that these are closed book/note exams. You need to work alone and without any materials—just as if you were taking the exam in a classroom. To do otherwise is cheating and means you won't learn much. . . Also, know that if you begin the exam and your internet connection fails for any reason, you will have to take the make-up exam on the last day of the class. So please, use a very secure connection!!

### Assignments:

In order to facilitate getting to know each other and having substantial discussions, I am dividing the class into groups of 8 or so. To find your group number, click on COMMUNICATIONS then the GROUP PAGES button. If this doesn't work, contact me because if you added the course recently, you may not be on my list. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure you are in a group BEFORE the first assignment is due. All assignments must be posted to and appear on your group discussion board in order to get credit for them (NOT the class-wide discussion board). The points associated with each assignment are:

Introduction =10

Discussion- Unit 1 =30

Discussion- Unit 2 =30  
Discussion- Unit 3 =30  
Total 100

Introduction: Your first assignment is to introduce yourself to your group. Offer at least one rich paragraph about who you are and what you think about “family” at this point in your life. This getting-to-know-each-other process facilitates substantial discussion on family topics.

For the Discussion for each unit, you need to offer at least 3 substantial (1 or more paragraphs EACH) responses to EACH unit’s materials (9 minimum for the course for full credit). Only one post per day counts so for full credit, you need to post on at least THREE DIFFERENT days in EACH unit. The first response might be your thoughtful examples from your own observations or life that connect to principles described in that unit or a critique or supporting point about unit ideas. The idea is to play with the course content in significant ways and share that with your group. Later responses in a unit might be responses to the posts of others. In all cases, your posts should be prepared in advance so that they are well-written and efficiently presented. Posts with spelling errors or typos won’t receive any credit. More is not better, and please do not simply summarize course readings or lectures. Add to what we know/think. If your post is empty— you have simply repeated ideas or congratulated the author of the previous post— you will receive NO credit. You are welcome to do those kinds of posts but make sure you also have 3 substantial posts per unit for full credit. Note that I determine whether or not your discussion is substantial and worth full credit. To assure yourself full credit, do much more than the minimum required of you! Finally, please don’t ask questions or make comments to me on your group discussion board. This is YOUR place. Ask questions in the class-wide board. Note though that I will be monitoring your group board in order to assess credit for each unit in terms of your assignments so . . . if you want to have PRIVATE conversations with your group members, use their individual e-mail!! Also, I may put your responses on the class-wide board for the whole class to discuss so do not post anything that you are not comfortable sharing with the whole class.

Assignment due dates are strict. No late assignments will be accepted. REALLY!! They defeat the purpose of being involved with your group’s discussion, and they do not help your group. SO post your assignments early to avoid technical, health, or other possible delays. The due dates for the discussion are as follows—you must make at least three substantial posts on THREE DIFFERENT DAYS BY the due date for that unit to receive full discussion credit. No one wants to discuss Unit 1 ideas on the exam day or during Unit 2. . . If you do not understand this, ask questions. I expect almost all of you will get full credit for each unit. These online discussions are intended to get you thinking, make the ideas your own, and facilitate group interaction about course topics. Additionally, you may want to use your online group as a source of study buddies.

### **Class-wide Discussion Board**

In the class-wide discussion board, you may post comments or questions about course content or course mechanics, and I will respond to them there. This way everyone in the class benefits from the interaction. So I will interact with you on the class-wide discussion board. Please don’t ask questions or make comments to me on your group’s discussion board. Note that under no circumstances will posts to the CLASS-WIDE board count toward your grade. Only posts on YOUR GROUP board count toward your assignment grade. Moreover, all postings on the class-

wide discussion board are required course content and may be included on exams. So be sure to keep up with what is on the course-wide discussion board.

### **Final comments**

This is a full 15-week semester course being offered in just a few weeks. As a consequence, you need to do about 2-4 times the work each week compared to what you do for a course offered during a regular semester. Please— 1. Read this syllabus carefully and note all due dates— they come quite quickly. Do not fall behind! 2. Because the course is online, you have to be able to work hard—ON YOUR OWN. And do not just read chapters. . . study and learn them so that you can talk about specific issues, findings and concepts. You should be able to teach the ideas to someone else. A casual understanding of the basic topics is NOT enough to be successful in this course. Note that NO extra credit is offered. You must do the course as it is designed. 4. If you do not understand something, ASK!!! Always ask!

### **Course Outline**

#### UNIT 1

Introduction to Family Chap 1+ lecture

Exploring Families Chap 2

Families in Social Context Chap 3

Introduction due \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 1 Discussion last day

Exam 1 (offered 7am to 7pm only)

#### UNIT 2

Marriage Chap 7+ lecture

Non-marital Arrangements Chap 8

Raising Children Chap 11

Unit 2 Discussion last day

Exam 2 (offered 7am to 7pm only)

#### UNIT 3

Communication Chap 13+ lecture

Divorce Chap 16

Remarriage/Step-families Chap 17

Unit 3 Discussion last day

Exam 3 and any make-ups (offered 7am to 7pm only)

\*If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me as often as you need. Posting to the class-wide board is the most reliable method of communication and allows all to be involved in what you are thinking about sociology and about course mechanics. For very private matters, use my e-mail. Note that it is best to use your UNC e-mail account as others (such as hotmail) go to my junk mail filter. Thanks.

## **Library Services for Distance Education and Off-Campus Students: Obtaining Materials from UNC Libraries**

Off-campus students residing within 50 miles of the UNC campus are required to come to the library and borrow materials in person. Students residing more than 50 miles from campus may request that materials be delivered to them. All requests must include complete citations. We will supply materials from the UNC Libraries, as well as materials from other libraries obtained via Interlibrary Loan. Articles will be delivered via email. Books will be mailed first class. Delivery time by U.S. postal service is approximately 1 week. It is the responsibility of the student to return books by the date due. UNC does not pay return postage on books. For information on document delivery, call (970) 351-1446.

Requests for materials may be made through the following methods:

Online: <http://www.unco.edu/library/forms/distancerequest.htm>

By email: [library.ocp@unco.edu](mailto:library.ocp@unco.edu)

By fax: (970) 351-2540

## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

## **Honor Code**

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

## **UNC's Policies**

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

## **Student Satisfaction Evaluation**

Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

## **Course Withdrawal Information**

In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after the course starts you will be assessed a drop fee. The drop fee is pro-rated up to the half-way point in the class. You are legally responsible for payment of full tuition once 50% of this course has been concluded. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.