Department of Sociology  
University of North Texas  
SOCI 3000: Marriage & Family  
SOCI 3000, Section 900, 950 credit hours  
SPRING 2014  
Instructor: Ami Moore, Associate Professor  
Office: Chilton 390G  
Phone: 940.565.4267  
Fax: 940.369.7035  
E-mail: amoore@unt.edu  
(Please don’t e-mail me assignments, I’ll not grade them).

Office Hours:  
Wednesday Noon-2:00 pm,  
and by appointment.


Course Objectives: This course is designed to help you understand the history of the family as a social institution and the contemporary family issues. Of course, all of us are experts in some degree on the family. We have lived in families and/or have our own families. Thus, we have observed family dynamics and may have compared our own family experiences to others. HOWEVER, in this class, we will use sociological theories and research to analyze the social forces that impact this social institution called ‘the family’. Specifically, at the end of the course, students will be able to (1) understand why the American family is not monolithic, (2) place their own personal experiences of the families in a larger social context, (3) place present-day family issues in their historical and social contexts, and (4) understand current family changes and stresses.

Teaching Philosophy: Online classes are very fast paced, thus, it is important for students to stay up with assignments and complete them on time. You CANNOT procrastinate. To do well in this class, students should ask questions whenever they have one, and do all the assignments ON TIME (discussions, quizzes, video evaluations, and exams). Please PROOF-READ your work before submitting it as your grades will be partially based on the clarity of your writing. Your grades in this course will be based on discussions, quizzes, video evaluations, and exams.

1. There will be three discussions for the term (see calendar for dates).  
2. Discussions will be posted on the Discussions tab.  
3. There will be three video assignments which will be posted on the Assignments link.  
4. There will be three exams (see calendar for dates)  
5. There will be a quiz every week  
6. Quizzes and exams will be on the Assessment tab. There will be NO MAKE-UP quizzes.
7. Each assignment will turn on at a particular time and be available for 72 hours.
8. Assignments CANNOT be made up after they turn off.
9. Your assignments MUST be posted during the allotted time.
10. No work will be accepted after the deadline.
11. I will read each and every post and provide feedback when necessary.
12. Please be courteous in the Course-room. Do not post anything offensive, threatening, inflammatory, or illegal. Also, do not call people names if you disagree with their views.

ACCESS & NAVIGATION
Access and Log in Information
This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas’ Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: https://learn.unt.edu
You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: http://ams.unt.edu.

Student Resources
As a student, you will have access to:
- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.
- Blackboard’s On Demand Learning Center for Students and Blackboard Help for Students. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.

Being a Successful Online Student
- What Makes a Successful Online Student?
- Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

“Succeed at UNT” -- Below is a website for tips to succeed at UNT.

http://www.unt.edu/features/2013_student-success/index.htm?homepage=1

Student Support
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940.565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm) for updated hours.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings and Assignments: Students are expected to do all assigned readings for each week and be prepared to share their views on the different issues raised in the readings online with their classmates. Due dates are based on Central Time Zone.

1. Quizzes: (20 points—EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY). There will be NO make-up quizzes. A quiz will be given every week starting Jan 22, 2014. The quiz will be posted for 72 hours. However, you will have between 10 and 25 minutes to take the quiz (depending on the number of questions) once it begins. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin a quiz. The quizzes will be turned on from Wednesdays (6:00 pm) to Saturdays (6:00 pm). You must complete the quiz during this time. *Please note: Blackboard is down for maintenance on Saturday nights, from 11:00 pm-2:00 am

2. Discussions: (75 points total). Discussion questions will be posted throughout the semester (see calendar). You are required to POST in your comments, read all of the posts of your classmates, and reply to two of the posts that you read. Please make sure you hit ‘QUOTE’ when you are replying to someone’s post or mention the name of the person whose post you are responding to, otherwise, I will not be able to follow what you are saying. In your discussions, be as detailed as possible. Refrain from answers like “I agree”, “yes, this is true”, etc. Please make sure you explain why you agree or think the posting is good or true. Whatever you say, make sure you explain why you think the way you do. What I will be looking for in the postings is how well students integrate sociological concepts and theories learned in the text into their discussions. Show off your Sociological Imagination!!! Students will have Fridays from 6:00 pm to Mondays 6:00 pm to post and reply to two of their group members’ posts. After 6:00 pm on Mondays, you will NOT be ABLE to post your answer to the discussion question. NOTE: You have to post your answer for the discussion question(s) FIRST before you see the posts of your classmates.

90%-100% -- Very detailed answer. Answer/post has an extensive use of relevant textbook material –concepts and theories.

80%-89% -- Detailed answer. Answer/post contains a high level of use of textbook material—concepts and theories.

70%-79% -- Moderate answer. Answer/post has a moderate use of relevant textbook material—concepts and theories.

60-69% -- Basic answer. Answer/post contains a superficial knowledge of relevant textbook material --concepts and theories.
59% and below – Answer/post has little to no knowledge of relevant concepts/theories.

Discussion 1: Friday, Jan 31 (6:00 pm) to Monday, Feb 3 (6:00 pm)
Discussion 2: Friday, Mar 21 (6:00 pm) to Monday, Mar 24 (6:00 pm)
Discussion 3: Friday, Apr 11 (6:00 pm) to Monday, Apr 14 (6:00 pm).

3. Video Evaluations. (75 points total) A number of videos will be shown in this class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issue(s) that is/are being covered. You are required to submit at least a 300 words typed-written and double-spaced reaction paper of the video. Please type into the submission area or space provided instead of uploading your write-up. The video evaluations will turn on Mondays from 6:00 pm to Thursdays 6:00 pm. You must complete your online evaluation during this time. See dates below.

Video 1—Monday, Feb 10 (6:00 pm) to Thursday, Feb 13 (6:00 pm)
Video 2—Monday, Apr 7 (6:00 pm) to Thursday, Apr 10 (6:00 pm)
Video 3—Monday, Apr 21 (6:00 pm) to Thursday, Apr 24 (6:00 pm)

4. Examinations. (300 points) There will be three exams given during the semester on the dates specified in the schedule (page 6). You have a 72-hour window for the exam. However, you will have a certain amount of time to take the exam once you begin it. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin an exam.

Missed assignments. You will be given an opportunity to make up for only ONE missed exam, discussion, and/or video during PRE-FINALS WEEK. However, you will have only 24 hours to make up for a missed assignment instead of 72 hours. Dates for make-up assignments will be posted. Make-up assignments will be given during PRE-FINAL WEEK only. Please check announcements tab and your e-mail daily. Dates will be announced, and I do not need to know who missed an assignment and is planning to do the make-ups. Please DO NOT e-mail to inform me that you missed an assignment. Make-up assignments will NOT cover the same materials that you missed. There is no make-up exam for final exam.

University Policy on Disabilities: In accordance with the University policy, if you have any disability that may impair your ability to do well in this course, please contact the instructor immediately. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services.

Academic Honesty: In keeping with the norms of higher education, any student found guilty of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to their college dean. Refer to your student handbook for complete provisions of the policies and procedures set forth by UNT.
Grading Procedures: The final grade will be assigned based on the following scale which uses a point system:

- A = 450—405 points
- B = 404—360 points
- C = 359—315 points
- D = 314—270 points
- F = 269 points & below.

Please remember: I do not give “extra credit” opportunities to any single student, otherwise I will need to do so for the entire class. Also, do not make up stories about having problems with Blackboard, because I will track your time log and history.
**Topic outline and assignment schedule**

(This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 13-18</td>
<td>Seeking: finding happiness</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 19-25</td>
<td>Understanding: Learning about behavior</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 26-Feb 1</td>
<td>Gender: Meanings of masculinity ...</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 2-Feb 8</td>
<td>Involvement: Dating, pairing, ...</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Feb 9-Feb 15</td>
<td>Love: The many faces</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 16-22</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong> <em>(will cover chapters 1-5)</em></td>
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<td><em>Monday, Feb 17 (6:00 pm) – Thursday, Feb 20 (6:00 pm)</em></td>
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<td>Communication: Realizing effective ...</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 23-Mar 1</td>
<td>Sexuality: Interpersonal sexuality, ...</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 2-8</td>
<td>Marriage: The ultimate commitment?</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 9-15</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK—No classes</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 16-22</td>
<td>Variations: Non-marital families and ...</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 23-29</td>
<td>Reproduction: Decisions about ...</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mar 30-Apr 5</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong> <em>(will cover chapters 6-10)</em></td>
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<td><em>Wednesday, Apr 2 (6:00 pm) – Saturday, Apr 5 (6:00 pm)</em></td>
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<td>Parenting: Children, families, &amp; Generation</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 6-12</td>
<td>Work: Economics, jobs, and ...</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 13-19</td>
<td>Crises: Managing stress, disaster, ...</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 20-26</td>
<td>Uncoupling: Separation and divorce</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Apr 27-May 1</td>
<td>Remarriage: Reinvented, renewed, and ..</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>May 3-8</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam (will cover chapters 11-15)</strong></td>
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<td><em>Saturday, May 3 (6:00 pm) – Thursday, May 8 (6:00 pm)</em></td>
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