|  |
| --- |
| DFST 2313-002 – Courtship and MarriageFall 2011 |

Instructor

Julie Leventhal, M.S.

**Email:** [Julie.Leventhal@unt.edu](mailto:Julie.Leventhal@unt.edu)

**Office:** Matthews 322G-A

**Office Phone:** (940) 369-5405

**Office Hours:** Tuesday- 9:30 am- 12:00 pm, Thursday- 1:30-3:00 pm, and by appointment.

**Class Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 – 4:50 pm

**Class Meeting Place:** Gateway 137

**Required Textbook:**

DeGenova, M. K., Rice, F. P., Stinnett, N., & Stinnet, N.L. (2010). *Intimate relationships, marriages & families* (8th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

**Course Description**

The study of dating, courtship, and marriage relationships.

**Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to attend class as scheduled. If you think you will need to miss a lot of classes or you are just not interested in attending class, it is suggested that you drop this class as soon as possible. Material for the exams will be both from the material in the book as well as any material covered in class.
2. Students are expected to keep up with the readings and participate in class. In addition to the readings listed in the syllabus, there may be supplemental readings assigned that will be posted on Blackboard at <https://ecampus.unt.edu>. If you do not regularly check Blackboard, you will miss important information such as handouts and announcements.
3. Two tests will be given throughout the semester (see the dates on the schedule). Each exam will be worth **20%** of your final grade. Tests may include a variety of question types including all or some of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blanks. Legitimate reasons for missing an exam include medical, judicial, or serious personal events that truly do not allow you to take the exam. If you miss an exam, you will be asked to provide documentation to support the reason for your absence. The makeup exam may be different from the exam given in class and may include different question types (including essay questions). **The final exam is on Thursday, December 15th from 1:30 – 3:30 pm**. Make-ups for the final exam will only be given in case of emergency and with prior notice.
4. **In-Class Assignments:** During the semester, 10 short written assignments will be completed during class. These assignments will not be announced in advance and you must be in class to complete them;no make-up opportunities will be available. In-class assignments will be worth **10%** of your final grade.
5. **Critical Life Reflection:** Throughout the course, we will be discussing common expectations and myths about dating, marriage, and family life. In order to get you thinking about the main topics we will discuss, you will be asked to describe your expectations and current reflection on multiple relevant issues. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The critical life reflection paper is due on **Thursday, September 15th**. The critical life reflection paper is worth **15%** of your final grade and no late papers will be accepted.
6. **Group Project:** Every student will be assigned to a small group and will examine varying cultural/religious beliefs and customs for dating, courtship, marriage, and family life. As a group, you will present the information by providing videos, pictures, handouts, and other information to the class. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The group project is due the week of **November 1st**. The group project will be worth **15%** of your final grade.
7. **Media Project:** Students will review a variety of media sources where characters deal with dating, parenting and marriage, or divorce/other issues in marriage. In your analysis of each media source, you will discuss the primary issues addressed and relate those with concepts presented in the class/text. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The media project is due on **Thursday, November 17th**.The media project is worth **20%** of your final grade and no late papers will be accepted.

**Course Evaluation**

In short, final grades will be based on the following:

In-Class Assignments 10%

Critical Life Reflection 15%

Media Project 20%

Group Project 15%

Midterm 20%

## Final Exam 20%

Total 100%

The following grading scale will be used:

81-90% A  
72-80% B

63-71% C

54-62% D

Below 53% F

**Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct**

It is expected that students will conform to the University of North Texas Code of Student Conduct and Discipline as outlined in the undergraduate catalog and online through the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. This states in part that all instances of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism are prohibited and will be reported. Any student who assists in any form of dishonesty is equally as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance. All transgressions will be treated most seriously and in accordance with the recommendations of the policy as published.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. This includes displaying respect for peers and faculty, accepting personal responsibility for coming to class, maintaining class notes, and completing given assignments.

**Special Circumstances**

The Department of Educational Psychology cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodations to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 5-4 of the Rehabilitation Act. Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.), please provide the request in writing to the instructor on or before the 8th day of class.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DFST 2313: Courtship and Marriage (Topics and dates are subject to change) | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** | **Assignment due** |
| August 25 | Introduction to the course; Relationships in the 21st Century | Chapter 1 |  |
| August 30 | Relationships in the 21st Century |  |  |
| September 1 | Being Single | Chapter 3 |  |
| September 6 | Attraction and Dating | Chapter 4 |  |
| September 8 | Attraction and Dating |  |  |
| September 13 | Love and Mate Selection | Chapter 5 |  |
| September 15 | Love and Mate Selection |  | **Critical Life Reflection** |
| September 20 | Qualities of a Successful Marriage | Chapter 6 |  |
| September 22 | Marriage Over the Life Cycle | Chapter 7 |  |
| September 27 | Gender: Identity and Roles | Chapter 2 |  |
| September 29 | Group Work |  |  |
| October 4 | Group Work |  |  |
| October 6 | TBD |  |  |
| October 11 | Work, Family Roles, and Material Resources | Chapter 8 |  |
| October 13 | Work, Family Roles, and Material Resources |  |  |
| October 18 | **Midterm** | **Chapters 1-8** |  |
| October 20 | Decision Making and Communication | Chapter 9 |  |
| October 25 | Sex | Chapter 10 |  |
| October 27 | Sex |  |  |
| November 1 | **Group Presentations** |  | **Group Project** |
| November 3 | **Group Presentations** |  |
| November 8 | Family Planning and Parenthood | Chapter 11 |  |
| November 10 | Pregnancy and Childbirth | Chapter 12 |  |
| November 15 | Parent-Child Relationships | Chapter 13 |  |
| November 17 | Extended Families | Chapter 14 | **Media Project** |
| November 22 | Conflict & Crises | Chapter 15 |  |
| November 29 | Divorce | Chapter 16 |  |
| December 1 | Panel Discussion on Dating and Marriage |  |  |
| December 6 | Divorce |  |  |
| December 8 | Remarriage/Stepparenting | Chapter 17 |  |
| December 15 | **Final Exam from 1:30 – 3:30 pm** | **Chapters 9-17** | **Final Exam** |