HDFS 2313 - Courtship and Marriage
Spring 2018: INET (3 credits)

Instructor: Lauren Kelly, PhD
Email: lauren.kelly@unt.edu
Office Hours: MW 12:00 PM-1:00 PM, or by appointment
Office: MH 322DA

Required Textbook

Course Description: The study of dating, courtship, and marriage relationships.

Objectives for courses in the UNT Language, Philosophy, and Culture Core Curriculum:
1. To develop critical thinking skills,
2. To develop communication skills,
3. To develop personal responsibility,
4. To develop social responsibility.

Course Prerequisites: Good news! This is a 2000-level course and has no prerequisites.

Course Format: The course will be 100% distance education and administered through the Blackboard Learn system at UNT. Content will primarily be communicated from textbook readings and online materials. The online content provides students with considerable flexibility in how they approach and process the material. Students can review content at any point and as often as desired. The overall goal of the provided material is to replicate the presentation in the traditional classroom.

Students and the instructor will interact via email and online discussions. Students can expect to hear back from the instructor within 48 hours (excluding weekends) of sending an email/message/discussion post.

Technology Requirements: Please visit http://lis.unt.edu/technology-requirements to gain a clear understanding of the technology requirements you will need for most all online Blackboard-based courses, including this one.

Computer Skill and System Requirements: You are each aware of your own obstacles when you enroll for this and any other course. This includes computer skills and equipment. If you have trouble meeting deadlines due to medical reasons, personality reasons, conflicts with your employment, or any other reason, then it is YOUR responsibility to adopt a pattern of behavior, which will allow the time necessary to complete assignments by required deadlines. Do not anticipate an extension – this includes computer problems (e.g., hard drive crashes, disc errors, printer problems, etc.). Be sure to leave yourself extra
time in the event you experience computer problems. Ample time to complete assignments has been provided. Begin today. Do not wait until the night before, encounter an unexpected problem, and expect more time to be provided.

Students should be able to comfortably implement basic computer operations, including using email, navigating an internet browser, and attaching and downloading files. Students who cannot comfortably do these things should not take this course, or their final grade will likely suffer. Students are specifically referred to Student Resources at https://learn.unt.edu to check platform and browser compatibility.

If you would like to improve basic computer skills on your own time, the resource below is a free tool available to you at your own discretion. This is not required for this course, but the skills presented here will be helpful in completing this course successfully: http://www.gcflearnfree.org/computers

Be aware that Blackboard is known to have issues when opened in Internet Explorer. Using Mozilla Firefox is a reliable alternative to use when taking quizzes and exams.

**Eagle Connect Email:** Please activate and regularly check your EagleConnect (e-mail) account. EagleConnect is used for official communication from the University to students. Many important announcements for the University and College are sent to students via EagleConnect. For information about EagleConnect visit https://eagleconnect.unt.edu. This is the main electronic contact for all course-related information and/or material.

**Where you can get help:** All help you should need for being successful in this class is located on your “Academic Support” tab at the top of your Blackboard course: https://learn.unt.edu/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_tab_group_id=_305_1

Course questions should be directed to your instructor; problems with Blackboard, need for academic tutoring or resources, technology help, etc. are listed on the Academic Support Page.

**Course Requirements and Policies:** Students are expected to thoroughly read every document assigned for the course, including reviewing the syllabus in its entirety. I suggest reading the syllabus twice.

**Students are expected to be scholars.** As such, you should thoroughly and inquisitively review the assigned readings and participate in the assigned activities. A scholar plans their schedules accordingly, prepares their work in a professionally written manner and submits their assignments on time. College courses should be viewed as a preparation for your future career, therefore the expectation is that you will display such behavior online. You are not expected to agree with others, but you will need to respect the opinions of others during class discussions.

1. **Online Discussion Assignments:** SIX discussion board prompts will be assigned throughout the semester based on information from your readings. Your thoughts about the prompts should be posted in a discussion thread prior to the deadline. Posts are to be 200 words, no more than 350 and are expected
to include reference to the textbook or other sources; these are not opinion-based prompts. You are expected to communicate in a scholarly and formal manner. It is highly recommended that you first type your post into a word document then copy and paste the text into the discussion board thread. You are then to review your classmates’ responses and provide (at minimum) 2-3 responses. A response is NOT a one or two-word answer such as “I agree,” or “nice thoughts.” Responses should react with text in some academic, scholarly manner. In order to allow your classmates ample time to read and reply to discussion board postings, initial responses must be posted by **Wednesday at 11:59 pm (central time)** and replies must be posted by **Saturday at 11:59 pm**.

2. **Brief Summative Essay:** A 500-word paper will be assigned with the aim for each student to 1) identify an idea/issue of interest (a list of topics will be provided for choosing); 2) explore this issue; and 3) evaluate final positions of this issue upon exploration of viewpoints and various contextual factors. The Brief Summative Essay is due **Sunday, 4/21 at 11:59 pm**.

3. **Pecha Kucha Presentation:** Each student will examine varying cultural/religious beliefs and customs for dating, courtship, marriage, and family life for a group/location. For this assignment, each student will create a presentation containing a minimum of 15 slides but no more than 20 slides, each set at 20 seconds. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The Pecha Kucha presentation is due **March 4th at 11:59 pm**.

4. **Pucha Kucha Reflection:** After completing your presentation, you will be required to view a minimum of FIVE recorded presentations posted on the class PK discussion board and write a 3-4 page reflection paper. The Pecha Kucha reflection is due **Friday, March 23rd at 11:59 pm**.

5. **Exams:** You will be completing two exams this semester (a midterm and a final). The first will take place during mid-term week. The second will take place during your final exam time. These exams will be comprised of multiple choice or true/false questions and will cover material read in your textbook. The second exam will NOT be comprehensive.

Your exams will be online and open-book. You are expected to take each test with no outside help other than your text and accompanying lecture materials. Exams will be time (2 minutes per question). This is sufficient time to respond thoughtfully and to check your answers. It is highly recommended that you study and be prepared beforehand since you will not have time to look up each item during the actual exam. **You may NOT copy any test items or look at any copied test items from this course: doing so is an honor code violation.**

**Course Evaluation**

Final grades will be based on the following:

1. **Introduction Discussion board** 10 points
2. **Discussion boards: 6 @ 10 points each** 60 points
3. **Midterm** 100 points
4. **Final exam** 100 points
5. **Brief Summative Essay** 100 points
6. **Pecha Kucha Presentation** 100 points
7. **Pechu Kucha Reflection**  

The following grading scale will be used:

- 513-570 = A
- 456-512 = B
- 399-455 = C
- 342-398 = D
- < 341 = F

**Syllabus Addendum**

The following are important tips/guidelines/requirements that will ensure your success in this class:

1. **DO** read the syllabus and the assignment guidelines carefully. I do my best to lay everything out for you all in those documents. If you read and follow them carefully, you will successfully complete all the major requirements for the course. Everything you ever needed to know about the class (i.e., course schedule, my office hours, my office location) is provided in the syllabus.
2. **DO** check your UNT email. I will send class emails to your UNT account so you either need to access that email account regularly or forward your email to another account that you use. You will miss extremely important information if you do not check the emails I send.
3. At the end of the semester, do **NOT** ask me to change your grade. That would be unethical and unfair to every student that has earned his/her given grade.
4. Deadlines are deadlines for a reason. I will **NOT** accept late assignments and your assignments will be considered late the first minute after the scheduled due date.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM THE UNIVERSITY:**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu).

**ADA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at [http://www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu). Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also
stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link:  http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html

**SPOT Course Evaluation**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. SPOT is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

**SUCCEED AT UNT**

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grown. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here’s how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.

To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go http://success.unt.edu/.
Please be aware of any possible time differences for assignment due dates. The following times are Central time:

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment*</th>
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| **HDFS 2313: Courtship and Marriage**  
(Topics and dates are subject to change) | | |
| **Week 1: January 16-January 21** | | |
| Introduction to the course  
Relationships in the 21st Century | Chapter 1 | Introductions  
Due 1/19 @ 11:59 pm |
| **Week 2: January 22- January 28** | | |
| Being Single | Chapter 3 | Discussion Board #1  
Initial Post Due 1/24 @ 11:59 pm  
Responses Due 1/27 @ 11:59 pm |
| **Week 3: January 29-February 4** | | |
| Attraction and Dating | Chapter 4 | Discussion Board #2  
Initial Post Due 1/31 @ 11:59 pm  
Responses Due 2/3 @ 11:59 pm |
| **Week 4: February 5-11** | | |
| Love and Mate Selection | Chapter 5 | |
| **Week 5: February 12-18** | | |
| Gender – Identity and Roles | Chapter 2 | |
| **Week 6: February 19-25** | | |
| Successful Marriage | Chapters 6 and 7 | Discussion Board #3  
Initial Post Due 2/21 @ 11:59 pm  
Responses Due 2/24 @ 11:59 pm |
| **Week 7: February 26-March 4** | | |
| Work, Family Roles, and  
Material Resources | Chapter 8 | Pecha Kucha Work week  
PK Due March 4th by 11:59 PM |
| **Week 8: March 5-March 11** | | |
| | | Midterm Exam Chapters 1-8 ONLY  
Opens Monday @ 12:30 am: Closes Thursday @ 11:59 pm |
| | | Decision Making and  
Communication | Chapter 9 |
<p>| <strong>Spring Break March 12-18</strong> | | |
| <strong>Week 10: March 19- 25</strong> | | |
| Sexual Relationships | Chapter 10 | PK Reflection due 3/23 by 11:59 pm |</p>
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<th>Week 11: March 26- April 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family Planning and Parenthood</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<th>Week 11: April 2- 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pregnancy and Childbirth</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<th>Week 12: April 9-15</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent-Child Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<th>Week 13: April 16- 22</th>
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<td>Brief Summative Essay Work Week</td>
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<th>Week 14: April 23-29</th>
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<td>Parents and Extended Families</td>
<td>Chapters 14 and 15</td>
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<th>FINALS WEEK: April 30-May 6</th>
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<td><strong>Final Exam Chapters 9-15 ONLY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Opens Monday April 30 @ 12:30 am&lt;br&gt;Closes May 4 @ 11:59 pm</td>
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Initial discussion board posts are due Wednesday by 11:59 PM (CST); responses to classmates are due Saturday by 11:59 PM (CST)*