

FCHD 2400: Marriage and Family Relationships, Broadcast Sections

T: 5:15-7:45 p.m., LIB 421 and Broadcast Sections

Fall 2016

Instructor: Ty Aller, MMFT LAMFT,
Ph.D. Student**Email:** Ty.Aller@aggiemail.usu.edu**Office Phone:** N/A**Office Location:** LINK 101 – ground floor
of the glass and concrete building between
the Family Life and Ray B. West buildings**Office Hours:** Tuesdays: 3-4 p.m. or by
appointment.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an introduction into the formal study of marriages and families. Students will learn about the methods and theories used in the scientific study of families as well as the current demographic trends in several areas related to marriage and families. Contextual factors which influence U.S. family life will be examined along with discussions on current affairs, media trends, and policies which affect families. Emphasis will be placed on the need for critical thinking and analysis of current research as well as one's personal paradigms when studying marriage and families.

Objective:

By the end of the course, you will have:

- Studied processes that create, dissolve, and sustain US families.
- Examined the context of contemporary U.S. family life.
- Learned ways that scholars study and think about families and how the media portrays them.
- Applied what you have learned to your own family experiences.

Course Structure:

Each class period will consist of a combination of lecturing and class and group discussions. In order to effectively participate in these discussion (and receive full points for the participation quizzes – outlined below) **reading assignments should be completed before class.**

Required Materials:

- Olson, D. H., DeFrain, J., & Skogrand, L. (2014). *Marriages and Families: Intimacy, Diversity, and Strengths* (8th Ed). New York: McGraw Hill. (**8th edition is required**)

Grading Policies:

<u>Grade Cutoffs</u>		<u>Point Distributions</u>	
A	100 – 94	Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400
A-	93.9 – 90	Getting to Know You Quiz (1 @ 10 points)	10*
B+	89.9 – 87	Family Process paper (1 @ 50 points)	50
B	86.9 – 83	Media Assignment (1 @ 50 points)	50
B-	82.9 – 80	Article Review Paper (1 @ 50 points)	50
C+	79.9 – 77	Participation Quizzes (15 @ 10 points each)	150**
C	76.9 – 73	Total	700 pts.
C-	72.9 – 70	* Getting to know you quiz = 10 points of automatic Extra Credit	
D+	69.9 – 67	**150 points possible, but only 140 are required – Extra Credit Opportunity!!	
D	66.9 – 60		
F	59.9 – 0		

Syllabus Policy:

I reserve the right to modify/adjust all of the following policies as I see fit.

Exams:

Exams will be administered through your site's testing center (if available) or through a proctor. Please contact your site facilitator for more information on exam scheduling and locations. You can use the following link to help you find proctors and for a list of contacts for your site: <https://rcde.usu.edu/testing/index.cfm/student/index>. Each exam will be available for one week as outlined on the schedule below. It is your responsibility to coordinate with your site's facilitator to ensure that you are able to take your exams within the allotted times.

Each exam will consist of 40 true/false, multiple choice, and matching questions. The exams are designed to help you learn the course material. They include questions that require you to apply your knowledge in addition to questions about basic concepts. Each exam is a closed book/closed note exam. The final exam is NOT a cumulative exam.

Missed Exam Policy

You should plan to take all of the exams. As each exam will be available for a week, there should be no reason for missing an exam. If you miss an exam without a university excused reason, you will not be allowed to make up those points. If you know that you will miss an exam for a university excused absence, please contact me as early as possible BEFORE the exam is given. Make up exams may be substantively different from the regular exam.

Assignments:**“Getting to Know You” Quiz and Canvas Picture**

These assignments are meant to help me better get to know each of the students in the class, and the quiz will be used to illustrate a few research methods concepts during the

second week of classes. There are no right or wrong answers to the quiz and full points will be awarded for answering each question (although Canvas will say that some questions are right or wrong due to a limitation in its grading options). Please see <http://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/41467> for information on uploading a picture in Canvas. To earn your points for the picture assignment, your Canvas photo needs to be a good quality face-shot that will allow me to recognize you.

Family Process Paper

This assignment is designed to help you apply what you are learning about the scientific study of families to your own family experiences. The main point of this assignment is to put your family experience in the context of what you have learned in the class, not to tell about the experience. **Please do not share any experience about yourself or a family member that might make you or them feel uncomfortable (abuse, infidelity, addictions...).** **Please change the names of family members to keep things anonymous.**

To complete this assignment:

1. Pick an experience that you or someone in your family has had that best relates to things that we have discussed in class up to this point. Your topic may also come from the text book.
2. Write a two-page (double-spaced) review of your experience that evaluates the experience in light of what we are learning in class. Possible ways of doing this are:
 - a. Showing how the experience illustrates in-class and textbook concepts.
 - b. Discussing how the experience is consistent (or inconsistent) with studies we have talked about. If the experience is inconsistent with research, speculate about why that might be the case.
 - c. Reinterpret family experiences in light of new understanding you have gained through the class.

Note: You should use the correct terminology to explain different concepts and be sure to follow the guidelines listed in the “Assignment Format” section below.

Family Process Paper Grading Criteria:

Experience detailed enough to illustrate concepts, but not too long that it gets in the way of putting it into context of the course	5 pts.
Links to class material have correct information and demonstrate that the concepts are understood	25 pts.
The writing is clear	10 pts.
The writing follows APA standards	10 pts
Total	50 pts.

Media Assignment

The media assignment is designed to help you critically examine the messages about families that we receive on nearly a daily basis from TV, Movies, Social Media, Magazines, and Newspapers.

In order to complete this assignment:

1. Select a piece of media. Almost any type of media is sufficient* for the purposes of this assignment as long as it portrays families, or presents information about families. Examples of appropriate media include movies, TV shows, theatrical plays, magazine articles, commercials/print/internet advertisements, cartoons, newspaper articles, songs, children's books, etc. If you are unsure about a piece of media, *ask the instructor or TA*.
2. Consume the media piece.
3. Write a two-page (following APA guidelines) review of your experience.
 - a. You should include some basic information about the media piece including: the date of entry, the date you consumed the piece, the title of the pieces (include TV show and episode title), and a short description.
 - b. Include the underlying message(s) of the piece, any family stereotypes that you are able to identify, and link the media piece to class material.
 - c. Finally, include a brief statement about how the piece made you feel.

***PLEASE NOTE** – The TV shows *Modern Family* and *Parenthood* have been overused for this assignment, thus they are both off limits. Please choose something other than *Modern Family* or *Parenthood*. Papers using either show will be returned and you will be asked to rewrite the assignment and it will be marked late.

Media Assignment Grading Criteria:

Basic Information Present	5 pts.
Messages/Stereotypes Identified	10 pts.
Links to Class Material:	
Correct Information	10 pts.
Insight	10 pts.
Subjective assessment of media	5 pts.
The writing is clear	10 pts.
Total	50 pts.

Article Review

This assignment is designed to help you critically examine and review empirical articles published about family studies topics.

To complete this assignment:

1. Select **TWO** empirical articles from the approved list under the assignment titled “Article Review.” There are eight articles to choose from covering a wide array of topics that we have discussed throughout the semester.
2. Read the two articles.
3. Write a 2-page double-spaced annotated bibliography for each article that will be submitted as one paper (4 double-spaced pages) under the “Article Review” assignment.
 - a. You should include a summary of the introduction of the article (e.g., what are the researchers planning to study, why are they studying this topic), the methodology of the study (e.g., the sample size, type of sample, assessments used, research questions), the results of the study (what answers did the researchers find?) and a summary of the discussion (why do the results matter?). This section should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the paper.
 - b. Include a summary of your thoughts about the study. You can do this by answering questions like: Were the results of the study what you would have expected? How might these findings guide future research? How could these findings be related to current media or discussions about families? This section should be $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the paper.

Article Review Grading Criteria:

APA style article citation	5 pts. (x2)
Review of Article (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion)	10 pts. (x2)
Analysis of article (How it applies to other course content or current media)	10 pts. (x2)
Total	50 pts.

Assignment Format

All papers should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and have 1” margins. Papers are to be submitted via Canvas in doc, docx, or PDF format – **no other submission method will be allowed.** In conforming with APA standards, title and reference pages, running heads, page numbers, and in-text citations for all referenced material will be required for all assignments. Help with APA can be found on the link on the homepage of this course on Canvas.

Reading/Lecture Quizzes

In order to encourage class attendance and the careful reading of assigned materials, a weekly quiz will follow each class period. The quiz will be available on Canvas for 24

hours beginning shortly after class ends. Quizzes will consist of five questions covering material discussed in the class and the assigned readings. You will have two opportunities to take each quiz, and Canvas will keep the highest grade of the two attempts. You are encouraged to take each quiz without referring to your notes or the text as the quiz questions are likely to appear on the exams as well.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you allot enough time to complete the quizzes within the 24-hour window as make-up quizzes will not be allowed. **“Technical difficulties” with Canvas will not be accepted as valid excuses for missed quizzes.**

Late Assignment/ Quiz Policy

Assignments and quizzes are due according to the schedule outlined on Canvas (and in the syllabus; 11:59 p.m. on the date listed). Assignments turned in within the first twenty-four hours after they are due will be accepted but 20% will be reduced from the final score. Assignments turned in beyond the 24-hour grace period will not receive credit. Quizzes will not be available outside of the times outlined within Canvas.

Important Items:

Attendance Policy

As much of the content for this course will be contained in the lectures and discussions we will have in class, regular class attendance is essential if you wish to do well on your quizzes and exams. As everyone benefits from hearing the opinions and insights of others, participation in in-class discussions and exercises is expected of all students. I may call on students at any time and I anticipate the full cooperation of each student in answering questions and sharing insights throughout the semester. While comments and opinions are welcomed, I expect each student to remain respectful of the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of others when commenting in class. I am confident that we can have meaningful discussions while remaining respectful of the diverse opinions of all students.

Canvas

Check the course Canvas page often as this will be the primary source of information and resources outside of the class. I will post the slides for each lecture prior to class, and will also periodically post exam reviews, study questions, and outside resources to help inform our classroom discussions. **Do not contact me using the Canvas email system.** **If you need to contact me outside of class, please use the email address listed at the top of this syllabus. I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays.**

Policy and Procedures:

Honor Code Policy

As stated in The Student Code, “Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to re-enforce the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.” Upon admission to the university, you agreed to abide by this Honor Code by signing the

Honor Pledge, which reads: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.” Complete academic honesty is expected in this course. Cheating on exams or plagiarism on written assignments will result in a failing grade and may result in further action according to University policy.

<http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article6.cfm>

Students with Special Needs

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated...may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code:

<http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=1080&hl=%22grievance%22&returno=search>.

Emergency Preparedness

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of a fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Topics and dates subject to change)

Date	Discussion Topic	Exam or Assignment Due	To Read Before Class
8/30 T	Intro. & Studying Families		Appendix B
9/6 T	Studying Families & Historical Context	Getting to know you Quiz and Canvas Pic 11:59 p.m.	Chapter 1
9/13 T	Union Formation Union Formation		Chapter 10
9/20 T	Relationship Processes Relationship Processes	Exam 1 Available 9/21- 9/27	Chapter 3
9/27 T	Relationship Processes Relationship Processes		Chapter 11
10/4 T	Union Dissolution Remarriage	Family Application Paper Due 11:59 pm	Chapter 15
10/11 T	Parenting Parenting		Chapter 12
10/18 T	Media and Families Media and Families	Exam 2 Available: 10/19- 10/25	
10/25 T	Sex and Sexuality Before and During Marriage		Chapter 6
11/1 T	Gender Gender in Families	Media Assignment Due 11:59 pm	Chapter 7
11/8 T	Culture and Families Race/Ethnicity		Chapter 2
11/15 T	Work-Family Issues Family Policy	Exam 3 Available 11/16-11/22	Article Review articles
11/22 T	Aging Loss		Chapter 13 Article Review articles
11/29 T	SES/Class Finances and Family Life	Article Review Due 11:59 p.m.	Chapter 8
12/6 T	Family Interventions Review and Additional Topics		Readings on Canvas
12/13 T	Exam 4: Final 3:30- 5:20	Exam 4 Available: 12/12-12/16	