

**SOC 125 Marriage and the Family**  
Fall 2007

**Dr. Karen M. Hicks**  
[mekmh01@moravian.edu](mailto:mekmh01@moravian.edu)  
Cell: 610.248.2768

Textbook: David M. and Elizabeth Grauerholz, *Sociology of Families*,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Pine Forge Press, 2002.

Blackboard Course at: <http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>

**Course Objectives:**

1. To obtain an understanding of basic family forms and functions;
2. To become familiar with the historical, cultural, economic and political factors that shape the structure of families;
3. To use sociological principles to analyze contemporary family issues;
4. To experience data collection and analysis through a simple research project.

**Course Expectations:**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If you cannot make it to class, I expect you to notify me of the reason for the absence. I will mostly lecture at the beginning of the course. However, then it is expected that there will be considerable discussion from then on. Student participation is extremely important to the learning process.

**Course Evaluation:**

There will be 3 exams:

- Sept. 18 (15%)
- Nov. 6 (15%)
- Final Exam (15%)

There will be 2 papers:

- Oct. 2 Focus on gender (15%)
- Nov. 20 Research Report (25%)

Class Presentation on Research Report (5%)

Class Participation (Attendance and Discussion) (10%)

## Course Schedule (v2 on Oct. 26)

- 8/28 Introduction to the Course and Course Materials
- 8/30 Defining Family  
Reading: Issue 1 –pp. 2-17
- 9/4 Is the Family Unit Disappearing?  
Reading: Issue 2 –pp. 18-37
- 9/6 Cont'd.
- 9/11 Theoretical Constructs for Studying Families  
Reading: Ch. 1, pp. 83-94
- 9/13 Research Methods for Studying Families  
Reading: Ch. 1, pp. 94(bottom) - 108
- 9/18 EXAM # 1
- 9/20 Gender Issues  
Reading: Ch. 2, pp. 110-126 (middle)
- 9/25 (Cont'd.)  
Reading: Ch. 2, pp. 126 (middle) - 138
- 9/27 Racial/Ethnic Issues  
Reading: Ch. 3, pp. 141-164
- 10/2 (Cont'd.)
- 10/4 Economics and Family Life PAPER 1 DUE  
Reading: Ch. 4, pp.
- 10/9 NO CLASS - *Fall Break*
- 10/11 Dating and Mating  
Reading: Ch. 5
- 10/16 Cont'd.
- 10/18 Cont'd.
- 10/23 Marriage Rituals  
Reading: Ch. 6
- 10/30 Cont'd.
- 11/1 Household Management Issues  
Reading: Ch. 7
- 11/6 EXAM # 2
- 11/8 Data Collection
- 11/13 Becoming Parents  
Reading: Ch. 8
- 11/15 Parenthood
- 11/20 Family Violence  
Reading: Ch. 10 and Issue 3 – pp. 38- 51
- 11/22 THANKSGIVING – No class
- 11/27 Divorce and Remarriage PAPER 2 DUE  
Reading: Ch. 11
- 11/29 The Family Lifecycle  
Reading: Ch. 12
- 12/4 Research Presentations
- 12/6 Research Presentations and Closure