

Course Title	SOC 125 Marriage and the Family Moravian College
Semester	Spring 2010
Date & Time	Tuesday/Thursday 8:55-10:05 a.m.
Location	Room 330, PPPH Complex
Instructor	Melanie J. Davis, MEd, CSE
Office Hours	Before class, by appointment
Office Location	Rm 310, Sociology Department, PPH Academic Complex
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Preferred Email	Melanie@honestexchange.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the family and marriage/commitment, both as a social institution and as a set of intimate relationships in the context of historical change and development. Students will explore familial relationships they have experienced and those they may encounter in the future. The course will examine this subject from a scholarly and personal perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will have

- An understanding of basic family forms, functions, and dynamics;
- Familiarity with the historical, cultural, economic and political factors that shape family structure;
- An ability to discuss controversial and emotionally charged issues, respecting others’ experiences and perspectives;
- Experience in data collection and analysis through a research project;
- An ability to use sociological principles to analyze contemporary family issues.

Disclaimer - This syllabus is subject to change. Updates will be posted on Blackboard.

REQUIRED TEXT

Marriages and Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society, 10th Edition. Lamanna & Riedmann. A less expensive electronic copy is available from:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/tl1/en/US/storefront/US?cmd=catAdvancedSearch&OP=search&fieldName=All&fieldValue=978-0-495-39092-3>

EVALUATION

Your grade for this course is based upon the level of scholarship, self-assessment and reflection as demonstrated in completed assignments, coupled with your active participation in class. Class participation includes active engagement with the course material during class, taking part in discussions with peers and the instructor, asking and responding to questions/comments, and helping to maintain a classroom environment that is safe, positive and constructive.

After graded assignments and exams have been returned, you will have one week to discuss the results with me; thereafter, the results will stand. I will apply quantitative and qualitative standards in determining grades.

Attendance and participation	5%
Genogram	20%
Exam I	15%
Created Family Research Paper	30%
Created Family Presentation	15%
Final Exam	10%

Grading Scale

A = 100 – 94	B+ = 89 – 88	C+ = 79 – 78	D = 60 – 69
A- = 93 – 90	B = 87 – 83	C = 77 – 73	F = 59 – 0
	B- = 82 – 80	C- = 72 – 70	

Points earned for assignments and attendance will be scaled to 100 before being factored into your final grade. You have one week to discuss graded assignments and exams with me; thereafter, the results will stand. I will apply quantitative and qualitative standards in determining grades.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1 -- Genogram

To help you understand the framework from which you observe family systems, you will create a genogram that includes each member of your family, reaching back three generations, if possible. If you were adopted or raised in a foster family, you should indicate your biological family on your diagram to the extent that you can but also include the family you were raised in, i.e., the people who influenced your sense of family.

Assignment #2 -- Created Family Project (Group)

You will be randomly assigned to a “family” comprised of 3-4 classmates. Your family will choose its own culture, socioeconomic status, your roles within the family, your family history, etc. This project has two graded elements: your participation in the 20-minute group presentation at the end of the semester, and your family members’ evaluation of your contributions.

Assignment #3 -- Created Family Paper (Individual)

This paper will take advantage of the research you conduct for the group project while allowing you an opportunity to be evaluated entirely on the merits of your own work. The rubric below provides specifics on the elements that should be included and how they should be presented.

POLICIES

Academic Honesty

It is your responsibility to follow the college’s standards of academic honesty as published on page 8 of your Student Handbook. Plagiarism and cheating are grounds for course failure.

Accommodations

If you wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability, contact Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Office of Learning Services.

Attendance

You are allowed 3 absences for any reason – no excuses or notes required. Unexpected emergencies and illness may come up, as may out-of-town athletic events. Anticipate the unknown and bank your absences wisely. After 3 absences, you must provide an authenticated excuse letter (e.g., a physician’s note) for each absence; otherwise, I reserve the right to lower your grade one full letter grade for each absence beyond the first 3. Chronic lateness and early departures will factor into your attendance grade.

- You are responsible for knowing the material presented on the days you are absent, so identify one or two peers you trust to pass along the material.
- If you miss an exam, you may take a different and potentially more difficult exam within 48 hours of the original exam date.

Courtesy

The use of personal electronics (phones, iPods, Blackberries, etc.) is prohibited during class. Laptops are discouraged because they can distract you and others around you.