

FACS 311
FAMILY RELATIONS
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Doris Sikora (e-mail address: sikoraonline@gmail.com)

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Required Course Material:

REVEL: You are required to purchase the **REVEL** version of **Williams, Sawyer, and Wahlstrom, *Marriages, Families, & Intimate Relationships: A Practical Introduction, 4e*** for this course.

Part of the assignments and all assigned readings are in REVEL. While access to REVEL is required, a printed version of this text is optional.

Purchase a REVEL access code from the campus bookstore. When you register (via access code), you also have the option of adding the print upgrade.

Course Description:

A study of issues affecting individual and family well-being in relation to other social institutions, with an emphasis on ethical issues.

Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

- Analyze the family as an institution in our society and its interrelated functions, with the economic, educational, religious, political, and legal institutions.
- Know and discuss the family systems theory as it looks at a family as a whole and the interactions and relatedness of family members.
- Define the role of social, economic, ethical, and psychological factors in family structure.
- Evaluate family interaction patterns and the influence of society on sexual identity.
- Identify the psychological and biological aspects of human sexuality and its role in personal and family development.
- Define ethical issues related to family decision-making, interpersonal relationships, and societal trends affecting the family.
- Know the range of role expectations and behavior in male/female and/or family relationships and parenting.
- Relate current research to trends in individual interpersonal relationship patterns and marital choices.
- Assess the changing patterns of roles for men and women in our society and their impact on child rearing lifestyles.
- Define divergent patterns in family life-dual career/dual workers, single parents, cohabitation, blended families, unemployment, divorce, remarriage; consider one's values which govern moral and ethical choices.
- Analyze the implications of employment on the family and its individual family members.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Class Participation: Class attendance is impossible to take in an online course, but **active participation is paramount!** Class participation through the misc. assignments is an important part of the learning experience and an integral part of the course. Participation in the misc. assignment's accounts for 30% of your grade. There will be detailed instructions for the misc. assignments in the assignment folder. According to the WKU Online WWW...

- "Registration in a course obligates the student to attend regularly. In a semester-based online class, this means signing into Blackboard for class review and/or participation at least twice each week.
- Students enrolled in online semester-based classes who, without previous arrangement with the instructor or department, fail to login to Blackboard during the first week of classes MAY be dropped from the course.
- Nonattendance does NOT release students from the responsibility to officially drop any course for which they have enrolled and chose not to complete."

I suggest you get online at least once Monday to look at the weekly readings etc. Then plan your week accordingly.

2. Student Participation: You are responsible for all notes, handouts, and material presented online. The content is divided into Units. One unit must be completed prior to starting another.

3. Revel Text: The textbook is online and imbedded in Blackboard. You will see a link to it on the homepage and in each unit folder. Revel will open up in a separate window, where you can read, or listen to the chapter, and find the assignment activities I have chosen for you to complete.

4. Americans with Disabilities Act Policy: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

5. TITLE IX/ Discrimination & Harassment: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy](#) (#0.2070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

6. Course Success: There are a number of things you need to pay close attention to in order for you to be successful in the course. They include:

- To be successful in this course you must be dedicated to get online and complete the assignments in a timely manner.
- I will share an overview of the assignment and activities for each chapter in the Unit folder. Notes for each chapter will also be found in the same folder.
- Every assignment in a unit must be turned in prior to taking the exam for that unit.
- All assignments **must** be word processed. Most assignments will be submitted via the assignment folder. Specific directions will be included with the Chapter details.
- **All e-mails concerning the course must be sent to sikoraonline@gmail.com.**
- I will **not** accept anything sent to my WKU e-mail account. **I will not even open assignments sent to my WKU email account!!!!**
- Exams are online. You will have one opportunity to take the exam. Each exam will be available within the Unit folder. Once you have submitted the exam, you may not submit any assignments for that Unit. You may not move to the next unit until you have taken the exam for the previous unit.

7. Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism or using the work of another person and submitting it as your own, is strictly forbidden. This could conclude in an “F” for the course and report of the offense.

Course Requirements & Grading

Weight:

Assignments —20%
Movie Review – 20%
Exams – 60%

Grading Scale:

A= 100-90%
B = 89-80%
C = 79-70%
D = 69-60%
F = 59-below

Course Calendar

WEEK	TOPIC	
Week One Aug 26 – 30	Orientation Activities	
Unit One		
Sept. 3 – 6	Chapter 1	Seeking: Finding Happiness in Relationships
Sept 9 - 13	Chapter 2	Understanding: Learning about Intimate Behavior
Sept 16 – 20	Chapter 3	Gender: The Meanings of Masculinity & Femininity
Due Sept. 24	Exam I	Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Unit Two		
Sept 23 – 27	Chapter 4	Involvement: Dating, Pairing & Courtship
Sept 30 – Oct 4	Chapter 5	Love: The Many Faces
Oct 7 – 15	Chapter 6	Communication: Realizing Effective Intimacy
Due Oct 18	Exam II	Chapters 4, 5 & 6
Unit Three		
Oct 21 – 25	Chapter 7	Sexuality
Oct 28 – Nov 1	Chapter 8	Marriage: The Ultimate Commitment

Nov 4 - 8	Chapter 9	Variations: Nonmarital Families & Households
Due Nov 12	Exam III	Chapters 8 & 9
Unit Four		
Nov 11 - 15	Chapter 13	Crises: Managing Stress, Disaster, Violence, & Abuse
Nov 18 - 22	Chapter 14	Uncoupling: Separation & Divorce
Nov 25 – Dec 3	Chapter 15	Remarriage: Reinvented, Renewed, & Blended Families
Due Dec 6	Exam IV	Chapters 13, 14, & 15