

FACS 311 - 700
FAMILY RELATIONS
Fall 2021

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

Office Hours: online T, W & Th 9:00 – 11:00 (I am on transitional retirement so have no office on campus.)

Required Course Material:

Williams, Sawyer, and Wahlstrom (2018), *Marriages, Families, & Intimate Relationships: A Practical Introduction*, 4ed.

To enhance your learning experience and provide affordable access to the right course material, this course is part of an inclusive access model called First Day. You can easily access the required text for this course at a discounted price, and benefit from single sign-on access with no codes required in Blackboard. WKU will bill you at the discounted price as a course charge for this course. These materials are required to complete the course. You can choose to Opt-Out on the first day of class, but you will be responsible for purchasing your course materials at the full retail price and access to your materials may be suspended. For more information and FAQs go to customercare.bncollege.com.

Course Description:

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

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 20% 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. All assignments are due online by midnight of the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 10 % if turned in the next day, 20% if turned in the second day. I will not accept late work beyond two days.

3. Text: The textbook is online and imbedded in Blackboard. You will see a link to it on the homepage and in each unit folder. It 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 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 subject to being reported to the University.

8. All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): 270-745-5004 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 270-288-0597 (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

9. **The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services:** The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

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
Aug 23 - 27	Orientation Activities – Make sure you have access to the textbook
Unit One Aug 30 – Sept 3 Sept 7 – 10 Sept 13 – 17 Due Sept 19	Ch 1 Seeking: Finding Happiness in Relationships Ch 2 Understanding: Learning about Intimate Behavior Ch 3 Gender: The Meanings of Masculinity & Femininity Exam I Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Unit Two Sept 20 – 24 Sept 27 – Oct 1 Oct 4 – 8 Due Oct 13	Ch 4 Involvement: Dating, Pairing & Courtship Ch 5 Love: The Many Faces Ch 6 Exam II Chapters 4, 5 & 6
Unit Three Oct 18 -22 Oct 25 – 29 Nov 1 – 5 Due Nov 7	Ch 7 Sexuality Ch 8 Marriage: The Ultimate Commitment Ch 9 Variations: Nonmarital Families and Households Exam III Chapters 7, 8 & 9
Unit Four Nov 8 – 12 Nov 15 – 19 Nov 22 – Dec 3 Due Dec 8	Ch 13 Crises: Managing Stress, Disaster, Violence and Abuse Ch 14 Uncoupling: Separation, and Divorce Ch 15 Remarriage: Reinvented, Renewed & Blended Families Exam IV Chapters 13, 14 & 15