

Psychology 473: Marriage and Family Therapy
Fall 2008

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Course Description and Goals

Welcome to Marriage and Family Therapy! This course provides undergraduates with an upper division introduction to the academic and scientific study of couples, families, and intimate relationships. The course draws heavily from both social and clinical psychology (as well as sociology, communication, and family studies), and provides an important foundation in relationship science for those interested in pursuing advanced training in couple and family therapy and/or couples research.

Course Pre-Requisite

Successful completion of Psychology 303 (Research Methods) is a pre-requisite for this course. Much of the content of the course comes from empirical research on couples and families, thus a basic understanding of research methodology is important for understanding the material and completing required assignments. Students who have not successfully completed Psychology 303 should not be registered for the course.

Required Textbook: Miller, Perlman, & Brehm (2007). Intimate Relationships, 4th edition

Course Components and Requirements

Class meetings: Class meetings will include traditional lectures, videos, and brief writing or discussion activities. Material covered in class may include a review of some material from the assigned reading, as well as elaborations on topics covered in the reading. Lectures may also include additional topics not included in the assigned readings. Therefore, it is important that students attend class, take careful notes, and study the assigned readings. An abbreviated version of the lecture slides for each topic will be available prior to the lecture on the course Blackboard site. These slides are provided to you as an aid in note-taking, and are not a complete set of lecture notes that will adequately prepare you for exams. You should bring the abbreviated slides with you to class and fill them in with additional notes and examples from the lecture. I do not make my complete lecture notes available to students. If you miss a lecture, you need to get complete lecture notes from another student who attended class on the day(s) you were absent. In class activities will be worth 1 point each and students must be present in class during the activity and participate in the entire activity to be eligible to earn these points. Students are expected to arrive for class on time, stay for the entire allotted time, and to behave in a manner that does not disrupt the learning of others.

Exams: Mastery of the course content presented in the readings and class meetings will be assessed with 2 multiple choice exams. Students should not expect that one reading of the assigned material will adequately prepare them for exams. You should create your own study materials from the reading in whatever format is most useful to you (e.g., chapter outlines, notes, flashcards of concepts, etc.), and allow sufficient time to carefully review and study those materials along with your lecture notes before the exams. The first exam will occur at mid-term and the second exam will be a non-comprehensive exam

scheduled by the university during finals week. Early exams are **not** available for any reason. Make-up exams are provided only under extreme circumstances (e.g., verified medical or family emergencies). Make-up exams will be short answer essay format and not multiple choice. In order to be eligible to make-up a missed exam you must contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam (via email, phone message, or in person).

Assignment:

Journal Articles Summaries: Students will become familiar with current empirical literature on the study of couples and relationships by reading two selected articles and providing typed responses to a set of questions for each article. Specific instructions for the assignment, grading criteria, and the two lists of articles you can choose from for selecting your two articles for the assignment are posted on Blackboard. Be sure to carefully follow all instructions. **The assignment is worth up to 35 points and is due in class on November 19. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments can be turned in before the deadline, but assignments turned in anytime after our class meeting on 11/19/08 will be penalized 10% of the total points per day late.**

Grading

Exam 1:	50 points
Exam 2:	50 points
Journal Article Assignment:	35 points
Class Activities:	1 point each

Course Grades

Your grade for the course will be based on the percentage of points earned from the maximum points possible.

A+ 100%	B- 80-81%	D 62-68%
A 92-99%	C+ 79%	D- 60-61%
A- 90-91%	C 72-78%	F < 59
B+ 89%	C- 70-71%	
B 82-88%	D+ 69%	

Learning Accommodations

Instructors will accommodate students with documented disabilities and will comply with individualized instructions provided by Disabilities Services. However, students must take the initiative in discussing arrangements with the instructor in the first week of class and providing documentation as soon as it is available. Students without a documented disability who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155). Without documentation, special accommodations are not guaranteed and are to be made at the discretion of the instructor. [Disability Services: disabsrv@darkwing.uoregon.edu, 346-1155; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>]

Academic Honesty

Members of the university community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. It is the official policy of the University of Oregon that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty by students be reported to the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Office of Students Life.

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
9/29	Introduction to course	
10/1	The Building Blocks of Relationships	Ch. 1
10/6	Communication	Ch. 5
10/8	Communication	
10/13	Social Cognition	Ch. 4
10/15	Interdependency	Ch. 6
10/20	Interdependency	
10/22	Sexuality	Ch. 9
10/27	Sexuality	
10/29	Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 4, 5, 6, 9 & Lecture)	
11/3	Love	Ch. 8
11/5	Love	
11/10	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	Ch. 15
11/12	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	
11/17	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	
11/19	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	Assignment Due in Class!
11/24	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	
11/26	Conflict and Violence	Ch. 12
12/1	Stresses and Strains	Ch. 10
12/3	Dissolution and Loss of Relationships	Ch. 13
12/9 (Tuesday)	Exam 2 (Ch. 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 & Lecture) 10:15-12:15	