

Psychology 473: Marriage and Family Therapy

Winter 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 study of couples 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 be used for lectures, videos, activities, and discussion. Lecture material 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. 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).

Assignments:

(1) Journal Article Summary: Students will become familiar with current empirical literature on the study of couples and relationships by reading one of two selected articles and providing typed responses to a set of questions. Specific instructions for the assignment, grading criteria, and the two articles you can choose from for the assignment are posted on Blackboard. Be sure to carefully follow all instructions. **The assignment is worth up to 20 points and is due in class on January 28. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Assignments turned in anytime after our class meeting on 1/28/08 will be penalized 2 pts. per day late.**

(2) Movie Essay: Students will also complete an essay designed to assist in applying and integrating the course material using a specific example of an intimate relationship presented in a contemporary film. Students will view a film titled 'The Story of Us' (R-1999) and write an analysis of the film focusing on aspects or themes of the film that are consistent with the material presented in the course (course readings and lecture material) on intimate relationships, as well as aspects or themes of the film that are inconsistent with the material presented in the course. Specific instructions for the assignment and grading criteria are posted on Blackboard. Be sure to carefully follow all instructions. **The assignment is worth up to 20 points and is due in class on March 12. Emailed papers will not be accepted. Assignments turned in anytime after our class meeting on 3/12/08 will be penalized 2 pts. per day late.** The selected film for the assignment is rated R. If viewing an R rated film is a problem or concern, please see me and I will provide you with an alternative selection for the assignment that is rated PG-13.

Grading

Exam 1:	50 points
Exam 2:	50 points
Journal Article Assignment:	20 points
Film Essay Assignment:	20 points

Course Grades

Your grade for the course will be based on the percentage of points earned from the maximum points possible (140 points).

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>
1/7	Introduction to course	
1/9	The Building Blocks of Relationships	Ch. 1
1/14	Communication	Ch. 5
1/16	Communication	
1/21	No Class: MLK Holiday	
1/23	Social Cognition	Ch. 4
1/28	Interdependency	Ch. 6
1/30	Interdependency	Assignment 1 Due in Class!
2/4	Love	Ch. 8
2/6	Love	
2/11	Love	
2/13	Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 & Lecture)	
2/18	Sexuality	Ch. 9
2/20	Sexuality	
2/25	Conflict and Violence	Ch. 12
2/27	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	Ch. 15
3/3	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	
3/5	Maintaining and Repairing Relationships	
3/10	Stresses and Strains	Ch. 10
3/12	Dissolution and Loss of Relationships	Ch. 13
		Assignment 2 Due In Class!!!
3/18 (T)	Exam 2 (Ch. 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 & Lecture) 10:15-12:15	