



Department of Family and Consumer Studies

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

FCS 2400-090 Modern Family (3 cr.)

Online course

Instructor: Miriam Barth

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Required Text: Lamanna, M.A., Riedmann, A., Stewart, S. (2017) Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a Diverse Society (13th Edition). Cengage Learning. You can either opt into the University of Utah's Inclusive Access for ~\$31.10 or find the textbook at the University Bookstore or online. Search around for what format & price works best for you.

Course Description and Learning Objectives: The goal of this course is to introduce students to family studies. This course emphasizes theory and research on family demography, union formation, marriage, parenting, post-parental families, non-traditional families, and family problems. This course will encourage students to critically examine both personal experiences and the empirical literature on family studies. This course will also allow students to participate in activities that will facilitate a greater understanding of family relationships across the life course. Upon completion of the course, students will walk away with:

1. A better understanding and appreciation for the diversity and resilience of families in the context of gender, sex, race, class, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, culture, etc., and how these social factors have impacted family dynamics throughout history in the United States.
2. A better understanding of how the experience of family changes over the life course.
3. Tools to better evaluate and engage in personal family decisions and policies affecting families.

Requirements: Upon completion, you'll earn 3 credits for this course, which according to University of Utah policy shakes out to be ~9 hours of your time and effort per week. On average, you'll spend 1-2 hours reading our textbook or other assigned material, 1-2 hours engaged with lectures & supplementary material, and 3-4 hours completing weekly assignments. You've got some wiggle room for preparing for your exams.

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

1. Online Weekly Assignments – ~150 points
2. Online Weekly Quizzes – 100 points
3. Online Midterm Exam – 100 points
4. Online Final Exam – 100 points

Weekly Assignments: Assignments and discussions will be submitted online and are due before midnight on Sunday nights (except for original discussion posts, which are due before midnight on Thursdays).

Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes are taken online, due before midnight on Sundays. They are open-book and timed with 10 multiple choice questions each, reviewing course material from the respective week. Students are allowed 3 attempts to take the quiz. The highest score will be kept. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have the tech skills and internet connection required to complete the quizzes.

Midterm & Final Exams: Students will take a midterm and final exam. There is an online portion with multiple choice and true/false questions, and an in-class essay portion. Essay responses are to be in the student’s own words, with multiple paragraphs, complete sentences, and proper grammar. Students will receive full credit when they demonstrate an understanding of concepts from the textbook and in-class discussions. Make up exams will only be given with special permission from the instructor for extreme circumstances. Students **may not take the exam after the scheduled exam is given** to the class.

Grade Scale:

A	94% and above	B-	80-84%	D+	67-70%
A-	90-94%	C+	77-80%	D	64-67%
B+	87-90%	C	74-77%	D-	60-64%
B	84-87%	C-	70-74%	E	60% or lower

Course Outline

	Course Content
Week 1 – January 10-16	Chapter 1: Making Choices in a Changing Society
Week 2 - January 17-23	Chapter 2: Exploring Relationships and Families
Week 3 - January 24-30	Chapter 3: Gendered Identities & Families
Week 4 - January 31- February 6	Chapter 4: Our Sexual Selves
Week 5 – February 7-13	Chapter 5: Love & Choosing a Life Partner
Week 6 – February 14-20	Chapter 6: Non-marital Lifestyles
Week 7 – February 21-27	Chapter 7: Marriage
Week 8 – February 28-March 6	Chapter 8: Deciding about Parenthood MIDTERM
Week 9 – March 7-13	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 – March 14-20	Chapter 9: Raising Children in a Diverse Society
Week 11 – March 21-27	Chapter 11: Communication in Families
Week 12 – March 28-April 3	Chapter 12: Power & Violence in Families
Week 13 – April 4-10	Chapter 13: Family Stress, Crisis & Resilience

Week 14 – April 11-17	Chapter 14: Divorce & Relationship Dissolution
Week 15 – April 18-24	Chapter 15: Remarriages & Stepfamilies
Week 16- April 25-May 1	Chapter 16: Aging & Multigenerational Families
May 2-4	Final available Apr. 28-May 4