



Department of Family and Consumer Studies

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

FCS 2400-002 Modern Family (3 cr.)

T, H 9:10-10:30am Spring 2022 – Alfred Emery Building (AEB), room 320

Instructor: Miriam Barth
Email: Miriam.barth@fcs.utah.edu
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. Class Participation - ~250 points (~10 points each day/assignment)
2. Weekly Quizzes - 100 points (10 points each)
3. Midterm Exam – 100 points
4. Final Exam – 100 points

Class Participation: Attendance is required, and participation points that are offered in class cannot be made up. If you must miss class, condensed lectures will be available online.

Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes are taken online, due Sunday nights by 11:59pm. 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

Tentative Course Outline

	Course Content
Tuesday January 11 th	Introduction & syllabus review
Thursday January 13 th	Chapter 1: Making Choices in a Changing Society
Tuesday January 18 th	Chapter 2: Exploring Relationships and Families
Thursday January 20 th	Exploring relationships panel
Tuesday January 25 th	Chapter 3: Gendered Identities & Families
Thursday January 27 th	Chapter 4: Our Sexual Selves
Tuesday February 1 st	LGBTQ+ Panel
Thursday February 3 rd	Chapter 5: Love & Choosing a Life Partner
Tuesday February 8 th	Chapter 6: Non-marital Lifestyles
Thursday February 10 th	Non-marital Lifestyles Panel
Tuesday February 15 th	Chapter 7: Marriage
Thursday February 17 th	Love Languages Activity
Tuesday February 22 nd	Chapter 8: Deciding about Parenthood
Thursday February 24 th	Parenthood activity
Tuesday March 1 st	Midterm preparation

Thursday March 3 rd	No class - Midterm available
Tuesday March 8 th	SPRING BREAK
Tuesday March 10 th	SPRING BREAK
Tuesday March 15 th	Chapter 9: Raising Children in a Diverse Society
Thursday March 17 th	Raising Kids Activity
Tuesday March 22 nd	Chapter 10: Work & Family
Thursday March 24 th	Chapter 11: Communication in Families
Tuesday March 29 th	Chapter 12: Power & Violence in Families
Thursday March 31 st	Speaker on Healthy Relationships
Tuesday April 5 th	Chapter 13: Family Stress, Crisis & Resilience
Thursday April 7 th	Chapter 14: Divorce & Relationship Dissolution
Tuesday April 12 th	Speaker on Trauma & Mental Health
Thursday April 14 th	Chapter 15: Remarriages & Stepfamilies
Tuesday April 19 th	Chapter 16: Aging & Multigenerational Families
Thursday April 21 st	Semester Wrap Up
Tuesday April 26 th	Final preparation
Thursday April 28 th	No class - Final available Apr. 28-May 4