



# Sociology 103—Intimate Relationships and Families

*College of the Canyons*

Spring 2012, #85844  
MW 11:00-12:20  
CCC 505

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Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00 Seco Hall 303  
and by appointment

## **Course Description**

Students in this course will investigate the interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships of courtship, marriage, and family living. Other topics of inquiry will include the diverse forms of intimate relationships that exist in our society; life course events such as dating, marriage, raising children, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage; and principles of communication and conflict resolution. Students will also learn about birth control and sexually transmitted diseases in order to make informed decisions for themselves.

There are no prerequisites for this course, however it is recommended that you be prepared for English 101. The course is CSU and UC transferable.

## **Student Learning Outcome**

Students will be able to analyze current social issues affecting families from a variety of theoretical perspectives.

## **Course Objectives**

Course objectives include, but are not limited to, the following. Students will be able to

- describe the various family forms that exist in the United States
- define the various types of singles
- compare and contrast dating patterns of today with dating patterns of the past
- explain the theories of love
- associate sexually transmitted diseases with their causes, symptoms, and cures
- identify productive and destructive patterns of communication
- describe family planning techniques
- analyze parenting styles

## Required Reading

1. The free open source textbook is in Blackboard. You may print a limited number of pages free each day in the ASG computer lab located in the Student Center. You may print (for a fee) in the TLC or at Kinko's. Read the chapter before coming to class. This class is an audience participation class and it gets very boring if the audience has no knowledge to contribute to the meeting. There are also study guides in Blackboard in the Textbook menu item. They start with a list of the learning objectives for that chapter; reviewing the study guides before you start reading will help you focus your attention.



The following will also be used in English 101

2. 75 Thematic Readings, 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, ISBN#9780072469318
3. Rules for Writers, 7th ed., Hacker, ISBN#9780312647360
4. Everything's an Argument, 5th ed., Lunsford, ISBN#9780312538620

## Emailing

A lot of our communication takes place via email. I can address your issues much faster if I know who you are. It is a good idea to add your name to the "from name" field in your email account so that I don't have to repeatedly ask you. Be sure to edit your Personal Information in Blackboard so that your email address is correct and you receive class emails. Go to My Places at the top of the main screen after you log on. Click on Personal Information to update your email address and name (change it to what you want to be called). Also change your password there. If you haven't updated your email address in Blackboard and you email me from within Blackboard, I can't reply to you; my reply goes into outer space. I will respond to emails within 48 hours unless I am out of town. I will notify the class if I am going to be out of town.

Take the opportunity to practice proper grammar and netiquette (see my website) in your emails.

*I have more than one class so the subject line of the email should include*

- *the class number (5 digits)*
- *your name if it does not appear in the "from" field*

Remember that you may be working on this class in the middle of the night, but I am not. Please do not expect me to tend to your issues outside of normal work hours, I may do so at times, but please do not expect it on a regular basis.

## **Course Requirements**

4-882E Scantrons (5 points)

4 Article sets (25 points each)

Explanation paper (35 points)

In Class/Homework Assignments (10 points each)

4 Exams (50 points each, lowest score is dropped)

Oral Project (100 points)

Expanded Outline and References (50 points)

Oral (25 points from me, 15 points from your group, 10 points from the class)

**Total varies due to in class/homework assignments**

*Why do people end up in their parents' basements? What happened to their rooms they used in childhood?*

—Aaron Karo

## **Scantrons**

Each student will turn in 4 *blank* (do *NOT* write anything on them) scantrons..

## **Article Sets**

Article points cannot be made up if a class is missed. Read the assigned articles. Annotate your text and or take clear, detailed notes. Go to <http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072469315/> and review the questions under each author to give you insight into the authors, and to help you understand the readings.

When reading the articles, think about the following:

1. How does what you read confirm or deny what you know about A. society, B. people/groups you are acquainted with, and C. yourself?
2. How can theory can be applied to this issue?
3. How is what the articles discuss considered a social problem?

On the appointed day you will be placed in groups of four. Person 1 will summarize the readings, referring to specific pages and paragraphs in the text. Person 2 will apply theory to the article. Person 3 will discuss the reading material in terms of how and why it is a social problem that affects families, and any possible solutions. Person 4 will tie together what persons 1, 2, and 3 said. This is an exercise in reading, critical thinking, listening, and synthesizing. Each student will have roles 1 through 4 at least one time during the semester.

### **Explanation Paper**

Using skills you have learned in English 101, write a paper explaining how your background has influenced your adult self. You may want to start with the end (Who is your adult self? Who have you become?) and then explain what influences helped this *self* evolve. See the rubric in Blackboard for details about how this paper will be peer reviewed and graded. This paper should be about 3-4 full pages, typed and double spaced. Using MLA format, cite information from the Sociology textbook and the articles in 75 Thematic Readings to inform and support your explanation.

### **In Class/Homework Assignments**

Occasionally there will be in class or homework assignments. Missed in class assignments can not be made up. Homework assignments are due at the next class meeting. Be sure to make a friend in class who will contact you if homework has been assigned.

### **Problem-Solution Oral Project**

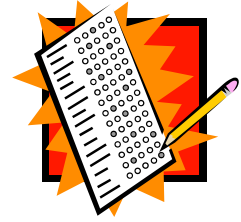
Groups of 4-5 students will research a social problem in conjunction with essay 4 in English 101. The project for Sociology consists of an expanded outline and references, and an oral presentation. Your English 101 essay 4 will be an individual project focused on the same general, overarching topic. Group members will combine the information for essay 4 to create one oral project for Sociology 103. Orals will last 20-25 minutes. Further details will be discussed in class.

*Dating websites are doing it all wrong, they need to start matching people based on their web-browsing history.*

—Aaron Karo

## Exams

There are four non-cumulative exams. Questions are multiple choice, true/false, and short essay. The lowest score will be dropped.



## Guidelines for Exams

- You are responsible for all material in the readings and supplemental materials. I will lecture on material that I particularly want to emphasize and also on material that is not in this textbook but that I think is important. Questions from the oral presentations will appear on the last exam.
- Cheating will not be tolerated and will be recognized by a grade of “F” on the exam and will be reported to the Dean of Student Services.
- Please see the college catalog for the campus policy on academic dishonesty.
- If you have questions during an exam, please ask me to clarify.
- If you require special assistance during an exam, please see me during the first week of class.
- **You will not be permitted to take the exam if you arrive after the first person finishes the exam. If you find you need to miss an exam this will be your dropped score unless you have legal documentation for the absence.**
- Bring tissue if you have a cold or allergies since you will not be permitted to leave the room during an exam until you are done.
- Cell phones must be turned off—powered off—and placed in your purse or backpack under your desk. **If your cell phone rings or vibrates, you automatically fail the exam.**
- No food, water, candy, etc. will be permitted on your desk during exams.
- You will be required to place all books, backpacks, purses, etc. under your chair or desk or at the front of the room.
- Make sure you zip or fasten all purses, backpacks, etc.
- All exams are closed book, closed notes.
- You will be required to remove all hats with bills and all sunglasses.
- You may write on the exams but you must mark all answers on your scantron.
- Bring sharp #2 pencils with good erasers since sharpening pencils or asking to borrow supplies is not appropriate college student behavior. **Only standard #2 pencils will be allowed. No mechanical pencils will be allowed.**

*If you find these rules to be absurd, thank a person you know who has cheated in the past.*

## Grade Reflections (5 points extra credit)

You will find a grade reflection form in Blackboard and a link to sign up for an appointment. Fill out the form and return it to me, *in person*, in my office prior to the end of one week after the exam. Be sure to wait until the exam score is posted. This can be done after exams 1 and 2.

## ***Class Policies***

### **Attendance**

- Roll is taken at the beginning of class and used to decide borderline grades.
- Make friends with someone in class to get class material if you are absent.
- Being absent is no excuse for a late assignment.
- Any legal documentation you may provide to substantiate said absence must be produced at the next date of attendance along with the required assignment (e.g., police report, jail documentation, hospital admittance form, funeral card, doctor's note, tow receipt, NOT a note from mom).

### **Courtesy**

- Turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom.
- I reserve the right to deduct 5 points for each cell phone/pager interruption in class.
- A cell phone/pager interruption on an exam will result in a score of 0 on the exam.
- Please do not eat noisy food and take all of your trash with you when you leave the classroom.

### **The Little Things**

- Assignments that are not stapled will not be accepted—don't ask me for a stapler—I am not your personal Office Depot.
- Assignments must be typed, double-spaced using black ink and white or ivory paper and a 12 point serif font similar in appearance to this one (Times New Roman).
- Handwritten assignments will not be accepted—I can barely read my own writing, don't expect me to read yours.
- Use a spell checker and have someone read your papers and give you input before you turn them in—give yourself the best chance for the best grade possible.

### **Important things to know**

- Attendance and participation will be noted and used to decide borderline grades (grades within 2% of the next grade). It is *your* responsibility to be marked in if you arrive after I take roll. It is *my* perception of participation.
- I will excuse students from class to participate in religious or cultural holidays (yours, not someone else's), however, if anything is due on that day it must be turned in *prior* to that class meeting and you must inform me of your absence *prior* to the absence.
- Check your grades online periodically throughout the semester. Please do NOT email me after the semester ends to ask me to reconsider your grade unless I have made an error on the final exam/project grade.

- Do NOT email me to tell me that another person in your class got the next higher grade and only had ½% more than you or even ½% less (think about your attendance and class participation). If you have an 89.9% you have earned a B. If you have *not* been absent and *have* participated in the class discussions in an appropriate manner, I may bump your grade up to an A.
- Back up all of your work on the computer. I am not responsible for computer or printer malfunctions or loss of electricity. Save all of your graded work until your grade for this class is posted to your record. In fact, you should save everything until your diploma is in your hand.
- I am not responsible for your computer or internet malfunctions. If Blackboard has malfunctions please inform me or Blackboard support (bbsupport@canyons.edu) 661/362-3344 ASAP.

### **Non Progress/Attendance in Class**

- I may drop you for not making progress in the class. The reason is that I don't want you to fail the class because you couldn't keep up. However, you can't be assured that I will drop you before the withdrawal deadline and you really don't want too many Ws on your transcript so you need to be proactive and drop yourself.
- Check the drop and withdrawal deadlines on my webpage for this class ([www.canyons.edu/faculty/marencoa](http://www.canyons.edu/faculty/marencoa)) and make sure you drop yourself before the deadline.
- After you drop the class you will still remain in Blackboard until I manually purge you and you will receive class emails until you are purged. Feel free to send me an email letting me know you have dropped the class and I'll purge you right away.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to do their own work as assigned. At College of the Canyons, we believe that academic integrity and honesty are some of the most important qualities college students need to develop and maintain. To facilitate a culture of academic integrity, College of the Canyons has defined plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Due process procedures have been established when plagiarism or academic dishonesty is suspected.

At COC, we define plagiarism as follows.

*Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's work or ideas as one's own, without adequate attribution. When a student submits work for a class assignment that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without acknowledging the source of the information through complete, accurate, and specific references, plagiarism is involved. This may also include dual submissions of your own similar work for cred-*

*it for more than one class, without the current instructor's knowledge and approval.*

To be specific, below are some of the situations that will be considered plagiarism at COC.

- Use information from any source, online or in print, in one's own writing *without* acknowledging the source in the content and in the reference page of the assignment
- Simply list the sources in the reference page, without parenthetical citations in the body of the essay
- Take more than one printed line of words consecutively from the source without putting quotation marks around them, even though the student has put the author's name in the parentheses or in the reference page
- Turn in work done for other classes, regardless how large or small the assignment may be, without the current instructor's approval, this is considered "self-plagiarism," which is a form of academic dishonesty
- Turn in work by another student, even by accident

In addition, COC has strict rules against using electronic devices during exams without the instructor's approval. To be specific, absolutely no cell phones or any electronic devices can be on the desk or in sight during a test or exam without the instructor's approval. The presence of electronic devices in sight during exams may be considered as intention to cheat and will be processed as a form of academic dishonesty.

Cases of alleged academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for investigation.

### **Blackboard & Student Accountability Online**

Use of online programs such as Blackboard is strictly limited to the students who are enrolled in that particular course. Individual login information is provided to each student and all activity within an online course is monitored and recorded. To insure the highest level of integrity of student data, user login and password information must never be shared. It is your responsibility as a student to take every measure possible to safeguard your individual login information and never allow other persons (whether a student or not) to have access to this information. Each student must submit his or her own work. Sharing login information or submitting work under another user's identification is a violation of College policy and may result in a formal report of the incident to the Dean of Student Services. If you feel another person has obtained your unique login information or has accessed your account, contact me ASAP.

## Challenges

If you need more time for exams, see the Disabled Students office now [www.canyons.edu/offices/dsps](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dsps). If you are stressed by exams see the TLC now [www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc). If you have financial challenges see EOPS [www.canyons.edu/offices/eops](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/eops). Emotional challenges or a headache, see the health center [www.canyons.edu/offices/Health](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health). I am here to help you with class work as well as personal challenges, but you need to come to me if you are having difficulties, I can't read your mind.

## Time Management

- Late assignments will not be accepted—don't ask me to make an exception for you.
- Plan for those unforeseen problems by starting on your assignments early—I will gladly accept any assignment early.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.
- They **MUST** be given to me personally by you or someone else.
- They may **NOT** be emailed, faxed, or left in my mailbox.

## Grading Scale

I strongly suggest that all students check their grade progress regularly during the semester. A=90%+ B=80%-89.9% C=70%-79.9% D=60%-69.9% F=59% and below

## Incompletes

Do **NOT** ask me to give you an incomplete when you don't fit the criteria. You must fit *all three* of the following criteria.

1. a major unforeseen circumstance that can be legally documented
2. passing work up until the time of the circumstance
3. only missing a minority of the course work

*If you decide you do not want to continue in this class, it is your responsibility to drop the class prior to the drop date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" in the class.*

**Soc 103 *Tentative* Course Calendar  
Topics, Chapters, and Articles to read**

2/6 Getting acquainted

2/8 Syllabus questions/Sign up for articles

2/13 Scantrons due

**2/13-2/22 Unit 1**

Chapters: Introduction to the sociological study of the family;  
Studying marriages and families; Family theories; Family strengths

2/20 *Holiday*

2/21 *Add/Refund Drop Deadline*

2/22 Articles: Takaki, 155; Staples, 182; Ignatiev, 186; Cofer, 191

2/27 Exam 1

**2/29-3/19 Unit 2**

Chapters: Marrieds and non-marrieds; Family resources and economics;  
Families and aging; Parenting

3/2 *Drop without a W Deadline*

3/7 Peer review of Explanation paper

3/14 Final Explanation paper due

Film: Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter

3/19 Articles: Brady, 235; Ehrenreich, 400; Eighner, 509; Rachels, 493;  
West, 242; Quindlen, 250

3/21 Exam 2

**3/26-4/16 Unit 3**

Chapters: Dating and mate selection; Love and intimacy; Sex and gender;  
Sexuality

3/30 *Withdrawal Deadline*

4/2-4/8 *Spring Break*

4/11 Mona Lisa Smile

4/16 Articles: Goodman, 218; Paglia, 221; Steinem, 446

4/18 Exam 3

4/23 Choose Groups for Problem-Solution Project

4/25-5/7      **Unit 4**

          Chapters: Communication; Family conflict and crises; Divorce;  
          Remarriage and stepfamilies

*Now is a good time to get advised for next semester*

5/7      Articles: Tannen, 41; Whitehead, 225

5/9      Exam 4

          Sociology Book Award due about now

Problem-Solution Project Oral Presentations 5/14-5/23

5/14      Expanded Outline and References due for everyone

5/28      *Holiday*

5/30      Exam 4

6/1      *Graduation*