



Course Syllabus

Section 1: Course Information

Format

Eight weeks.

Course ID

PSYC/SSCI 2233

Course Title

Marriage and Family

College

College of Unrestricted Education – Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Prerequisites

None

Credit Hours

3

Instructor

See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.



Course Description

This course is a study of the major issues related to courtship, marriage, and family formation. Special attention is given to the social conditions influencing courtship, marriage, divorce, and family life. Topics include dating rituals, gender differences, expectations, parenting, family dysfunction, family violence, and strategies for sound relating. The role of family counselors and therapists is also discussed.

Course Overview

Through this course students will explore the many different aspects of relationships, family, its structures, and functions. There will be an emphasis on both the psychological and sociological theories related to marriage and family. Finally they will incorporate Biblical lessons and values as they explore the many issues related to marriage and family.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is 44.32 (5.54 hours per week).

SEU Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

Equipping students to discover and develop their divine design to serve Christ and the world through Spirit-empowered life, learning, and leadership.



Vision Statement

Southeastern University is anchored by Spirit-empowered education in a Christ-centered, student-focused learning community. Southeastern's global impact is marked by a deep commitment to transforming minds and engaging culture through the integration of faith, learning and service. Each student's divine design is nurtured and unleashed through the investment of faculty and staff, relationships within the community, the rigor of scholarship, diverse learning experiences and the discipline of spiritual formation, which propels students into a lifetime of serving the world in the Spirit of Christ.

In addition to our mission and vision statement, we hold fundamental truths about the Christian faith that include the following:

- The Scriptures are inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind.
- There is only one true God who is revealed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
- Jesus Christ, as God's son, was both fully human and divine.

We are proud of our affiliation with the Assemblies of God and our Pentecostal tradition. We are also proud to be a welcoming community for students from all Christian backgrounds and denominations. Our campus includes many Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, etc., as well as nondenominational students. Everyone shares a strong commitment to knowing Christ and making Him known, and we celebrate our theological similarities while appreciating our differences.

Refer to [Human Sexuality](#) for additional details related to What We Believe.



Title IX Statement

Southeastern University is committed to creating an environment for every student to thrive academically spiritually and socially. An aspect of creating this culture is providing avenues for students to discuss and report any activity that may compromise this commitment.

Under a federal law known as Title IX, "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance" (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972).

While students should feel comfortable approaching faculty with issues they may be struggling with or concerns they may be having, students should know that all faculty and staff are required to report certain information about Sexual Misconduct and certain crimes to University administration, in order to help keep the University community safe, and to connect students to all of the resources and reporting options that are available.

For example, if you inform faculty or staff (in private or during class discussions) of an incident of Sexual Misconduct, that individual will keep the information as private as possible, but is required to bring it to the attention of the institution's Title IX Office. If a student would like to talk to the Title IX office directly, they can do so by e-mail at smpowell@seu.edu, by phone at 863-667-5236, or in person at Pansler U225. For more information about Title IX reporting options at Southeastern, please go to:

<http://www.seu.edu/titleix>.

If you are struggling with an issue that is traumatic, unusually stressful, or results in disruptive behavior, faculty and staff will likely inform the Care Team. If students would like to reach out directly to the Care Team for assistance, they can do so at the Campus Counseling Center (<http://myseu.seu.edu/services/counseling-health-wellness->



[services/seu-care-team/](#)) located in Health Services in Smith Hall, by phone at 863-667-5205, or by e-mail at care@seu.edu.

Course Materials

1. No textbook purchase required. An open educational resource textbook is provided in course:

- [*Sociology of the Family*](#)

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

- Christian Theology of the Family
- Love and Intimacy
- Communication
- Dating and Mate Selection
- Marriage
- Parenting
- Family Economics and Resources
- Separation and Divorce
- Remarriage



- Stepfamilies
- Aging and the Family
- Family Strengths

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Examine the various myths, dreams, and issues facing American families.
2. Identify various dimensions of intimacy, pitfalls to intimacy, benefits of intimate relationships, and the various means individuals use to find and develop intimate relationships.
3. Examine the challenges inherent in developing and stewarding intimate marriage relationships, including the challenges to communication and managing conflict in marriage.
4. Examine the family life cycle and the various cultural and societal factors that influence today's families.
5. Identify some of the crises that strain intimate family relationships.
6. Construct a Biblical worldview of family and intimate relationships.

Key Performance Indicators

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate their learning through performance-based activities and assessments. Successful students will:

1. Participate in the weekly discussion forums
2. Complete 6 application written assignments
3. Complete a final project
4. Pass weekly chapter quizzes
5. Pass a midterm and final exam

Section 2: Course Policies

Grading Scale

The university's general grading scale is provided in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the [Southeastern University Catalog](#). All online courses use the following scale:

Grade Letter	Grade Percentage
A	94 – 100%
A-	90% to 93%
B+	87% to 89%
B	84% to 86%
B-	80% to 83%
C+	77% to 79%
C	74% to 76%
C-	70% to 73%
D+	67% to 69%
D	64% to 66%
D-	60% to 63%
F	0% to 59%

Late Work

Work ahead: For planned events (mission trips, vacations, surgeries) you are invited to work ahead in order to submit work by the due date. No permission is needed.

Request an extension: If you know you will not be able to turn work in on time, contact your professor at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. Let the professor know about your circumstances and when you can turn the work in. If the professor decides to grant you an extension and you get the work in when you say you will, there will not be a penalty. You should only request an extension when something unforeseen comes up that you have no control over; a professor has no obligation to grant an extension and will be less inclined to do so if you are asking for one every week.

Late work: without prior arrangements, late work* submitted within one week of the original due date will be considered for partial credit. Work will ONLY be accepted for the first seven days after it is due. NO WORK will be accepted past the last day of the course.

*Discussion Posts: late participation in discussion forums is not accepted for late credit. The purpose of the discussion forum is to engage with your classmates on substantive ideas related to the course material, and your classmates will not revisit forums past the due dates. Similarly, professors will not revisit forums to grade past discussion due dates.

Professors of Foundational Core courses have been instructed to follow this policy to ensure fairness across all FC classes. Your professor will work with you if true emergencies occur, but your busy schedule will not be considered an emergency. If you have travel, a vacation, a wedding, or any other plannable event, it is up to you to communicate with your instructor to avoid grade penalties.



Extra Credit

None accepted.

Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online course. The instructor will monitor student activity and participation through MyFIRE. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board posts and responses, chat, or conference sessions and group projects.

Official Email

You are expected to check your SEU webmail account **daily** during the course term. All written correspondence between instructor and student must be handled through the SEU email system.

MyFIRE Use

Please, make it a habit to always check your MyFIRE account as messages; assignments, grades, and other important related materials may be posted. It is the student's responsibility to check grades and notify your instructor if you have questions.



Technical Difficulties

Southeastern University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty that prevents students from completing a time-sensitive activity or assessment, students should report any problems to the instructor and also contact the 24x7 Support Center via the links provided in the below Technical Support section.

Be sure your computer system complies with all [SEU Technical Requirements](#). These requirements are listed within MyFIRE and a [Browser Checker](#) is provided to ensure the browser you are using is compatible with MyFIRE.

Technical Support

If you have questions or need assistance, you can reach out to our 24/7 Support Center at [1-888-889-6599](tel:1-888-889-6599) or [click here](#) to submit a support ticket via email. *Note: Email response is within 24 hours. If immediate assistance is required, please contact support via phone/chat.* To chat LIVE! with a Support Representative, [click here](#).

Disability Statement

Southeastern University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for all students with learning and/or physical disabilities, as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This legislation guarantees educational rights for the physically and learning disabled.

Students with medical diagnoses that qualify them for accommodations must contact ADA services at (863) 667-5283, or e-mail ADAservices@seu.edu. Once medical documentation is provided and a confidential consultation is completed, the student will then be responsible to provide the director of academic and auxiliary services with a list of his or her current professors and their e-mails.



Contact with the Office of Academic and Auxiliary Services is mandatory for each new semester. For more information, visit the SEU [students with disabilities](#) page on our website.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense at Southeastern. It undermines the educational process and, when done intentionally, violates the integrity of the community.

Plagiarism occurs when a writer uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original material without acknowledging its source.

Plagiarism includes unattributed use of any source, in any medium, published or unpublished.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Quoting or paraphrasing material without attributing it to its source
- Copying segments from the work of others without giving proper credit
- Submitting as original work written entirely by someone else

Widely known facts do not require citation and do not count as plagiarism so long as they are communicated in the writer's own words. Ideas and observations original to the writer also do not require citation.

Work already submitted for a grade in another course may not be resubmitted unless the professor specifically states otherwise.

For more information, visit the SEU [Plagiarism page](#) on our website.



Course Evaluation

In order to help us to assess the effectiveness of our courses and instructors, please complete the course evaluation. **If you receive a course evaluation for this course, you are required to complete it.**

Official Withdrawal

To officially withdrawal from this course you must consult the Registrar's Office for details.

Netiquette

General Rules of Netiquette

- Make your messages easier to read by making your paragraphs short and to the point.
- DO NOT SHOUT BY TYPING IN ALL CAPS.
- Utilize humor in appropriate forms. Avoid hostile, abusive, libelous, or rude comments. No vulgar, sexist, racist, biased, or other objectionable language will be tolerated.
- Reinforce others in the course (e.g., "Good presentation!" or "Thanks for the feedback."). Valid criticism is acceptably expressed in the form of thoughtful alternatives. Do not insult or "flame" others.
- Think twice and send once. The old carpenter adage to measure twice and cut once holds great value here. Once you send something not well-thought out you will find it difficult and time-consuming to recover. Think about what you want the group and the professor to think about you.
- Use spell-check and grammar-check. The little errors commonly accepted in email or text-messaging with friends and family are distracting and inappropriate in a college discussion forum.


- In an online discussion forum, debate is welcome, but be tactful in responding to others. Remember that there's a person (or a whole class) at the receiving end of your post.
- If you quote a previous post (by using the reply function for example), quote only enough to make your own point.
- If you want to get in touch with only one person in the class, send a message to that individual's e-mail address, not to the entire discussion list.

Section 3: Course Schedule

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by week and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

Withdraw: The last day to withdraw from this course is the last day of Week 5.



Module 1: 10/21/2020 – 10/27/2020

Aim

Be sure you read the learning outcomes that your instructor has set for this week and then do your best to accomplish them.

- Identify unique attributes of your own extended family.
- Identify the changing social and cultural trends in American families.
- Discuss a Christian theology of marriage.
- Define family structures and functions.
- Articulate a theological view of marriage and family.

Learn

This section lists all your reading assignments and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the week.

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).

- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

Now you're ready to demonstrate your learning for the week. The items below are those on which you'll be graded this week and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

- Module 1 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 1 Key Terms Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Module 1 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

Module 2: 10/28/2020 – 11/3/2020



Aim

- Discuss the concept of healthy boundaries.
- Identify and describe sociological theories of family systems.
- Describe love in differing forms and expressions.
- Articulate a sociological view of love and intimacy.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).
- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 2 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 2 Key Terms Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Module 2 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

Module 3: 11/4/2020 – 11/10/2020



Aim

- Discuss strategies for enhancing communication and resolving conflicts in marriage.
- Describe a Christian model of dating.
- Identify the five love languages.
- Define the concepts of validation and empathy in conflict resolution.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).
- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 3 Discussion Forum

- Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 3 Key Terms Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Module 3 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

Module 4: 11/11/2020 – 11/17/2020



Aim

- Describe the differences between marriage and other long-term relationships.
- Discuss the effectiveness of cohabitation before marriage.
- Explain the known benefits of marriage relationships.
- Identify the different marriage forms.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).
- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 4 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Midterm Exam
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100



Module 5: 11/18/2020 – 11/24/2020**Aim**

- Articulate a theology of parenting.
- Describe impressions of assessments on parenting skills and functions.
- Define poverty and describe its effects on the family.
- Identify strategies for sound financial stability.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).
- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 5 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 5 Key Terms Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Module 5 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50



Module 6: 11/25/2020 -12/1/2020**Aim**

- Discuss marriage and divorce patterns in the U.S.

- Describe ways of minimizing the odds of divorce.
- Identify some core guidelines for divorcing parents.
- Summarize the effects of divorce on children.
- Explain the need for stronger boundaries in stepfamilies.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).
- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 6 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 6 Key Terms Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Module 6 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

Module 7: 12/2/2020 – 12/8/2020



Aim

- Define gerontology, ageism, and senescence.
- Describe the larger social changes in the U.S. relating to the elderly.
- Identify demographics relating to intergenerational issues.
- Discuss three important age-related social theories.

- Distinguish between functional and dysfunctional family characteristics.
- Discuss the differing forms of family violence in the U.S.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).
- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 7 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 7 Key Terms Quiz
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 20
- Module 7 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 200

Module 8: 12/9/2020 – 12/15/2020



Aim

- Summarize the importance of traditions and rituals in families.
- Identify strategies for strengthening the family.
- Discuss religion and spirituality in families.

Learn

- Read textbook readings (provided in course).



- View various resources (provided in course).

Apply

- Module 8 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday, Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Final Exam
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

Section 4: Assessments

Discussion Forums

Description

Each week, students will participate in a class discussion. The discussion topics will relate to the weekly readings and will encourage the student apply what they have learned during the week as they engage with both the instructor and their fellow students. Each week students will be required to respond to the given discussion questions with a substantial post (more than 200 words) that demonstrates depth of understanding and is supported by a minimum of one cited and referenced source. This initial post should be posted each week by Saturday at 11:59pm EST.

In addition to the initial post students must respond substantially to a minimum of two of their peer's initial posts (100 word minimum for each reply). These posts must add breadth and depth to the discussion, continue to build on the initial post, and add additional insights and questions. These posts should be made each week by Tuesday at 11:59pm EST.

Total Possible Points

400

Grade Weight

34%



Assignments

Description

In weeks 1-3 & 5-6 students will complete written assignments that will be outlined in the classroom. These assignments will allow the students to apply concepts that they have read about during the corresponding week.

Total Possible Points

250

Grade Weight

22%



Quizzes

Description

In weeks 1-3 & 5-7 student will complete a short quiz reviewing key concepts from each week's textbook readings.

Total Possible Points

120

Grade Weight

10%



Exams

Description

Midterm Exam: In Week 4, you will take a Midterm Exam. This exam will be objective in nature (multiple choices) and will cover materials studied in Weeks 1-4.

Final Exam: In Week 8, you will take a Final Exam. This exam will be objective in nature (multiple choices) and will cover materials studied in Weeks 5-8.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

17%



Final Presentation: Marriage and Parenting: A Presentation for Newlyweds

In week 7 for your final project you will be creating a presentation that could be presented to newlyweds during a Christian marriage conference. This will be a PPT presentation (with a minimum of 12 slides) and audio voice over. The audio portion will be presented just as if you were standing at the podium giving this presentation to a group of newlywed couples.



Your PPT presentation must at a minimum provide guidance and tips covering the following areas:

- What to expect after the “honeymoon” period
- Communication
- Intimacy
- Conflict resolution
- Finances
- Choosing to start a family
- Impact of adding children to the marriage relationship
- Parenting
- How to stay connected and intimate as a couple after becoming parents
- The role of faith in the couples relationship
- The role of faith in the family unit
- Red flags for when the couple should seek marital guidance and/or support from outside help

Presentation tips:

- The information presented on the slides should be in bulleted points (not full paragraphs).
- Headings should be used throughout your presentation to provide clear organization.
- Your presentation should be creative and visually engaging.
- In addition to the bulleted points in the slides you should use the speaker’s notes area on each slide to expand on the information presented in the slides.
- When creating the audio presentation to go along with your PPT you can read the speaker’s notes. You will not read the bulleted points on the slides.
- These speaker’s notes are where you are going to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts being covered.



- The information in the speaker's notes should contain the appropriate in-text citations.
- The body of the presentation should be a minimum of 12 slides, but can be as long as you need it to be. In addition to these slides you should also include title and reference slides.
- A minimum of 4 sources should be used to support your points. One of these sources can be the Bible and one source can be your interview from week 6. The other 2 sources must be from scholarly sources.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

17%