



**Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
SOC 330-01 Marriage and Family Relations
Spring 2011-Online**

I. Locator Information

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Lucas
Course: SOCI 330-D1 Marriage and Family
Semester Credit Hours: 3
Day and Time Class Meets: Online
Email Address: nlucas2@uncfsu.edu

Office Location: Taylor Science 204C
Online Office Hours: Monday 10-12
Tuesday 12:30-2
Wednesday 10-12
Thursday 12:30-2

*I will check email regularly and respond within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends.

*If you would like to have a phone conference please email me to let me know when you are available

Office Phone: 910-672-2973

Welcome to the Marriage and Family Relations Course!

This is an online course and it is extremely important that you read the syllabus, rubrics, and course assignments/documents carefully. It is also critical that you spend time studying the material in order to achieve the objectives of this course. You should spend an average of 20 hours a week completing course requirements. You should also log onto the blackboard course website a least once a day...preferable 2 times a day. It is your responsibility to make sure all of your assignments are accurately recorded on blackboard by clicking on the "My Grades" tab.

Taking an online course can be overwhelming, especially when you are not sure what to expect. It is critical that you email me as soon as you have any concerns about this course. You can email me during the week and I generally return emails within 24 hours. I also have online office hours and you are welcome contact me via phone. Unfortunately, I am not able to return long-distance phone numbers on my office phone.

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at:
<http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. Course Description

This course is an analysis of the forms and functions of the family, including changing sex roles, marital choice, procreation, and socialization, with emphasis on the history of American family patterns and the effects of contemporary social change on the family.

III. Disabled Student Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, **if you have a disability or think you have a disability please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.** Also, please notify me as soon as possible 672-2973 (nlucas2@uncfsu.edu).

IV. Textbook

Benokraitis, Nijole. 2008. *Marriages and Families*, 7th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall. ISBN-13:9780132431736

Textbook Web site: <http://www.prenhall.com/benokraitis>

FSU Blackboard Website: <http://blackboard.uncfsu.edu/?bbatt=Y>

V. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, scholars will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the leading theories and theoretical perspectives on the family
2. Explain the various functions of marriages and families as well as the dynamics and diversity of families
3. Analyze race, class, and gender issues as it pertains to marriage and family relations
4. Explain contemporary gender roles, communication, power, and conflict
5. Analyze family life cycles, processes, roles, and relationships of parents and children
6. Explain models of family violence and alternatives to family violence

Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

A. Course Requirements

(IMPORTANT: You have until 11:55pm on due dates to post assignments (and complete quizzes) on Blackboard. After the due date/time, the link to upload assignments (and complete quizzes) will no longer be available)

Pre and Post-Test:

There will be a pre and post-test in this course. The pre-test will be available on 8/19 and you will have until 8/26 (11:55pm) to complete the pretest. The post-test will be available on 11/24 and will be available until 12/2 (11:55pm). You can access the pre/post-test by clicking on the **“PRE/POST” tab** on the blackboard website.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes will give me insight on how to better prepare lectures and class activities. You can access the quizzes by clicking on the **“Quizzes” tab** on the blackboard website.

Discussion Board Assignments:

You will be required to complete discussion board assignments in this course. I also would like you to respond to at least one other discussion board post from your classmates on discussion board. This assignment will allow you to interact with other students in the course. Discussion board postings can also be used to exchange ideas about the subject matter in this course. You can access the discussion board assignments and post your assignments by clicking on the **“Discussion Board”** link associated with the appropriate Unit. *I will post an example of an ideal discussion board submission.*

There is a rubric for this assignment.

Critical Essays:

Critical essays give you the opportunity to analyze and critique the readings in this course. The essays also help you to become more aware of how the information in the text and readings connects to your own personal experiences and beliefs. *All essays should be 3 pages, doubled spaced, 12 point, and “Times New Roman” font.* **There is a rubric for this assignment. I usually post grades for these assignments within five days after the due date. It generally takes me longer to post grades for late assignments.** *I will post an example of an ideal critical essay on blackboard.*

EXTRA CREDIT (20 points possible):

There will be one opportunity to receive extra credit in this course. In order to receive extra credit you **MUST** complete the pre-test and post-test. I will email you more details about the extra credit opportunity during the last week of this course. **You must complete the Pre-test to be eligible to receive extra credit.**

An Important Note Pertaining to Plagiarism: For all written work you will be expected to **cite** any work you reference in your assignments. If you are unsure about your written work and possible plagiarism issues, you must speak with me before turning in the assignment. I would be more than happy to help you cite information correctly. If I determine that you are plagiarizing material by copying someone else's work (or information from the text) and attempting to pass it off as your own, without citing, then I will give you a ZERO on the assignment. I will also make sure to take formal action.

Make sure to review the information contained in the websites below:

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/certificate.phtml>

<https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html> (Test Link)

B. Evaluation Criteria

Component	Points	Due Dates
Discussion Board Introduction	10	8/21
Pre-Test	No Grade	8/19-8/26
Critical Essays	80	8/30; 9/20; 10/18; 11/3; 11/22
Discussion Board Assignments	30	8/25; 9/15; 10/6; 10/27; 11/17
Quizzes	30	9/2-3; 9/23-24; 10/21-22; 11/11-12; 12/1-2
Post-Test	N/A	12/2

*The rubric for the critical essay and discussion board assignments will be posted on Blackboard. **The rubrics are also located at the end of the syllabus.** The rubrics will help you understand how I will assess your assignments.

FSU Grading Scale:

A = 92-100 B = 83-91 C = 73-82 D = 64-72 F = 63 and below

Location of Grades:

Your grades will be posted on Blackboard. Click on the **"My Grades"** tab. You are ultimately responsible for making sure you receive credit for completed assignments.

Make Up/Deadline Policy

- 1. Unless you are hospitalized on the due date (s) of an assignment, you will not be allowed to make-up discussion board assignments and quizzes.**
- 2. Critical Essays will be deducted 10 points for every day they are late & you have to email the late assignments to my email address (nlucas2@uncfsu.edu) for a "late paper" grade. It general takes me longer to grade papers sent to my email address. IMPORTANT: In the subject line of the email make sure to put "330-your last name-Critical Essay #__" →example: 330-Lucas-Critical Essay #2**

Extra Credit

You will have **one opportunity to earn extra credit in this course.** There will be a 20-point assignment posted before the end of the course.

VI. Academic Support Resources

<p>Inform Information Technology & Telecommunications Services (ITTS): http://www.uncfsu.edu/itts/HelpDesk/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Telephone, web-based chat and e-mail requests will be available 24/7.➤ Call 910-672-2085 on campus➤ Call toll free (855) 877-5811 from off-campus➤ Chat: https://chat.perceptis.com/c/uncfsu➤ E-mail: uncfsuhelpdesk@perceptis.com	<p>The Writing Center: (Located in the Learning Center) http://www.uncfsu.edu/writingcenter/ Helen T. Chick Building Room 216C Hours: M-R 8am-8pm, F 8am-5pm (910) 672-1864</p>	<p>The Learning Center: http://www.uncfsu.edu/learningcenter/ Helen T. Chick Building Room 216C Hours: M-R 8am-8pm, F 8am-5pm (910) 672-1864</p>
---	--	--

VII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

*****UNIT 1: Introduction to Family Relations*****

Week 1- History of Family Relations (August 18th-19th)

Guiding Questions: What are the similarities and differences between the six stages of family development in America (The Colonial Family, Early American Families, Industrialization..., Modern Families, Golden Fifties, and Families since 1960s). What are some of the unique family structures/practices for each of the non-European cultures (American Indians, African Americans, and Mexican Americans)?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 53- 75
- **Pre-test posted 8/19**
- *Discussion Board Assignment Posted 8/20*
- ***“Discussion Board Introduction” DUE 8/21, 11:55pm: I would like you to introduce yourself. Also explain the following:***
 - *Why are you taking this course?*
 - *What do you hope to learn in this course?****Post your responses on the discussion board by using the “Discussion Board” tab on the course blackboard cite. If this is not complete by the due date and time you will not receive credit and I will assume you no longer want to be enrolled in the course.***

Week 2- Contemporary Definitions of Marriage and Family (August 22nd-26th)

Guiding Questions: How is marriage conceptualized? How is family defined? Why are families changing? What are the important terms in this chapter?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 3-26
- *Critical Essay Assignment Posted 8/23*
- **Discussion Board 1 Assignment DUE 8/25 by 11:55pm**
- **Pre-test Due 8/26 by 11:55pm**

Week 3-Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Family Dynamics (August 29th-September 2nd)

Guiding Questions: What are the different theories that explain family relations in America? What are the differences and similarities between the various theories (Structural –Functionalist, conflict, feminist, ecological, developmental, symbolic interactionist, social exchange, and family systems)?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 29-40
- **Critical Essay 1 Assignment DUE 8/30 by 11:55pm**

➤ **QUIZ #1 9/2 and 9/3 by 11:55pm**

*******UNIT 2: Diversity and Family Life*******

Week 4-Race, Ethnicity, and Family (September 5th-9th)

Guiding Questions: How does immigration status affect family relationships? What are some of the cultural elements that are unique to African American, American Indian, Latino, Asian, and Middle Eastern Families :(1)Family Structure, (2)Marriage and Gender Roles, (3)Parents and Children, (4)Economic Well-Being and Poverty, (5)Prejudice and Discrimination, (6) Strengths? What are some similarities and differences among the different racial groups?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 77-103
- *Discussion Board Assignment Posted 9/8*

Week 5-Gender Roles and Marital Relationships (September 12th-16th)

Guiding Questions: What are gender roles? How are gender roles taught in American society? How do gender roles affect marital relationships? What is the difference between the following terms: sex, gender, gender identity, and gender roles?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 105-129
- *Critical Essay Assignment Posted 9/13*
- **Discussion Board 2 Assignment DUE 9/15 by 10pm**

Week 6- Balancing Work and Family Life: The Importance of Financial Stability (September 19th-23rd)

Guiding Questions: What is meant by “work/family balance”? What are some factors that either facilitate or disrupt the work/family balance? What are some issues that poor individuals experience in their familial relationships? How does racial and gender discrimination affect family dynamics? How important is financial stability in families? And what are some social barriers to financial stability?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 351-380
- **Critical Essay 2 Assignment DUE 9/20 by 11:55pm**
- **QUIZ #2 9/23 and 9/24 by 11:55pm**

*****UNIT 3: The Relationship Process*****

Week 7- The Single Life & Cohabitation/Civil Unions (September 26th-30th)

Guiding Questions: What are the macro and micro level factors that influence one's choice to be single? What are some of the structural and cultural factors that influence people of different racial groups to be single? What are the benefits and costs of cohabitation? What are Civil Unions? Why are Civil Unions particularly beneficial to the gay and lesbian community?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 233-257
- Discussion Board Assignment Posted 9/29

WEEK 8- Dating (October 3rd-7th)

Guiding Questions: How do the manifest and latent functions of dating differ? Identify some theories that describe the process of mate selection? How are the terms homogamy and heterogamy associated with mate selection?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 201-219
- Critical Essay Assignment Posted 10/4
- Discussion Board 3 Assignment DUE 10/6by 11:55pm

Week 9- The Purpose of Love in Relationships (October 10th-14th)

Guiding Questions: What is love? What are some theories about "love and loving"? What function does love and loving serve in a relationship? Do men and women experience love differently? How does love change throughout the course of a relationship? What are some barriers to experiencing love?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 135-159

Week 10- Marriage (October 17th-21st)

Guiding Questions: Why do people decide to marry? How important are marital roles? What factors influence marital success and happiness? How does marriage change throughout the life course? Does marriage affect health differently for men and women?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 259-287
- Discussion Board Assignment Posted 10/20
- **Critical Essay 3 Assignment DUE 10/18 by 11:55pm**
- **QUIZ #3 10/21 and 10/22 by 11:55pm**

Week 11- The Importance of Intimacy In Relationships (October 24th-28th)

Guiding Questions: What is meant by the term “intimacy”? What is the difference between “sexual identity” and “sexual orientation”? What are “sexual scripts”? Who influences sexual behavior? How does sexuality differ throughout the life course?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 165-194
- Critical Essay Assignment Posted 10/25
- **Discussion Board 4 Assignment DUE 10/27 by 11:55pm**

Week 12- To Be or Not To Be A Parent (October 31st-November 4th)

Guiding Questions: What are some of the benefits and costs of having children?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 291-306
- **Critical Essay 4 Assignment DUE 11/3 by 11:55pm**

Week 13- Understanding Parenting Experiences and Styles (November 7th-11th)

Guiding Questions: How does parenting differ by race and social class? What are some important aspects of parenting in stepfamilies? Describe parenting in lesbian and gay families? Is there a parenting style that is most effective? What are some current social issues that affect the well-being of children?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 319-349 & 461-467 (Parenting and Stepfamilies)

- Discussion Board Assignment Posted 11/10
- **QUIZ #4 11/11 and 11/12 by 11:55pm**

****UNIT 4: Difficult Aspects of Relationships****

Week 14- Separation and Divorce (November 14th-18th)

Guiding Questions: What is the “separation” and “divorce” process? Why do people divorce? How does divorce affect adults? How does divorce affect children?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 415-443
- Critical Essay Assignment Posted 11/15
- **Discussion Board 5 Assignment DUE 11/17 by 11:55pm**

Week 15- Intimate Partner Violence & Unhealthy Family Dynamics (November 21st-25th)

Guiding Questions: What are some of the causes of intimate partner violence? What are some warning signs of a possible violent relationship? What is marital and intimate partner violence? What is domestic violence? What are some theoretical explanations pertaining to domestic violence?

Readings:

- Benokraitis, Pages 151-156 (“When Love Goes Wrong”), 224-229 (“Harmful Dating Relationships”), and 383-412 (Unhealthy Family Dynamics)
- **Critical Essay 5 Assignment DUE 11/22 by 11:55pm**
- **Post-test posted 11/24**

Week 16- (November 28th-December 2nd)

- **QUIZ #5 12/1 and 12/2 by 11:55pm**
- **Post-test Due 12/2 by 11:55pm**

VIII. Teaching Strategies

Classes will involve PowerPoint notes, discussion board, critical essays, and quizzes.

IX. Bibliography

1. Staples, Robert. 1998. The Black Family. Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth Publishing.
2. McAdoo, Harriette Pipes. 1997. Black Families. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage Publications.
3. Dixon, Patricia. 2006. African American Relationships, Marriages, and Families: An Introduction. New York, New York: Rutledge.
4. Renzetti, C.M. and D. Curren. 1995. Women, Men, and Society. Boston, MA.: Allyn & Bacon.
5. Hill, R. 1971. The Strength of the Black Family. New York: Emerson.
6. Dickerson, L. 1993. "The Future of Marriage and Family in Black America." *Journal of Black Studies*, 23, 472-491.

Critical Essay Rubric: 80 Points Total

CONTENT	39 points
Clearly and fully explains your ideas about the subject matter	
Uses information from the text and course readings in the paper	
Uses the terms and vocabulary from the text appropriately	
Attributes ideas appropriately to sources (citations)	
The essay contains the appropriate information for the topic	
FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION	31 points
12 point doubled spaced, Times New Roman (1 inch margins)	
Page requirement met with numbered pages (3 pages)	
Title page with your name, due date, class/section, and the centered title "Critical Essay # ...)	
Introduction paragraph has a clear and strong thesis	
Each body paragraph is related to the thesis and covers only one topic	
Conclusion paragraph gives no new information, restates thesis	
MECHANICS	10 points
Accurate grammar and spelling	
Accurate punctuation	
Paragraph transitions	

Critical Essay: Grade Specifications

<p>A Excellent/Ideal Paper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clear introduction with thesis ✓ Body paragraphs support the thesis and conclusion ✓ Content addresses assignment ✓ Content is coherent ✓ Content is well thought out and thoroughly explained (supported with detail) ✓ Essentially free of errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation ✓ Many phrases are well written
<p>B Good Paper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong organization with clear thesis ✓ Content addresses assignment ✓ Supporting points are fairly well explained ✓ A few minor errors in mechanics ✓ Some phrases are partially well written
<p>C Acceptable Paper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shows forethought in organization, though lacking a clear thesis ✓ Some ideas speak to the assignment, but are not well explained ✓ Some repeated errors in mechanics ✓ Some variety of sentence style or word choice
<p>D Unacceptable Paper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organization is weak: possible thesis listed/suggested, though not fully used or developed ✓ Ideas are underdeveloped ✓ Irrelevant or illogical at times ✓ Several repeated errors in mechanics ✓ Limited variety of sentence style or word choice
<p>F Paper Phone Conference with the instructor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Thesis is unclear/lacking ✓ No clear structure, organization, and overall plan is not evident ✓ Underdeveloped ideas are redundant, irrelevant, illogical or insufficient ✓ Numerous repeated errors in mechanics appear ✓ Limited understanding of sentence construction is shown

Discussion Board Rubric: 30 Points Total

CONTENT	18 points
Your response to the question/comment is thoughtfully and appropriately explained	
Use information from the text in your posting	
Information from course readings are cited within the post	
Respond to a posting from another classmate. Your response should be thoughtful and relevant. (approximately 3-4 sentences or more)	
FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION	7 points
12 point, SINGLE spaced, Times New Roman	
Your assignment/post should be approximately 2 paragraphs	
MECHANICS	5 points
Accurate grammar and spelling	
Accurate punctuation	