

SOCI 3328

MARITAL AND SEXUAL LIFESTYLES

Spring 2015
<http://elearn.uta.edu>

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COURSE INFORMATION

In this online course, we will cover contemporary American lifestyles, including singles, traditional marriages, homosexuals, single-parent families, open marriage, non-marital sexuality, cohabitation, dual-career marriage, childless couples, egalitarian marriages, and families later in life. For each unit you will have access to the following course features:

- notes to accompany each book chapter
- a review guide for each unit quiz (except for the last quiz)
- a practice quiz for each unit
- an analysis journal assignment for each unit for optional, extra credit points
- a unit quiz at the end of each unit

COURSE MATERIALS

The course requires only one textbook: *Marital and Sexual Lifestyles in the United States*, written by Linda Rouse, a professor in the UTA Department of Sociology and Anthropology (ISBN 0789010712). The book is available from the UT Arlington bookstore and online booksellers such as amazon.com and half.com. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a copy of the textbook as soon as possible. Living in a different city, county, state or country than the university will not be a valid excuse for failing to secure a copy of the textbook in a timely manner. Quiz deadlines will not be extended for students who are without books.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES

UNIT QUIZZES

During the semester you will take 10 unit quizzes, one at the end of each unit. There is no comprehensive final. There are three quiz deadlines: February 13th at noon (Quizzes 1, 2 & 3), March 20th at noon (Quizzes 4, 5 & 6), and May 1st at noon (Quizzes 7, 8, 9 & 10). All ten quizzes are available to students from the beginning of the semester and can be taken at any time before the deadlines, including in the middle of the night or on weekends. Therefore, if you would like, you may take all ten quizzes in the first few weeks of the semester and be done with the class. While it is permissible to wait until the deadline day to take the assigned quizzes, this is not advisable. Especially for quizzes 3 and 5 (traditionally the quizzes with the lowest scores), please allow at least 3 days to prepare for each quiz.

You will access the quizzes from the 'Quizzes' link in the Course menu on the left side of the screen. Unit quizzes are open book and open note. Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice and/or true/false questions and you will have 35 minutes to complete each quiz. Should you exceed the time limit, there will be a reduction in your quiz grade. Please note that all quizzes are due by noon on their deadline days. Should you wait until 11:50 am to begin a quiz, you will only have ten minutes in which to take that quiz, not 35 minutes. Please ask if you have any questions about this.

Before you begin a quiz, be sure that you will have a sufficient amount of uninterrupted time in which to complete it. Once you begin a quiz, you must answer each question, save each answer, and submit the quiz. No second entries to any quiz will be allowed.

It is your responsibility to maintain access to a computer with reliable internet connection throughout the semester. If internet connection on your home or work computer is lost, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to use another computer. Technical difficulties are not a valid excuse for failing to submit a quiz by the deadline.

After you complete each unit quiz, you will see your score immediately. For security reasons, you will not be able to view the quiz questions once you have submitted your answers. If this will be a problem for you, you should reconsider your decision to take SOCI 3328.

Make-up quiz Policy

A limited number of make-up quizzes will be allowed in cases of documentable medical or family crises, if the student contacts me within two days of missing a quiz deadline.

Studying for Quizzes

A study guide is included with each unit except the last. You can find the study guide at the conclusion of the online notes for each unit in the Online Notes and Analysis Journals section (except for Unit 10, which has no study guide). Thoroughly preparing the study guide is the best and most complete way to prepare for unit quizzes. Especially for the longer units, the study guide is long and will be time-consuming to complete. However, the experience of students in prior semesters has shown that completion of the study guide significantly improves quiz performance. If you have difficulties with the study guide or would like specific suggestions for how to study, contact your instructor.

In addition to the more comprehensive review guide included for each unit, practice quizzes are provided as a brief warm-up and indication of the kind of questions you can expect on the unit quizzes. However, these sample questions are not intended as a comprehensive review and will not cover all of the material for each quiz. Scores on the practice quizzes will neither be tracked nor recorded for use in grade computations, but you will have immediate feedback on the correct answers and can review the questions you missed. By contrast, on regular quizzes you get one try and are given only your scores, with no further comment on the material. Links to the practice quizzes can be found at the bottom of the Course Materials page for each unit.

Study tips

1. Every semester, students ask me if they have to buy the book for this class. My answer is always the same – only if you want to pass the course. I know that textbooks are expensive and students' reading loads are heavy. However, the one book for this course costs less than \$40 and if you manage your time well, you should not have to read more than 30 pages a week.
2. For college courses, the general expectation is that students will spend 3 hours a week in class and 9 hours outside of class studying and preparing for class, for a total weekly investment of 12 hours per class. The expectations for online classes are no different. Therefore, this class has been designed with the assumption that students are spending *at least* six hours every week (while some students will require more time) reading, taking notes, and preparing for quizzes. While some of you may do well in the class with only a couple of hours of preparation each week, this is not the norm. Many of you may be taking 12 hours of course work, working full-time, be single parents, or have other outrageous demands on your time and may not be able to devote more than a couple of hours each week to this class. If this is the case, you may want to consider being OK with the possibility of earning a C or D for the class.
3. Each unit (except unit 10) has a study guide. Writing out thorough answers to each question on the study guide is the best way to prepare for quizzes. Quiz questions ask for very specific information and exact statistics, so the more detail you provide on your study guide, the more help it will be to you on your quiz. I suggest that as you fill

in your answers on the study guide, note the page number in the book or the section in the online notes where you found the information so that you can refer back to the information quickly during a quiz.

4. The aim of this course is not to force students to memorize a string of facts related to marital and sexual lifestyles, but to encourage students to use the information learned to analyze events in the world around them. Analysis involves critical thinking. Unit quizzes will assess the extent to which you can think critically about the information presented in the course. One good way to practice these analytical skills is to answer the analysis questions for each unit before submitting the quiz.

5. The material presented in this course may conflict with observations you have had about relationships. The research presented in this course involved hundreds and thousands of participants, and is not referring to you, your family or your friends. Therefore, answer quiz questions based on material from the course, not your own personal experiences. See the discussion of the sociological imagination in Unit 1 or contact me if you are unsure of the difference.

DISCUSSION JOURNALS

You may submit one analysis journal per quiz period (note: a quiz period is not the same as a unit) to earn extra credit points. The deadline for each quiz period's journal is the same as the quiz deadlines. You will find the journal assignments on the Online Notes and Analysis Journals page. You may choose to submit a journal posting for more than one unit during a quiz period, but only the first one you post in a Quiz Period will be eligible for extra credit. I will do my best to grade your discussion journals within one week of their submission. You will receive written feedback in response to your postings, and you will see the number of extra credit points you have earned on your online My Grades page. Please note that discussion journals are optional, so your grade will not be hurt if you do not submit any journal postings.

Each analysis posting will be worth up to 5 points (equivalent to 5 quiz question), depending on quality. Late analysis postings will not be graded for any reason. One important aspect of class discussion in this course is that you begin to refine your understanding of the difference between analysis and opinion, which will be reflected in how well you are able to direct your comments to the appropriate discussion.

Guidelines for writing analysis journals: In your journal postings, prepare by completing the assigned readings. If you could have written your posting without having read the material for the class, then your answer is most probably not what I am looking for, so your score will not be very high. Be brief. I am only looking for one or two paragraphs at most, and some questions can be answered in a few sentences. Stay on topic – answer all of the assigned question (some questions have more than one part), but only give analysis, not your opinion. Analysis responses should involve conceptual clarification. You are expected to think about the scholarly implications of certain facts or ideas encountered in the associated chapter. Proofread your postings for spelling and grammatical accuracy as well as quality of content. SOCI 3328 is an upper-level course and your writing will be evaluated accordingly. Should you have any questions about what is expected of you, let me know.

OTHER EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the three discussion journal discussed above, there are two other opportunities to earn extra credit points in SOCI 3328. First, you may take the optional syllabus quiz during the first week of class. The syllabus quiz is a very simple quiz that asks you questions that can be answered after a thorough reading of this syllabus. You can access the syllabus quiz from the 'Quizzes' link in the Course Menu. The syllabus quiz is due on January 23rd at noon. Second, you may complete the opinion survey (available from the bottom of the Online Notes page). The opinion survey is due by noon on February 27th. The syllabus quiz is worth up to 5 extra credit points, depending on how many questions you answer correctly (equivalent to 5 quiz questions), and completion of the opinion survey receives an automatic 3 extra credit points (equivalent to 3 quiz questions). **Extra credit assignments are not accepted late for any reason, and under no circumstances will other extra credit opportunities will be offered.**

OPINION DISCUSSION POSTINGS

Each unit has a list of suggestion opinion discussion topics. Opinion postings are not required, and are not eligible for extra credit points. Opinion responses are the appropriate place to include your own beliefs, attitudes,

opinions and reactions to particular topics. The purpose of the Opinion boards is to give course participants an opportunity to examine their own attitudes and to gain greater understanding of the variety of opinions held by different individuals, and why. To access the opinion discussion boards, click on "Opinion Discussions" from the Course Menu on the left hand navigation menu. You will find a separate Opinion folder for each unit. Please post in the appropriate folder.

COURSE GRADING

Final grades will be based on ten required quizzes, each worth 10% of your final grade, and any points earned from assigned extra credit opportunities. Each quiz is worth 25 points and each analysis is worth up to 5 points, depending on quality of response. Your final grade will be scored using the following criteria:

- A: 225+ points
- B: 200-224 points
- C: 175-199 points
- D: 150-174 points
- F: below 150 points

Remember, extra credit Analysis postings will be graded with respect to your ability to demonstrate your familiarity with the course content as presented in the text and online as well as originality and evidence of critical thinking in applying sociological concepts. Please review the distinction between Analysis and Opinion. The most common error is to submit an analysis that consists primarily of personal opinions. Instead, aim for a scholarly response that answers all parts of the questions being asked.

To access your quiz and journal scores, click on 'Grades' from the left hand navigation menu. I will update this page with your current average after the first two quiz periods to keep you informed about your progress in the class, and will post your final grade to your Grades page as soon as I have calculated it. Should you have any questions or concerns about your grade between emails, feel free to get in touch with me.

GETTING HELP

Contacting Me

You can contact me via email at sdutoit@uta.edu. I strive for a 12-hour turnaround time on emails, but will guarantee an answer every email within 48 hours, handling priority issues first. If I need to get in touch with you, I will use the email address that you have registered with the MyMav system. I look forward to interacting with you via the discussion and email and seeing what you have to say regarding what you are learning about marital and sexual lifestyles in the United States!

Technical Help

Questions related to course content should be addressed to me via email. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please contact the Center for Distance Education by email at support@distance.uta.edu or by phone at 817.272.7181 or 888.UTA.DIST toll free (8am until 5pm, Monday through Friday). They will assist you in trouble shooting your difficulty and will direct you in the next step to take to resolve the problem. The Help Desk will also answer technical questions. Email helpdesk@uta.edu or phone 817.272.2208. The Help Desk maintains the same hours as the Central Library. It is normally open Monday-Thursday, 7am until midnight, Friday, 7am until 8pm, Saturday, 9am-8pm, and Sunday, 9am-midnight.

Technical difficulties are not a valid excuse for not completing the course on schedule. While technical difficulties are rare, they do occur. Plan your work schedule to allow you sufficient time to complete all course requirements.

Should you find your course connection repeatedly lost or interrupted, you will need to quickly find a more secure connection. Local students can make use of UTA facilities at campus computer labs; distant students are urged to make use of their own local colleges or public libraries to re-establish their course access.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

After you have finished all course requirements, please complete the confidential, online course evaluation form. A link to the evaluation will be emailed to you near the end of the semester. Please take the time to provide this important feedback on your educational experience. Student evaluations for the course are compiled and summarized by the distance education server administrator and reported to me after grades are submitted. During the semester, students are encouraged to share individual comments with me as well.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

DROP POLICY

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to complete the course after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non participation.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

UTA is committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Preparation	Assignment	Due
January 20 – January 23	Review syllabus	Extra credit syllabus quiz (optional)	1/23 noon
	Buy or access readings		
Quiz Period #1			
January 20 – February 13	Text: Introduction chapter	Unit 1 Quiz	2/13 noon
	Online: Unit 1 Notes	Unit 1 discussion posting*	2/13 noon
	Text: Chapter 1	Unit 2 Quiz	2/13 noon
	Online: Unit 2 Notes	Unit 2 discussion posting*	2/13 noon
	Text: Chapter 2	Unit 3 Quiz	2/13 noon
	Online: Unit 3 Notes	Unit 3 discussion posting*	2/13 noon
Quiz Period #2			
February 14 – March 20		Opinion Survey**	2/27 noon
	Text: Chapter 3	Unit 4 Quiz	3/20 noon
	Online: Unit 4 Notes	Unit 4 discussion posting*	3/20 noon
	Text: Chapter 4	Unit 5 Quiz	3/20 noon
	Online: Unit 5 Notes	Unit 5 discussion posting*	3/20 noon
	Text: Chapter 5	Unit 6 Quiz	3/20 noon
	Online: Unit 6 Notes	Unit 6 discussion posting*	3/20 noon
Quiz Period #3			
March 21 – May 1	Text: Chapter 6	Unit 7 Quiz	5/1 noon
	Online: Unit 7 Notes	Unit 7 discussion posting*	5/1 noon
	Text: Chapter 7	Unit 8 Quiz	5/1 noon
	Online: Unit 8 Notes	Unit 8 discussion posting*	5/1 noon
	Text: Chapter 8	Unit 9 Quiz	5/1 noon
	Online: Unit 9 Notes	Unit 9 Discussion posting*	5/1 noon
	Text: Chapter 9	Unit 10 Quiz	5/1 noon
	Online: Unit 10 Notes	Unit 10 Discussion posting*	5/1 noon
<p>*Discussion postings are not mandatory. You may submit a maximum of three Analysis postings (one per quiz period) by the deadline to receive extra credit points (graded based on quality, not simply completion). Opinion postings do not receive any credit.</p> <p>**The opinion survey is an optional, extra credit assignment.</p>			