

**MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Welcomes You to SOC 213-95**  
**Sociology of the Family**  
**3 Credit Hours/3 Contact Hours**  
**Fall 2007**

**Course Description**

This course covers the institution of the family and other intimate relationships. Emphasis is placed on mate selection, gender roles, sexuality, communication, power and conflict, parenthood, diverse lifestyles, divorce and remarriage, and economic issues. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze the family as a social institution and the social forces, which influence its development and change. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.* The course transfers as a general education core requirement.

**Prerequisites:** RED 090

**Corequisites:** None

**Instructor Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Bethaney Weber</b>
<b>Office Location:</b>	<b>Avery County High School</b>
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	<b>828-260-5417</b>
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	<b>bweber@mayland.edu</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>By appointment</b>

**Course Information**

This class is an internet course. While there are no official prerequisites, other than RED 090, for this course there are some considerations that each student must make. The online method of course delivery is different from the classroom environment and requires the following:

**Self Discipline:** In a typical seated classroom environment the students have the opportunity to question the instructor or rely on the instructor to explain material. With internet courses the instructor remains a valuable resource; however, the students must become proactive in their learning due to the absence of day-to-day instruction by the instructor. In other words, students must be self-disciplined in order to be successful. **Time management and organizational skills are a must in order to excel.** Because there is no official class time, students can easily postpone work in order to have "enough time to do it correctly." This can quickly become problematic. Due to the nature of the course, students are required to do a great deal of internet searching and reading. Both can be time consuming. Often, the time required is not exactly known beforehand (e.g. sometimes it takes a little longer to read and comprehend a chapter/article than students think). It does not take long for the work to form into a seemingly insurmountable task. For students that this happens to, they often feel overwhelmed and decide they are not able to satisfactorily complete the work. Two outcomes result: the student withdraws from the course or he/she receives a failing grade.

**Critical Reading:** A characteristic of online course delivery is the amount of reading required. Many students have become accustomed to instructors explaining the material in traditional classroom settings. This has resulted in students not reading as much or not paying as much attention to what they read. Unlike this typical situation in seated classrooms, in an online course students must keep up with reading assignments and comprehend what they read.

**Computer Skills:** To do well in this course it is necessary that students have certain computer and internet skills.

Students should be familiar with the following:

- experience with email and LEO (including attaching documents)
- using search engines
- understanding URLs and web addresses
- bookmarking pages
- saving web pages
- familiarity with [netiquette](#)
- reading large amounts of text on screen

**Required Text(s):** Marriages & Families: Changes, Choices and Constraints  
6<sup>th</sup> Edition by Nijole V. Benokraitis

**Supplemental Reading:** Articles relevant to course topics will be posted by the instructor, and will therefore become required readings.

### **Course Objectives/Competencies:**

Upon completion of this course, the student should have:

1. Develop an understanding of the functions of the family in society.
2. Analyze the family institution through sociological theories.
3. Understand the different forms families may take.
4. Examine the development and changes in the family institution due to social forces.
5. Understand the diversity of families in the United States.
6. Recognize the social, economic, and technological changes throughout U.S. history that have affected how families are formed and how they function.
7. Analyze the effects of gender, love, sex, singlehood, marriage, divorce, remarriage, parenting, family violence, and aging on family members.

**Mayland Community College's General Education core courses will provide the essential body of knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society. Graduates of all degree programs at Mayland Community College will have completed the general education core. That core encompasses the essential knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society.**

**Upon completion of the general education core, students will be able to demonstrate the following:**

1. Effective communication in speaking and listening situations needed for college, personal and work successes
2. Effective communication in writing and reading situations needed for college, personal and work successes
3. Logical, critical, and creative thinking to evaluate evidence and reach a conclusion
4. Application of basic computer skills
5. Application of fundamental math skills
6. Basic awareness of the diversity of various world groups from both historical and contemporary contexts

**For each of the following goals of Sociology of the Family, the applicable General Education Learning Competencies are noted. To be successful in this course, you will need to:**

- Be an active participant in online class discussions regarding topics relevant to family (1 and 2).

- Apply critical thinking skills to material presented in the textbook, notes, activities, and discussions (1, 2, and 3).
- Work independently to successfully complete written assignments related to material from the course (1, 2, and 6).
- Develop an understanding of cultural, racial, and ethnic differences in attitudes and practices with regards to family (6).

**Attendance Policy/Tardiness/Make-Up Work:**

Although this is an “online” course, it is important that students “attend” class on a regular basis. If students do not have contact with me and do not attend class (i.e. complete assignments) for a consecutive two-week period, they will be dropped from the class.

Any of the activities for this course will count as attendance time whether or not students have direct contact with me. For example, posting threads on message boards will count as attendance. I will track attendance electronically. Any difficulties with the attendance policy should be discussed with me. There will be no excused absences under this policy. There is no maximum limit for attendance (i.e. how much time is spent on LEO).

**As stated, I expect all students to participate on the message board at least twice a week. This participation must entail at least two paragraphs (4 per week) of original critical thought applied to the topic of discussion. This will count as your attendance & participation grade, which is worth 15% of your final grade.**

Note: If a student decides to drop this course he/she must officially withdraw through Student Records. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course, not the instructor's.

**Grading Criteria/Tests/Projects:**

<b>3 Exams.....</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>2 Papers.....</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>E-Journal Entries.....</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Attendance and Participation.....</b>	<b>15%</b>

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 93-100**
- B = 85-92**
- C = 77-84**
- D = 70-76**
- F = 0-69**

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit will be available throughout the semester as all three exams will have extra credit questions, and other opportunities may become available as the semester progresses.

**Inclement Weather Procedures:**

Please review the Inclement Weather Policy in the Mayland Community College Catalog. In the case of bad weather, use your best judgment and remember that personal safety must come first. Call me in advance if weather prevents you from coming to class. While calling may not excuse the absence, it allows me to pass along information about class assignments. In the event of a delay schedule, this class will meet from 3:15-4:15pm.

**Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:**

Honesty and integrity with respect to academic work is expected in this and all classes at Mayland Community College. As outlined in the MCC Student Code of Conduct, any form of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. While it is often easy to cheat in an online course, students are expected

to complete their assignments with academic integrity and honesty. Should the instructor discover academic dishonest behavior in any form (e.g. cheating on exams, plagiarism, etc.) by a student, he/she will receive a zero on the exam/assignment in question, may fail the course, or may be expelled/suspended from the institution. For a description of acts considered to be violations of the code of conduct, refer to the MCC Code of Conduct in the student handbook and college catalog.

**Grading:** Assignments will be graded as soon as possible and grades will be posted in the online gradebook (Note: Students will only have access to their grades in the online gradebook, not their classmates). Generally, grades will be posted within one week after the due date for each assignment. I will inform everyone if the posting of grades will be delayed.

**Withdrawal Dates:**

Tuesday September 25, 2007 – End of Unconditional Withdrawal

Thursday November 1, 2007 – End of Conditional Withdrawal

**The following Administrative Withdrawal statement: If a student has not been in contact with the instructor and has not attended class for a consecutive two-week period, an administrative withdrawal will be submitted by the instructor.**

**The following ADA statement: Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.**

**Course Outline/Weekly Topics**

\*As we discussed when we met on August 20, 2007, the reading assignments continue to be structured in the Monday/Wednesday format as a way to help the students stay on track and keep up with the material. Remember, there is no set day of the week for our class. You have the liberty to participate anytime you would like.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Monday 8/20	Introductions, Syllabus and Overview	
Wednesday 8/22	The Changing Family	Read pgs. 1-16
Monday 8/27	The Changing Family	Read pgs. 16-28
Wednesday 8/29	Studying Marriage and Family	Read pgs. 31-55
Monday 9/3	***Labor Day – No Class!***	Enjoy!!!
Wednesday 9/5	The Family in Historical Perspective	Read pgs. 59-81
Monday 9/10	Racial & Ethnic Families	Read pgs. 85-115
Wednesday 9/12	Socialization and Gender Roles	Read pgs. 119-138 ( <i>1st Paper Assigned</i> )
Monday 9/17	Socialization and Gender Roles	Read pgs. 138-152
Wednesday 9/19	Love & Loving	Read pgs. 155-166 ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Exam Available</i> )
Monday 9/24	Love & Loving	Reads pgs. 167-182
Wednesday 9/26	Sexuality	Read pgs. 185-204
Monday 10/1	Sexuality	Read pgs. 205- 220
Wednesday 10/3	***** <b>First Exam Due</b> *****	Study Chapters 1-7!!!
Monday 10/8	** Fall Break - No Class**	Enjoy!!!
Wednesday 10/10	Dating & Mate Selection	Read pgs. 223-254
Monday 10/15	Dating & Mate Selection	*** <b>1<sup>st</sup> Paper Due</b> ***
Wednesday 10/17	Singlehood, Cohabitation, etc.	Read pgs. 257-284
Monday 10/22	Marriage and Communication	Read pgs. 287-300
Wednesday 10/24	Marriage and Communication	Read pgs. 300-317 ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Paper Assigned</i> )
Monday 10/29	Becoming a Parent	Read pgs. 319-348
Wednesday 10/31	Raising Children	Read pgs. 351- 363 ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Exam Available</i> )

Monday 11/5	Raising Children	Read pgs. 364-381
Wednesday 11/7	**** <b>Second Exam Due</b> ****	STUDY Chapters 8-12!!!
Monday 11/12	**Veteran's Day - No Class**	Enjoy!!!
Wednesday 11/14	Balancing Work & Family	Read pgs. 385-417
Monday 11/19	Family Violence	Read pgs. 421-450
Wednesday 11/21	Seperation & Divorce	Read pgs. 453-465
Monday 11/26	Separation & Divorce	Read pgs. 466-481
Wednesday 11/28	Remarriages & Stepfamilies	Read pgs. 485-510
Monday 12/3	Remarriages & Stepfamilies	*** <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Paper Due</b> ***
Wednesday 12/5	Families Later in Life	Read pgs. 513-541
Monday 12/10	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Family	Read pgs. 545-557
Wednesday 12/12	Exam Review	
Monday 12/17	**** <b>Final Exam Due</b> ****	STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!

### Assignments:

- 1. E-Journaling:** Students will be required to submit a one-page reflection journal entry on LEO each week relating that week's course topics with current and/or contemporary societal events. Journal topics will be provided by the instructor by Wednesday each week, and journals must be submitted by the following Monday. *Ten points will be deducted for every day a journal is late.* Entries must contain the vocabulary discussed in class as related to the current sociological topic. Entries will be graded once per week and late entries will not receive full credit. E-Journals will be each be worth 100 points and will account for 20% of your final grade.
- 2. Papers:** Students will be required to write research two papers as assigned. Topics will be assigned by the instructor at least one month prior to the paper's due date. The first paper is due on Monday October 15<sup>th</sup>, and the second paper is due on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Late papers will be subject to point deduction of 5 points for every day the paper is late. Each paper will be worth 10% of your final grade.
- 3. Exams:** Three exams will be given this semester. The exam will be posted one week prior to its due date, and will include a variety of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. Each exam will also include extra credit questions. Questions on the exams will come from the assigned readings (textbook and articles posted by instructor), as well as the instructor's posted notes. Ten points will be deducted for every day an exam is late. Each exam will be worth 100 points, and combined will account for 45% of your final grade.
- 4. Message Board:** Please refer to the bold paragraph in the attendance section above for specifics on this requirement. It will account for 15% of your final grade. I will post a couple of examples of what is expected on the message board by the end of the week in hopes to clarify any questions.

☺ *I look forward to facilitating this internet course, and it is my hope as your instructor that we will all learn from each other this semester! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.*