

Contemporary Marriage and Family Relationships

MFT 360*, Section 1001, Fall 2016

Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Required Texts:

Lamanna, M. A., Riedmann, A., & Stewart, S. (2015). *Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a Diverse Society, 12th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson.

Assigned Readings for MFT 360 are posted on WebCampus.

Course Description:

MFT 360 involves an analysis of historic and contemporary trends in marriage and family relationships in American society. It includes an examination of major family processes through the life cycle, including functional and dysfunctional patterns as well as the family's interactions with individuals and communities. It also includes information on family development and parenting.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand how aspects of marriage and the family are studied.
2. Understand how environmental and social/societal factors influence the development of the family and the relationships within the family.
3. Understand the historic and contemporary developments and issues pertaining to family relationships, including the institution of marriage.
4. Understand and apply various theoretical models to describe and assess couple and familial relationships.
5. Critically examine research and societal, cultural and professional attitudes about couple and familial relationships.
6. Be aware of the strengths as well as areas that may be deserving of further attention in one's own family.
7. Be able to apply knowledge both to personal situations and to public policy.
8. Have some familiarity with the professional literature regarding the study and/or treatment of the couple/family.

General Requirements & Policies:

Learning is a cooperative effort between each individual, the teacher, and the classroom community as a whole. You are expected to attend class each day having read the assigned material, being prepared with comments or questions about the readings. Preparation, discussion, and other class participation are important to both you and your classmates' learning and development.

Students are expected to:

1. Attend class consistently and punctually. If you know you are going to be absent, please inform me at your earliest opportunity. You are responsible for obtaining all materials when you miss a class. Missing class time will have a negative effect on your learning and likely your grade.
2. Complete assignments on time. All writing assignments must be typed 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Please staple papers in upper left corner. No folders, binders, etc. please.

* This course fulfills the UNLV General Education Social Sciences requirement

3. Complete assigned readings prior to class and be prepared to participate respectfully in class discussions with questions and comments about the readings, the information presented in class, and your own ideas.
4. Participate in class discussions. This includes your *respectful* thoughts, comments, and questions regarding the readings and materials presented in class.

Graded Assignments:

In-Class Activities (5 points each)

Attendance in the class is expected. A primary goal of this course is for you to critically evaluate issues relating to marriage and family relations and to consider their implications for you. Therefore, many class periods will include your participation through various in-class activities. To receive credit for these you **must** be in attendance at the time of the activity. No exceptions.

Measurement Procedure: Students will be evaluated on their participation and successful completion of the assigned activity.

Thinking and Writing Assignments (TWA) (20 points each)

Part of your college education should include the development of critical thinking and writing skills. The writing assignments are expected to be of high quality, including well-thought out ideas, clear expression of these ideas, and correct grammar and spelling. TWAs must be **typed** (single-spaced) and are due at the **beginning** of class on the day specified in the Class Calendar. Further instructions will be given in class and on WebCampus.

Measurement Procedure: TWAs will be graded on how well students demonstrate that they have carefully read the assignment (if applicable), thought about, and critically evaluated the subject matter. Writing quality will also be assessed (see expectations above).

Project (25 points): Complete **one** of the marriage/family projects listed on WebCampus.

Exams (100 points each)

There will be **three** exams given in the course. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, true/false questions, and short-answer/essay questions.

Measurement Procedure: Students will be evaluated on the degree to which they demonstrate understanding of the ideas presented in the *assigned readings* and in *class discussions*.

Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be satisfied through classroom lectures.

Objectives 1, 2, 4, and 5 will be satisfied through small group discussions.

Objectives 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8 will be satisfied through written assignments.

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is [Susie Skarl](#). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Policy for late assignments & unexcused absences:

Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per day late. Unexcused absences on exam days and in-class assignments cannot be made up and will result in a score of zero (0) for the exam or assignment. Students must provide documented evidence of an approved excused absence.

Cell Phones: Please turn off cell phones during class, unless you have made arrangements with the instructor prior to the class period.

Grading:

Students will be graded according to their performance on exams, assignments, and class attendance/participation. Grades will be calculated by a percentage of points earned in relation to the total points possible in the course. Grades will be based on the following percentages (+ and – will be given):

93 – 100 = A	73 – 76.9 = C
90 – 92.9 = A-	70 – 72.9 = C-
87 – 89.9 = B+	67 – 69.9 = D+
83 – 86.9 = B	63 – 66.9 = D
80 – 82.9 = B-	60 – 62.9 = D-
77 – 79.9 = C+	0 – 59.9 = F

Additional Policies:

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Copyright: Copyright laws and Fair Use policies protect the rights of those who have produced the material. Whether it be a book, a monograph, a photograph, a sound recording or an Internet web page, the owner/creator of that work has the right to be protected under the laws of copyright and fair use. Likewise, your work is protected under the law. Just as you cannot use copyrighted material without permission, somebody else cannot use your copyrighted material without your permission. The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help you familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright web page at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>

Cell Phones & Pagers: Please turn off cell phones and pagers during class, unless you have made arrangements with the instructor prior to the class period.

Audio & Video Recording: Students must obtain permission of the faculty member before recording any lecture. Recording of class lecture or discussion without express permission or knowledge is prohibited.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss

what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

Appointments may be made in person or by calling [702-895-3908](tel:702-895-3908). The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Note: This syllabus is prepared as a guideline for the course. It is *not* a contract between the professor and student, and the professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as necessary (i.e., extend or limit discussion on a topic, add additional assignments or readings, subtract assignments or readings, etc.). Students will be notified promptly of any changes.

MFT 360 Class Calendar:

Date	Topic	Readings and Assignments Due
8/29	Introduction (Review Syllabus)	Discussion: <i>Why Study Marriage and Families?</i>
8/31	Making Choices in a Changing Society	Ch 1
9/5	<i>Labor Day Recess</i>	<i>No Class</i>
9/7	Making Choices	Ch 1
9/12	Exploring Relationships and Families	Ch 2
9/14	Exploring Relationships and Families	Ch 2; TWA #1 due (see WebCampus)
9/19	Our Gendered Identities	Ch 3
9/21	Our Sexual Selves	Ch 4
9/26	Love and Choosing a Life Partner	Ch 5; TWA #2 due (see WebCampus)
9/28	Love and Choosing a Life Partner	Ch 5
10/3	Love and Choosing a Life Partner; <i>Exam 1 Review</i>	Ch 5
10/5	<u>Exam 1</u>	Lamanna & Riedman Ch 1-5, TWA #1 and class discussions.
10/10	Living Alone, Cohabiting, Same-Sex Unions, and Other Intimate Relationships	Ch 6
10/12	Marriage: From Social Institution to Private Relationship	Ch 7; TWA #3 due (see WebCampus)
10/17	Marriage (continued)	Ch 7
10/19	Outside assignment due to presidential debate	TBA
10/24	Deciding about Parenthood	Ch 8
10/26	Deciding about Parenthood (continued)	Ch 8
10/31	Raising Children in a Diverse Society	Ch 9; TWA #4 Due (see WebCampus)
11/2	Raising Children (continued)	Ch 9
11/7	Work and Family; <i>Exam 2 Review</i>	Ch 10
11/9	<u>Exam 2</u>	Lamanna & Riedman Ch 6-10, TWA #2-4, and class discussions.
11/14	Communication in Marriage and Families	Ch 11
11/16	Communication in Marriage and Families (cont.)	Ch 11
11/21	Power and Violence in Families	Ch 12; TWA #5 Due (see WebCampus)
11/23	Family Stress, Crisis, and Resilience	Ch 13
11/28	Divorce and Relationship Dissolution	Ch 14
11/30	Divorce (continued)	Ch 14
12/5	Remarriage and Stepfamilies (cont.)	Ch 15; Projects due (see WebCampus)
12/7	Remarriage and Stepfamilies; <i>Exam 3 Review</i>	Ch 15
12/14	Final Exam: Wednesday, December 14, <u>8:00-10:00am</u>	Lamanna & Riedman Ch 11-15, TWA #5, and class discussions.