

SOCIOLOGY 77.247

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

FALL 2001

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333 Isbister Building Office hours by appointment

Fall Section L01 214 Tier

Spring Section L02 403 Tier

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main purpose of the course is to provide basic sociological information on mate selection, marital interaction, adjustment, changing roles of wives and husbands, with special emphasis on division of labour, power relations and sexual adjustment in contemporary Western marriages and across cultures.

REQUIRED BOOK

Lyle Larson, J. Walter Goltz, and Brenda Munro, *Families in Canada - Social Contexts, Continuities and Changes*. 2nd Edition.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The procedures which will be used to evaluate the student's performance are four tests with the following weights: first test=20%, second test=30%, third test=30% and the last test=20%. Each test will be held in class. *The tests are not cumulative.* There will be a choice of all multiple-choice, all essay and a combination of multiple-choice and essay questions tests. The tests will be based on both readings and lectures. A term paper in lieu of the second *or* the third test may be chosen. However, the topic, outline, and bibliography for the paper must be discussed with the instructor and agreed upon. To this end, a form must be filled and returned on the date noted and is available on request. This form will have specific guidelines and deadlines.

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Students should acquaint themselves with the University Policy on "Plagiarism and Cheating" and "Examination Impersonation." For details see the section on "General Academic Regulations and Policy," on page 26, Sections 7.1 and 7.2 in the **University of Manitoba Under Graduate Calendar, 2001-2002**
2. **Senate Policy #1307** requires a "a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performances in all sections." Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.
3. Disruptions due to talking or early departures from the class room are inappropriate as they are inconsiderate and disrespectful of the needs and the rights of others in the class. Repeated talking loud etc., may result in debarment from the course. Using cell phones during the class is strictly prohibited.
4. Although lectures are designed to touch upon the issues raised in the text, they do not repeat point by point what is in the text. If you have difficulty in understanding the textual material, please see me so that I can provide you some assistance in this respect.

5. Those who use materials from Internet for their term papers must acknowledge in the same way as if the source is an article or book.

6. I am usually available in my office (except when I am in class) during the week. However, if you need to discuss course materials, please make an appointment.

7. Dates for the tests will be announced at least two weeks in advance. The last test will be on the last working day, December 4, 2001

8. **Make-Up Tests. No make-up test unless for medical reasons supported by a doctor's certificate.**

9. The grades will not be marked on a curve. Instead, the following distribution will apply to all four tests :% 0-39 F; 40-49 D; 50-59 C; 60-69 C+; 70-74 B; 75-79 B+; 80-89 A; 90+ A+

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTORY LECTURES: CONCEPTS AND PERSPECTIVES

1. Sociological study of marriage and other forms of intimate relationships
 - 1a. Social and demographic contexts of marriage
 - 1b. Changing definitions of marriage
 - 1c. Choices in relationships

1d. Demographic aspects of marriage and other forms of relationships in Canada

1e. Values governing marriage: conflict/ambiguity

--Religious and traditional views vs individualism, egalitarianism, etc.

READINGS: Chapter 1 and Chapter 4, pp. 84-91

First Test

II. *SELECTION OF INTIMATE PARTNERS*

2. Perspectives on the Selection of Partners

2a. Arranged vs. love-marriages: Social Structural Implications

William J. Goode's hypothesis.

2b. The place of romantic love and other considerations

---The nature of love: some views

---The function of romantic love: views of Sydney Greenfield

---Elements of romantic love

READINGS: Chapter 6

- Formation of Intimate Relationships

3a. Theories on the selection of partners

3b. Historical account of dating

3c. Traditional and contemporary patterns of dating: a feminist critique of dating practices.

3d. Violence in Dating Relations

READINGS: Chapter 6

4. Sexuality in Intimate Relationships

4a. Premarital Sexuality

Value-system in premarital sex.

Ira Reiss' and Morton Hunt's researches

Canadian data on premarital sex

4b. Canadian Sexual Attitudes and Behaviour

READINGS: Chapter 7

III. ASPECTS OF MARRIAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF RELATIONSHIPS

5. Legal Aspects of Marriage and Common Law Unions

5a. Marriage as a contract

5b. Customs and conventions dealing with (i) relationship between spouses, (ii) sexual rights and (iii) children

5c. Property rights and marriage: Canadian example - comparative illustrations

READINGS. Chapter 8

Second Test

6. Profiles of Marital and other forms of Relationships

6a. Biological and sociological determinants of marital relationships

6b. Jessie Bernard - His & Her Marriage

6c. Cuber & Haroff - Five Relationships

6d. Childfree Marriages

6e. Common Law Unions

READINGS: Lectures Only

7. Power, Adjustment, Quality in Relationships

8a. Power and Authority

8b. Marital Quality and Satisfaction

READINGS: Chapter 9

- Conflict and Violence in Relationships

8.1. Violence in the Family: a perspective

8.2. Violence against spouses

8.3. Violence against children

8.4. Other forms of violence

8.5. Summary and conclusions

READINGS: Chapter 14

Third Test

IV. DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE

9. Some Perspectives on Divorce

9a. Divorce from a religious and historical perspective

9b. Sociological Perspectives on Divorce

9c. Canadian Divorce Law

9d. Divorce Rate in Canada

10. Factors in Divorce

10a. Sociological

10b. Psychological

10c. Humanistic

11. Remarriage

READINGS: Chapter 13

13. Concluding lecture

Fourth Test