

The University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology  
2003-2004R

**SOCIOLOGY 077.247**  
**COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE**  
(3 credit hours)

Section L01 (Slot 5) 10:00am to 11:15am in 214 Tier

**FALL 2003**

**Dr. G. N. Ramu**  
333 Isbister Building  
e-mail: [ramu@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:ramu@cc.umanitoba.ca)

Phone: 474-9656  
Office hours by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*The Calendar description of the course:* The main purpose of the course is to provide basic sociological information on choice of partners, 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**

Riedman, Agnes, Mary Ann Lamana, and Adie Nelson, *Marriages and Families - Canadian Edition. 2002-3*

**METHOD OF EVALUATION**

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. The *tentative* dates are specified in the course outline.

**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 28, Section 4.2.8 and on page 29 section 7.1 in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar, 2003-2004. In addition to the University of Manitoba policies, the Faculty of Arts stipulates Penalties for Plagiarism as follows:

*The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit the student work that is suspected of being plagiarised to Internet sited designated to detect plagiarism.*

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. On this matter, please see Section 2 (Inappropriate and Disruptive Student Behaviour) on page 37 in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar, 2003-2004.
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. 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.
6. Make-Up Tests. No make-up test unless for medical reasons supported by a doctor's certificate.
7. 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+.
8. The last date for withdrawal without academic penalty is November 12, 2003.

**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.

**NO READINGS: LECTURES ONLY**

**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 4**

<i>First Test - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup></i>
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- 3. Formation of Intimate Relationships**
  - 3a. Theories on the selection of partners**
  - 3b. Courtship in a Free-Choice Society**
    - Historical account of dating
    - Traditional and contemporary patterns of dating: a feminist critique of dating practices.
  - 3c. Violence in Dating Relations**

**READINGS: Chapter 7**

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 5**

***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**

**NO READINGS : Lectures only**

<i>Second Test – October 30<sup>th</sup> .</i>
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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**
  - 6f. **Gay and Lesbian Unions**

**READINGS: Chapter 8**

7. **Communication, Conflict-Management, and Violence in Relationships**
  - 7.1. **Communication and Conflict in marital life**
  - 7.2. **Violence in the Family: a perspective**
    - Violence against spouses
    - Violence against children
    - Other forms of violence
  - 7.3. **Summary and conclusions**

**READINGS: Chapter 9**

8. **Power, Adjustment, Quality in Relationships**
  - 8a. **Power and Authority**
  - 8b. **Marital Quality and Satisfaction**

**READINGS: Chapter 10**

<i>Third Test – November 21<sup>st</sup></i>
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#### **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: Chapters 14 and 15**

13. **Concluding lecture**

<i>Last Test – December 4<sup>th</sup></i>
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