

The University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology  
2006-2007R

**SOCIOLOGY SOC 2470**  
**COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE**  
(3 Credit Hours)  
Section A01 (Slot 9) 301 Tier

FALL 2006

**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

### REQUIRED TEXT

Riedman, Agnes, Mary Ann Lamana, and Adie Nelson, *Marriages and Families - Canadian Edition*. 2002-03

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*The Calendar description of the course:* The main purpose of the course is to provide basic sociological information on the choice of partners, interaction, and adjustment between partners, changing roles of partners, with special emphasis on division of labour, power relations and sexual adjustment in contemporary Western relationships including marriages.

### 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. Voluntary withdrawal deadline: November 15, 2006.** Students will have the grades on their first test by this deadline. **Other than this, *in accordance with a Departmental guideline, this course will not provide further written evaluative feedback prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline.*** However, the instructor will be available to discuss the results of the first test with students so as to enable them to do better in the next text.

**2. On the issue of Academic Integrity:** Students should acquaint themselves with the University Policy on ‘Personation at Examinations (section 4.2.8) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.*

**3. Disruptions due to talking or early departures from the class room or late arrivals are inappropriate because they are especially distracting in a class of this size. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students in this course should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from this course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early or arrive late should inform the Instructor ahead of time either through email or by personal communication ahead of time. On this matter, please see the Section on Inappropriate and Disruptive Student Behaviour) in the *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar.***

**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; 90-100 A+.**

**8. Your cellphone must be turned off while you are in class. However, for reasons of childcare or other family emergencies if you have to keep it on, you must have it on vibrator, not ring, mode. This code will be strictly enforced.**

**9. Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, who require aid or other support) should identify themselves to the Instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable arrangements. Those who seek assistance through Disability services will be served according to the schedule set by the Services personnel.**

## 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

*First Test - Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

**[20 Percent of the total course grade]**

- 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**

**3d. Emerging methods of choosing a Partner: Dating Services, Internet Dating.**

**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**

**4c. Emerging Patterns of Sexual Relations in Contemporary Canada**

**READINGS: Chapter 5**

***III. ASPECTS OF MARRIAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF RELATIONSHIPS***

**5. Profiles of Marital and other forms of Relationships**

**5a. Biological and sociological determinants of marital relationships**

**5b. Jessie Bernard - His & Her Marriage**

**5c. Cuber & Haroff - Five Relationships**

**5d. Childfree Marriages**

**5e. Common Law Unions**

**5f. Same Sex Unions**

**READINGS: Chapter 8**

***Second Test – October 31<sup>st</sup>***

**(30 percent of the total grade of the course)**

**6. Communication, Conflict-Management, and Violence in Relationships**

**6.1. Communication and Conflict in marital life**

**6.2. Violence in relationships: a perspective**

**– Violence against spouses**

**– Violence against children**

**– Other forms of violence**

**6.3. Summary and conclusions**

**READINGS: Chapter 10**

7. **Power, Adjustment, Quality in Relationships**
  - 7a. **Power and Authority**
  - 7b. **Marital Quality and Satisfaction**

**READINGS: Chapter 9**

***Third Test – November 21<sup>st</sup>***  
**[30 Percent of the total course grade]**

**IV. *DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE***

8. **Some Perspectives on Divorce**
  - 8a. **Divorce from a religious and historical perspective**
  - 8b. **Sociological Perspectives on Divorce**
  - 8c. **Canadian Divorce Law**
  - 8d. **Divorce Rate in Canada**
  - 8e. **Divorce among Same Sex Couples**
  - 8f. **Break up of Common Law Unions**
9. **Factors in Divorce**
  - 9a. **Sociological**
  - 9b. **Psychological**
  - 9c. **Humanistic**
10. **Remarriage**

**READINGS: Chapters 14 and 15**

11. **Concluding lecture**

***Last Test – December 5<sup>th</sup>***  
**[20 Percent of the total course grade]**