

The University of Manitoba
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
2007-2008

SOC.2470
(3 Credit Hours)

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE
Section A01 (Slot 9) 11:30am to 12:45pm in 301 Tier

Fall 2007

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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, 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. However, in addition to these topics, the course proposes to examine issues such as abuse and violence in marital relations, and divorce and remarriage.

REQUIRED BOOKS

David Cheal, *Canadian Families Today – New Perspectives*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Mary Kay DeGenova, *Intimate Relationships, Marriages and Families*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 2007.

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. A Voluntary withdrawal deadline: November 14, 2007. 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.*

2. Since this course has multiple sections, the following rule is in force as per the University of Manitoba Senate Policy # 1307. 2. This policy requires “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. On the issue of Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University Policy on ‘Personation at Examinations (section 4.2.8 on page 27 of the Undergraduate Calendar) and “Plagiarism and Cheating” (section 7.1 on page 28 of 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 an Internet site designated to detect plagiarism.

4. 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* (page 23).

5. 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. The main purpose of lectures is to provide additional and more recent information on each of the listed in the course outline.

If you have difficulty in understanding the textual material, please see me so that I can provide you some assistance in this respect.

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. Make-up Tests. No Make-up tests unless for medical reasons supported by a doctor's certificate.

8. 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+.

9. Your cell phone 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 on vibrator, not ring, mode. This code will be strictly enforced.

10. Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, who require aids or other supports) 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 suitably accommodated.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. *INTRODUCTORY LECTURES: CONCEPTS AND PERSPECTIVES*

- 1. Sociological Study of Marriage and Other Forms of Intimate relationships**
 - 1a. Social Contexts of Marriage in Transition**
 - 1b. Changing Patterns of Marriage**
 - Burgess' notion of from Institution to Companionship**
 - Patriarchal to Democratic Model (from single-career to dual-career marriages)**
 - 1c. Choices in Interpersonal Intimate Relationships**
 - 1d. Demographic aspects of marriage and other forms of relationships in North America**
 - 1e. Transition in Values Governing Marriage and Other forms of Relationships: Religious and Traditional Views vs Modern Secular Views and Demands.**

Reading : DeGenova, Chapter 1 (for an overview).
Most of the specific issues noted above will be covered only by lectures.

II. SELECTION OF INTIMATE PARTNERS

- 2. Some Perspectives on the Selection of Partners**
 - 2a. Arranged vs. love-marriages: Social and Structural Implications as noted by William J. Goode.**
 - 2b. The Place of Romantic Love and Other Considerations**
 - The Nature of Love: Some Views**
 - Types of Love**
 - Three Perspectives on Romantic Love**
 - Sydney Greenfield’s ‘Romantic Love Syndrome**
 - Robert Sternberg’s ‘Triangular Conception of Romantic Love.’**
 - Ira Reiss’ ‘Wheel Theory of Romantic Love.’**
 - 2c. – Feminist Critique of Romantic Love**

Readings: Cheal, Chapter 3
DeGenova, Chapter 6

First Test – October 4th
(20 percent of the total grade of the course)

- 3. Formation of Intimate Relationships**
 - 3a. The Selection of Partners: Some Theories**
 - 3b. Courtship in a Free-Choice Society**
 - A Historical Account of Dating**
 - Traditional Patterns of Dating**
 - Contemporary Patterns of Dating**
 - Internet Dating**
 - Speed Dating**
 - Other Forms**
 - A Feminist critique of Dating Practices.**
 - 3c. Violence in Dating Relations**

Reading: DeGenova, Chapter 5

- 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. 4c.Impact of HIV-AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases on Sexual Behaviour among Canadians

Reading: Lectures only

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

5g. Being Single

Reading : Cheal, Chapter 10 (on Same Sex Unions)

Rest of the Topics will be covered by Lectures.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Second Test – November 1st.</i> (30 percent of the total course grade)</p>

6. Communication, Conflict, Marital Crises, and Violence in Relationships

6.1. Patterns of Communication and their Implications for Marital Solidarity.

6.2. Conflict in Marital Life and Methods of Conflict-Resolution

6.3. Marital and Family Crises and Strategies to Meet Them

6.4. Violence in relationships: a perspective

– Violence against spouses

– Violence against children

Readings: Cheal, Chapter 13

DeGenova, Chapter 15, Chapter 10 (pp: 260-266)

7. **Power, Adjustment, Quality in Relationships**
 - 7a **Marital Quality and Satisfaction**
 - **Criteria for Assessing Marital Quality and Success**
 - **What Does Research Findings Say about the Quality and Success in such Unions as Common Law and Same Sex**
 - 7b. **Power and Authority**
 - **Sources of Marital Power**
 - **Patterns and Processes of Marital Power**

Readings: DeGenova, Chapters 7 and 10

Third Test – November 22nd
(30 percent of the total grade of the course)

IV. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

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**
9. **Factors in Divorce**
 - 9a. **Sociological**
 - 9b. **Psychological**
 - 9c. **Humanistic**

10. Remarriages

Readings: Cheal, Chapter 5
DeGenove, chapter 16, 17

11. Concluding Lecture

Last Test – December 4th
(20 percent of the total grade of the course)

