

Sociology 1301E
Marriage and Families
Spring Semester 2014
Block 2

Jim Mallinson
Office hours by appointment
(prior to, after class, or by appointment)
Email: jmallins@catawba.edu
704-213-2770

Syllabus

Course Description: “A study of intimate relationships and families, including mate selection, gender roles, communication, early marital adjustment, finances, and parenthood.” *Catawba College Catalogue*

Required Readings: NO TEXTBOOK IS ASSIGNED FOR THIS COURSE; ALL REQUIRED READINGS ARE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.

Course Outcomes: By the end of the course, you will have a more critical perspective regarding what is considered a family system and how they are constructed. You will increase your knowledge and understanding as to these systems, the strengths and challenges to them, how families are affected by public policy, and what communities might do strengthen the foundations of family systems.

Class Policies:

- Attendance is essential to learning the material. Missing more than two classes requires a meeting with me to discuss your attendance and your ability to meet class requirements.
- Complete all reading assignments by the date indicated on the course schedule and be prepared for class discussion on the material.
- Demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of course material through performance on the scheduled exams and the projects.
- Failure to submit any assigned work or taking any test will result in a zero. **DO NOT SUBMIT WORK VIA EMAIL.**
- Please notify me in advance should you require special accommodations for this class.
- Academic Integrity: You have signed an honor code; any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. Any violation of this code may result in failure for the class.
- There is no tolerance of cell phone use during class time. Place your phones on vibrate; NO TEXTING OR TALKING ON THE PHONES.

Evaluation:

1. Evaluation is based on:
 - a. Class Attendance, Preparation and Participation—10 points. The course format will be a combination of lecture, speakers, class discussion, and activities. It will rely heavily on class discussions and your participation in them. You are expected to **read, critically analyze, and discuss** assigned readings in class. Be prepared for class.
 - b. Topic Questions—30 points. You have two topic questions due as assigned below. Each is worth fifteen points. They must be typed and submitted in hard copy (**remember an electronic submission of any work is not acceptable; it must be a hard copy**). These are to be two to three pages in length, 10 or 12 point and in New Roman or Arial fonts, double-spaced, and follow writing and documentation standards for sociology. Be sure to have an introduction which states the purpose of your paper, offer support to your premise, and summarize your conclusions to the question. **FIRST PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 17; SECOND PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 27.** The topic questions are found on attachment 1 of this syllabus.

- c. Family Genogram—20 points. You should complete a family genogram. Interview members of your family to collect information. Prepare the genogram using appropriate symbols for three generations and present your diagram on a piece of poster board. These will be displayed in class on the date assigned below. You will introduce yourself and your family, and point out themes in your family’s history. **DUE FEBRUARY 20.** The Family Genogram assignment is found on attachment 2 of this syllabus.
- d. Families in Context Presentation and Paper—40: You are to complete a presentation and paper on a topic area influencing family systems. The paper must be typed and submitted in hard copy (remember an electronic submission is not acceptable), and should be no more than five pages, double-spaced, New Roman or Arial font. Be sure to have an introduction which states the purpose of your paper, offer support to your premise, and summarize your conclusions to the question. **PRESENTATIONS DUE AS ASSIGNED; PAPER DUE MARCH 6.** The Families in Context Presentation and Paper assignment is found on attachment 3 of this syllabus.

2. Grading Scale:

A	4.0	92-100	C	2.0	72-77
A-	3.7	90-91	C-	1.7	70-71
B+	3.3	88-89	D+	1.3	68-69
B	3.0	82-87	D	1.0	62-67
B-	2.7	80-81	D-	.7	60-61
C+	2.3	78-79	F	0	below 60

Syllabus:

Date:	Topic:	Readings/Assignments:
2/13	Overview of Course <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Overview of Family Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Defining Family Systems	Readings located on Blackboard:
2/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Defining Family Systems <input type="checkbox"/> The Role of Partnership and Marriage	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Topic Question #1 Due
2/20	<input type="checkbox"/> Courtship, Dating, and Power <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage, Cohabitation, and Partnership	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Family Genogram Due
2/24	<input type="checkbox"/> Parenting and Children	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Presentations
2/27	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues: Aging, Divorce, Sexuality, and Violence	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Position Paper #2 Due Presentations
3/01	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues: Social Inequality: Work, Poverty, and Healthcare	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Presentations
3/03	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues—Social Inequality: Work, Poverty, and Healthcare (continued)	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Presentations
3/06	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues: Work, Poverty, and Healthcare (continued)	Readings located on Blackboard: Assignment: Families in Context PAPER DUE and Presentations
3/10	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues: Work, Poverty, and Healthcare (continued)	Assignment: Presentations

Attachment 1:

Topic Questions—30 points. You have two topic questions due as assigned below. Each is worth fifteen points. They must be typed and submitted in hard copy (remember an electronic submission of any work is not acceptable; it must be a hard copy). These are to be two to three pages in length, 10 or 12 point and in New Roman or Arial fonts, double-spaced, and follow writing and documentation standards for sociology. Be sure to have an introduction which states the purpose of your paper, offer support to your premise, and summarize your conclusions to the question.

Topic Question 1: Stephanie Coontz writes about the history of families in the United States and throughout the world. What are three similarities you can identify that are found in family systems throughout all cultures? Be sure to define these and explain the purpose for them. **Due February 17**

Topic Question 2: Part VII: Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families explore issues families must deal with when transitioning from one type of family system to another. First, in your opinion and support this by your readings, how successful are remarriages? What factors will affect the happiness of these marriages? What are the potential problems and opportunities of blended families from the perspective of stepparents and stepchildren? Describe a blended family system. What are the challenges faced by individuals involved in stepparent-stepchild relationships? What are some of the unique problems of reconstituted families? **Due February 27**

Attachment 2: Family Genogram—20 points. You should complete a family genogram. Interview members of your family to collect information. Prepare the genogram using appropriate symbols for three generations and present your diagram on a piece of poster board. These will be displayed in class on the date assigned below. You will introduce yourself and your family, and point out themes in your family's history. **Due February 20**

Attachment 3:

Families in Context Presentation and Paper—40: You are to complete a presentation and paper on a topic area influencing family systems. The paper must be typed and submitted in hard copy (remember an electronic submission is not acceptable), and should be three to five pages, double-spaced, New Roman or Arial font. Be sure to have an introduction which states the purpose of your paper, offer support to your premise, and summarize your conclusions to the question. You should use at least four professional sources in addition to your textbook (Wikipedia is not acceptable). Each presentation should be 10 to 15 minutes, sharing with the class your findings. Choose an area outside your professional expertise from the list below; topics will be approved on a first come first served basis. **PRESENTATIONS DUE AS ASSIGNED; PAPER DUE MARCH 6.**

Topic areas to choose from:

Substance abuse among adolescent populations	Child abuse and neglect
Drug use by pregnant mothers	Adolescent pregnancy
Substance abusing adults and the impact on families	Adolescent motherhood (being a mother under 18 years old)
Medical health insurance programs for pregnant mothers	Adolescent fatherhood (being a father under 18 years old)
Medicare	Blended families
Home healthcare among geriatric populations	Divorce
North Carolina Healthchoice	Couples of the same sex and raising children
Underachieving schools	Interracial partnerships
The dropout rate among high school students in North Carolina	Partnering without marriage
Smart Start	Working mothers
NC criminal justice systems and adolescent populations	Stay at home dads
Health reform	Medical disabilities
Underemployment	Children with special needs
English as a second language for elementary school children	Caring for the elderly
Child born in the US of illegal immigrants	The “sandwich” generation
Healthcare for immigrants	Federal and state policy toward marriage
	Violence in the family system