Course Syllabus

SOCI 2301 (3:3:0)

Marriage and Family

Sociology

Behavioral Sciences Department

Division of Arts and Sciences

Asst. Professor Jana Daniel

Internet

Fall 2009

South Plains College
South Plains College: General Course Syllabus  
Soci 2301 – Marriage and Family  

Asst. Professor Jana Daniel  

Spring 2009  

Department: Behavioral Sciences  
Discipline: Sociology  
Course Number: Sociology 2301  
Course Name: Marriage and Family  
Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0  
This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: No – satisfies an elective requirement for Behavioral Science  
Prerequisites: TSI reading for INET  
Campuses: INET  

Companion website: www.thomsonedu.com/sociology/strong  

Course Specific Instructions: INET classes go to WebCT 6.2 to enter:  
http://spc.blackboard.com  

Course Description: This course is a study of the present day marriage and family organization in the United States from the standpoint of social organization, social change, and social disorganization. Emphasis is placed upon courtship, mate selection, and marriage adjustment in modern society.  

Course Purpose: This course is designed to provide students with an understanding how the definition of family is changing and how family experiences are influenced from within and also from external social forces.  

Course Requirements: Students should regularly log into the course and complete assignments, quizzes, discussion postings, and a term project.  

Course Evaluation: Refer to specific COURSE INFORMATION SHEET for specifics on assigned work and testing.  

Attendance Policy: Refer to COURSE INFORMATION SHEET. Regular log-in is critical for success when failure to submit course work becomes excessive, the student will be withdrawn from the course.
Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

1. Define and understand the basic theories of Marriage and Family
2. Enhance understanding of the social forces involved in a changing definition of family
3. To understand changing family patterns and pattern variations cross-culturally
4. To understand variations of family experiences and how those experiences are shaped from within and by external influences
5. How to use critical thinking skills when examining course information
6. To understand basic research methods in marriage and family

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE
SPC Mission Statement

“In order to accomplish its mission, South Plains College is committed to the following purposes:
To provide Student he opportunity to learn as a lifelong endeavor; to acquire skills for communications, critical thinking and problem solving; to explore the use of technology; to express creativity; to experience; and to grow socially.”

Learning Outcomes

Communication and Collaboration
- Demonstrate an ability to read, write and speak clearly and concisely
- Value of diversity and differences in people

Critical Thinking
- Explore relationships of ideas and see their similarities and differences
- Synthesize diverse concepts to create new ideas
- Ability to integrate ideas across the disciplines and personal life

Leadership
- Exhibit personal responsibility and ethical judgment
- Demonstrate professionalism, honesty and integrity

South Plains College General Catalog description:

SOCI 2301: Marriage and the Family (3:3:0)
This course is a study of the present-day marriage and family organization in the United States from the standpoint of social organization, social change, and social disorganization. Emphasis is placed upon courtship, mate selection, and marriage adjustment in modern society.
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 45.1101.54 25
Course Information Sheet

Soci2301 Internet Sections
Marriage and Family

Instructor: Jana Daniel
Office locations: AD147 on Tues., Thurs., and Fri. and in RC450 on Mon. and Wed.
Office Hours: MW 2:15-3:45 pm at Reese Center in RC450; TR 9:45-10:45 am at Levelland in AD147; F 9:00 am to 12 noon at Levelland in AD147; or by appointment
E-mail: jdaniel@southplainscollege.edu
Telephone: (806) 716-2480 for Levelland days and (806) 716-4034 for Reese Center days

How this course is conducted;
This course is an online course, which means that you will access course information and respond to me and/or other students through the use of the Internet. I use WebCT to deliver and manage this course. WebCT stands for Web Course Tools. It is a software package that was written to help manage online courses. WebCT and Blackboard are in the process of merging and WebCT 8 is the beginning of the process so you may see either WebCT or Blackboard used in this course.

- If you aren’t familiar with WebCT please do not let yourself become overwhelmed or spend hours of your time trying to figure out how to access something. You have many sources available to you for help. You can contact me by: e-mail, telephone, or come by my office. Also, there is help available at the online web site which is www.southplainscollege.edu/online.
- Keep in mind that the course is structured so that you may access it 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to fit your schedule, however, the instructor is not available 24/7. I will usually have grades posted by the next deadline unless I notify you differently. I will answer emails within 48 hours unless I notify you that I will be away from the computer.

Logging into course:
Under no circumstances are you allowed to give your User ID and/or password to anyone. If someone, besides you, is logging into this course on your account, I will drop you immediately with an ‘F’, regardless of the reason. Also, if you log in under someone else’s account, I will drop you immediately with an "F". If you are taking this course along with a roommate, spouse, or significant other, you need to let me know immediately. Failure to do so could result in your being dropped from this course with an 'F'.

Computer Requirements:
Browser Plug-ins and Security Software
Most Web educational experience will require the use of several additional browser plug-ins. The following links will take you to some of the most commonly used tools. It is very highly
recom

ended that you have an anti-virus program on your computer. You will also need Adobe Acrobat for several readings and a multimedia player such as Windows Media Player.

MINIMUM Software requirements:
Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or another word processing program capable of saving files in RTF (Rich Text Format).

Web Browser -- Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher version (this is a free downloadable program) - If you plan on using a browser supplied by your Internet service provider (for example, AOL or WebTV) make sure it is the most recent version. We cannot guarantee that all course features will function in all non-Internet Explorer browsers.

Your course may require special (free) plug-ins to access Streaming Media, PDF files, or other web components. If this is the case, you will learn more about these special requirements during your Course Orientation.

Antivirus software

Software Links
- RealNetworks RealOne Player
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Apple Quicktime Media Player
- Windows Media Player

More computer requirements:
Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

MINIMUM technical requirements:
- Access to an IBM compatible or Macintosh system (see below for details)
- Internet access either via modem and phone line or a direct connection (highly recommended)
- Internet service provider for home access and/or access from work (must have prior to start of the course)
- Access to the online environment for a minimum of 10 hrs/week

  o PC Hardware requirements:
    - IBM compatible Pentium PCs
    - Windows 98
    - Operating System 16 MB RAM (or more)
    - 28.8 or better
    - Sound card and speakers

  o Macintosh Hardware requirements:
    - Power PC machines or better
    - Mac OS 8 or higher
    - 16 MB RAM (or more)
- 28.8 or better
- Sound card and speakers

**Attendance Policy:**
Even though this is an online class or a virtual classroom, students still have to access the course on a regular basis to take quizzes, submit assignments and participate in class discussion via the class discussion board. The WebCT software used to manage this online course tracks student logins, tracking when and where the student has been in the course. Accessing this course on a regular basis is extremely important in order to meet the objectives of this course. You will feel more at ease with the materials if you stay in touch with what is going on.

***Attendance Policy:***
Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance a student who fails to turn in **three 3 assignments** during the session **OR** who fails to participate in the discussion forum for **three (3) consecutive weeks** will be dropped with a grade of “X” or “F” from the course. If missed assignments/discussions occur after the final drop date you will not be dropped and will receive the grade earned. Assignments submitted within 24 hours of the initial deadline will receive one-half (1/2) credit and assignments received after the cutoff date will NOT be graded and will be counted as not turned in so will go towards the 3 for drop purposes. Note that the late policy is for Assignments only and quizzes and discussions will not be accepted for grading after the initial deadline. **NOTICE: If you choose to wait until the last minute to work on your assignments and/or quizzes and you click submit and get a message that submission was denied because the time is 12:01 PM the consequences will be that you will be subject to the above grading policy for assignments and on quizzes you will receive a 0. Understand that 12:01 is AFTER the deadline of 12:00 noon. You make the choice to push the deadline and maybe miss it. You weigh the consequences and choose.** Also, I strongly urge you to work ahead on areas of the course that you are allowed to as there are emergencies that do occur. This is your student notification of the Instructor’s policy and it is your responsibility to be aware of the policy as outlined in the South Plains College **General Catalog**, page 21.

**Equal Opportunity:**
South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this virtual classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.

**Disabilities Statement:**
A student who enrolls in this class that may need classroom accommodations is strongly encouraged to schedule an intake interview with the special services department **before enrolling in this class or prior to the add/drop date for this semester.** Please note that NOT all Internet
courses can be adapted for students with disabilities. Please check with Special Services or the instructor.

- **Levelland Campus:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services building, 894-9611 ext. 2529.

- **Reese Center and the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center (ATC):** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Coordinator of Special Services. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in rooms 809 and 811, Reese Center Building 8, 885-3048 ext. 4654.

- **Plainview Campus:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Coordinator of Special Services. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office contact Gracie Quinonez, Main Office Plainview Campus, 296-9611 ext. 4301.

**Academic Integrity:**
See College catalog: "Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers." – SPC General Catalog. The attempt of any student to present their own work, which he or she has not honestly performed, is regarded as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences. If the instructor determines an assignment to be plagiarized the resulting grade will be zero for that assignment. If an assignment receives a zero for plagiarism it will count towards the 4 assignments for the drop policy. A second offense will result in being dropped from the course with a grade of “F”.

**Student Appeals:**
See College catalog: "The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation…If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation…If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should be advised of the formal appeal process."

**Student Conduct:**
"Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a
class will result in the student being dropped from the course” (see SPC Student Guide). Please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive.

Navigating WebCT 8:
This new version of WebCT will look somewhat different than the older version so take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the look and navigation of the course. On the left-hand side of your Home Page you will have Course Tools and My Tools.

- **Course Tools** includes the following:
  - Course Content – this will bring up the Home Page.
  - Announcements – this will have Announcements from the instructor and may or may not be sent as pop-up announcements.
  - Assessments – this will include links to your quizzes.
  - Assignments – this will include links to your assignments.
  - Discussions – this will include links to the Discussion Board and discussion topics.
  - Learning Modules – there is a learning module for each deadline. The Learning Module contains a link to all work due for that particular deadline – assignments, discussions, quizzes, and term project.
  - Mail – all course correspondence between instructor and student will be through this email account and NOT through an outside account. This creates a permanent record in the course for all correspondence.
    - **You may access your Assessments, Assignments, and Discussions through the individual links OR through the Learning Modules. Try them out and see which fits your style.**

- **My Tools** includes the following:
  - My Grades – after work is submitted and graded the grades will be posted into this link. Check here for your grades.
  - Notes – this link is added by the instructor for you to make notes to yourself in the course. This is not a means of corresponding with the instructor. It is only for your convenience and is not a graded section of the course.

- **Your Home Page** (to the right of the Course Tools) includes the following:
  - START icon. This contains your syllabus, course calendar, and the first chapter of your textbook.
  - Choose a video icon. This contains the video links that you will need for your discussions.
  - Learning Module icon contains links to the work that is due for each deadline.

**Course Policy and Requirements:** This is what you need to do to begin the course and earn your grades!!!

*** Course Agreement:
You will receive a course agreement through the course email once the session begins. When you receive the course agreement you will have two options. You may either respond to the course agreement with the words “I agree” or if you do not agree you may choose to drop the
course. Responding with the words “I agree” is required to remain in the course. Response is required by the second deadline in the course. Failure to respond is grounds for the instructor denying you access to the course or dropping you from the course with a grade of “X”.

***Course Webmail:

All correspondence will be through the email within the course. Do not hesitate to contact me as communication is important in this course and there can’t be too much communication. **There may be times that I send directives through email to students. You will be expected to follow any directives sent as they are part of “following instruction given by the instructor”, just as you would in a campus classroom.

All assignments/work will be submitted through WebCT using Microsoft Work within the Assignment link or the Learning modules link.

Do not send your assignments to my SPC e-mail address. If you send your assignments to me at my SPC e-mail, I will not grade them. In addition, students will use what is termed the Sociological Perspective since you are now students of Sociology. This perspective stresses the social context in which people live and steps away from what is termed “person blaming.” Sociologists look beyond individuals and individual experiences. This perspective strives to understand human behavior by placing it within its broader social context. Depending on a person’s characteristics – gender, age, race, sexual orientation and religion among others – we each have different experiences. Sociologists using this perspective (and that includes you, the student) evaluate people and behaviors in terms of what is typical or atypical (or not typical) by studying society and finding general patterns of behavior. They do NOT judge others or their behaviors with terms such as good/bad, moral/immoral or right/wrong. Do NOT use these terms in your assignments or discussion posts or you will lose points.

Late work:
For the purposes of this course there are deadlines every Tuesday (all course work other than original discussion) AND Friday (original discussions only) at noon. All work assigned for that deadline must be posted, emailed or submitted by that time to receive full credit. The Term Project is due Tuesday, November 17th, by 12:00 noon. No discussions or quizzes will be accepted after the initial deadline. Any assignments or term project submitted between the initial deadline and the cutoff deadline will receive one-half (1/2) credit. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CUTOFF. Again, understand that 12:01 PM or later is after 12:00 noon and is considered late and will not be accepted. There will be NO exceptions. Excuses such as ”The network was down,” or ”I could not figure out how to send the assignment through e-mail" or “Time expired just as I went to hit the submit button” are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. Refer to the course calendar/assignment/assessment for specific deadlines and due dates.

Course Work:
There are four different types of assignments/work required in this course. They are quizzes, discussions, assignments, and a term project.
Quizzes:
There is a twenty-five question multiple choice quiz for each of the 15 chapters in the text book that the course will cover plus an Orientation Quiz worth **10 points**. The Orientation Quiz is a 15 minute timed quiz and the information covered by the quiz is found in the syllabus. These are located under Assessments and Learning Modules and will be made available to you at the appropriate times during the semester. The 15 chapter quizzes are 30 minute timed quizzes. Do not click on the link until you are ready to take the test as once you enter the quiz and get out of it, you cannot re-enter the quiz. Quizzes will not be accepted after you surpass the time limit or after the deadline so plan ahead. There are 15 quizzes at 25 points each for up to **375 points**. There is also a comprehensive final quiz that will be opened from the last Tuesday of the regular semester at noon until the Tuesday during finals at noon. The final is 50 questions that will be randomly selected from 75 questions selected from the 15 chapter quizzes. This quiz will be worth up to **50 points**.

Requirements:
It is possible to earn up to 1985 points in this course. Your grade will be calculated on a cumulative point total based on the following scale: **A=1785-1985; B=1585-1784; C=1385-1584; D=1190-1384; F=0-1189.**

Point Distribution:
First week exercises = 40
Quizzes 15 chapters @ 25 = 375
Final Quiz @ 50 points = 50
13 Assignments @ 50 points = 650
15 Chapter Discussion postings (1 original and 2 replies) @ 50 points = 750
Term Project @ 100 points = 100
Letter to Future Students @ 20 points = 20
Total points possible = 1985

OTHER INFORMATION:

Open Computer Lab: There is an Open Computer Lab located on the Levelland campus in the new Technology Center. It is available to all students, with priority given to those students enrolled in computer classes. Computers are also available on the Reese Center, Lubbock, and Plainview campuses. Check with libraries and labs for hours.

Technical Problems/Support: If you are having computer problems, you have to let me know. I will try to help you in any way that I can. Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a backup plan if your computer goes down. Please have this plan in place now and do not wait until it is a crisis situation. If you lose your assignments due to bad floppy disks, computer crash, or your dog ate your homework, there is nothing I can do about it. **THIS IS YOUR WARNING TO HAVE A BACKUP PLAN IN PLACE.**

SPC Technical Support Contact: Tacy Romo at tromo@southplainscollege.edu
PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TURN ASSIGNMENTS IN OR YOU MAY HAVE PROBLEMS! Remember the saying "TECHNOLOGY HAPPENS!"

Anti-virus Software: Please make sure that your computer has an up-to-date antivirus software program installed.

Discussions

Discussion topics are the videos listed for each chapter under the Discussion Topics link on your Content Page. To receive points for participation you must post an original message and two reply messages.

Original message requirements:

- Due each Friday at noon. The original messages will be hidden until after the deadline at which time they will be opened so that replies can be posted. Original messages posted after noon on Fridays will NOT be given credit.
- 200 – 300 words in length.
- Make direct connections between the video AND text information.
- Include personal experiences and/or reactions. CAUTION: remember to use the sociological perspective in all of your course work.
- Worth up to 20 points each.

Reply message requirements:

- Two replies are due each Tuesday at noon.
- Ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply.
- Share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion.
- Constructively disagree at times.
- Refer to class course work (text or video information) and apply the information or ask other students how they are applying course information.
- If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will not get credit for one of them.
- Worth up to 15 points each.

You will not be given full credit for postings that do not meet the above criteria. Also, the use of short, choppy sentences put down that do not show careful thought will NOT earn you full credit. It is appropriate to use sentences like, “I agree” but those sentences do not meet the requirements for grading purposes. See the Grading section for more information. You also must use the sociological perspective (see Assignment Policy/Material Requirements section above) or you will lose points or may be dropped from the course (see Equal Opportunity section). The first deadline (Module 0) post an introduction of yourself to the class. All Discussion topics will be listed on Discussion page and in the Learning Module links.

- The primary goal of this portion of the course is to “talk” about what you are learning so it is more appropriate to be informal and conversational in these postings and spend more time polishing the weekly assignments.
The postings will be graded within the deadline period that they are posted – you must post EACH deadline to receive credit for that week. In other words, **you may not post ahead** as the idea is to have a "classroom discussion". Examples of deadline period for grading discussions: Your first deadline is 9/8 so you should post your introduction by noon. Then your original post for Chapter 1 is due by 12:00 NOON on 9/11. I will open the discussions after the deadline and your 2 replies will then be due by 12:00 NOON on 9/15. Each deadline is divided into a separate **Topic** on the **Discussion Board Page** to help you keep up with the postings. Let me know if you have any questions.

You are also expected to read the posts of others – this is taken into consideration when grades are posted.

**Grading:**

Original posts will receive up to 20 points and Replies will receive up to 15 points each for a possible 50 total points per chapter. There will be 1 Introduction and 15 chapter discussion postings for a possible **770 points** for this session plus the Introduction posting points. The Introduction posting itself is worth up to **20 points** and you are not required to post a reply to someone else’s introduction. To receive full credit you need to include all of the points about yourself included in the introduction instructions. For the other postings see the following:

**RUBRIC/EXPECTATIONS** – to help you do the best you can, I am giving you a grading rubric for the discussion postings and replies.

**Original Posts:**

- **Approximate 20 point post** includes posts that have: thoughtful commentary that specifically includes references and/or discussion to the reading, video, and module material; personal connections when relevant; introduces new ideas and questions; and/or thoroughly addresses the topic. Post was on-time, includes at least the minimum word count, and is spelling/grammatically correct.
- **Approximate 10 point post** includes posts that have: reference to some type of course material, some personal reference but maybe not clearly connected to course material or topic, and/or thoroughly addresses the topic. Post was on-time, includes the minimum word count, and contains a minimal number of spelling/grammar errors.
- **0 point post** includes incorrect or partial posts, no reference to relevant material, irrelevant ideas, frequent spelling/grammar errors, was not posted on-time, and/or no post.

**Replies:**

- **Approximate 15 point reply** includes replies that explicitly references ideas in the post, gives personal commentary in a constructive way, may correct an incorrect posting in a respectful way, elaborates on the ideas and questions posed in the post, reflects a good understanding of the course material, and/or brings up course material that the original post did not include but was relevant. Post was on-time, includes at least the minimum word count, and is spelling/grammatically correct.
- **Approximate 8 point reply** includes brief elaboration of the ideas and questions posed in the post and/or a personal response that may or may not clearly tie to the
original post but relevant to the module. Post was on-time, includes at least the minimum word count, and contains a minimal number of spelling/grammar errors.
- **0 point reply** includes brief encouragement, a statement of agreement or disagreement, unclear or offensive responses, frequent spelling/grammar errors, was not posted on-time, and/or no reply.

- **Drop policy:**
  - You will be dropped from the course if you fail to participate in the discussion forum for three (3) consecutive weeks OR fail to submit three (assignments).
  - **NOTE:** Simply restating what someone else has stated will not earn you points. You need to put thought into your postings, bring in course work, and a personal connection to receive the maximum points. Correct grammar or syntax is important so be sure that you spell/grammar check AND proofread your posts. And as stated above, you will lose points if you do not use the sociological perspective. Contact me if you have concerns about this.

- *Adapted from On-line Teaching: Best Practices, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D and Linda Scott.

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE:**

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on people’s deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, online posting can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an “anything goes” kind of forum. This isn’t the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the “traditional” classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions. IF I DEEM THE COMMENTS ESPECIALLY OFFENSIVE I WILL DROP YOU FROM THE COURSE.

Keep in mind:
- There will be disagreement and this is good, otherwise we will be bored.
- Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them.
- I must at all times hear/see you debating the IDEA and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other – how to debate and get your point heard.
- Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid “you” statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations (“you don’t know what you’re talking about”, “the problem is people like you,” etc., etc.). Try, instead, to use “I” statements (“I disagree with your position on “X” or “I find that Durkheim was actually saying blah…”).
- In addition, people have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other’s facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone’s mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.
- Finally, I will be most impress with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. A key skill you should leave college with is the ability to support your positions; this online forum is an appropriate place to hone this skill. Refer to readings and module material to support your points.
Term Project:

Select one of the following four options – worth up to 100 points, due Tuesday, November 17th at 12:00 noon for full credit. Term Projects submitted up to 24 hours after the initial deadline will be accepted for ½ credit. Papers submitted after noon on November 18th will not be graded.

- If you are taking more than one of my courses or if you are taking a course with a similar requirement you may NOT use the same term project or same type of project for both courses.
- Use Times New Roman 12 font for your Term Projects.
- Keep in mind that if you give the minimum amount or work required for your project that would equal the minimum passing grade of 70%. If you want to earn the full points you must put in extra effort.
- Plagiarism is a very serious offense and you are to cite your sources. See the links below for helpful websites if you have any questions. Be sure to use quotation marks for any material that you copy or take directly from another source – this includes information for the Power Point option.

1. Read a Novel: You are to select a novel from the authors listed below and summarize the plot/characters in one typed page. Then spend two-three pages discussing specific applications of marriage and family (i.e. theories or explanations of why people change in the ways they do or relationship dynamics) that you notice in the novel. You might also consider doing a genogram like paper for a fictional family. The paper should be concluded with your personal reaction or response to the book. Authors to select from include: Midwives by Chris Bohjalian, She’d Come Undone by Wally Lamb, Yellow Raft on Blue Water by Michael Dorris, The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan, The Rapture of Canaan by Sheri Reynolds, Carry Me Like Water by Benjamin Saenz, Prince of Tides by Pat Conroy, Family by J. California Cooper, Black and Blue by Christina Garcia, The Good Mother by Sue Miller, Notes from the Country Club by Kim Wozencraft, The Sea of Light by Jennifer Levin. {Many of these are Oprah Book Club selections and you may choose any from her list. They are all annotated at www.oprah.com}. If you have another author you would like to read, please discuss your choice with the instructor.

2. Annotated Internet Links: Locate 15 Internet sites that you believe are relevant to a specific area within the study of marriage and the family (i.e. dating patterns, infidelity, online romance). Think about this as if you were doing a research paper on a specific topic and using the Internet to find information on that topic (all the sites should be about the same thing). State the specific topic you are searching and in addition to providing the Internet address and a brief description of what information is located at the site, provide several sentences explaining your interest or reaction to the site. Also, evaluate or rate each site and provide a rating system and list of criteria you used to evaluate the information you reviewed. Each annotation should be a minimum of 8 sentences (excluding the Internet address and rating) and may be longer. Note that it says “minimum of 8 sentences” so that would be the minimum passing grade of 70%. Again, if you want full credit, put in extra effort.
3. **Research Project:** You are to select any topic relevant to marriage and family and write a 5-10 page paper (typed) which is equally divided between information you gather from at least two reference sources and your personal experience with the topic. Use APA format for references (see resources page for details). Be sure to cite your references as plagiarism is taken very seriously (see Academic Integrity section). Note: reference sources are scientific journals, not popular magazines or websites.

4. **PowerPoint Presentation:** Prepare a PowerPoint presentation on a specific sexually transmitted illness. Be sure to include risk factors, incidence, prevalence, geographic distribution, signs or symptoms, and treatments. Photos often enhance these presentations and there are many available on the Internet (www.google.com search using "Images" function). Some examples might include Chlamydia, gonorrhea, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, trichomoniasis, bacterial vaginosis (BV). This should be a professional grade PowerPoint – use common background for each slide, use bullets to convey concise information, do NOT copy and paste from your source, etc. Be sure to cite your references as plagiarism is taken very seriously (see Academic Integrity section). For this course you may cite on each slide or with a reference slide at the end of the presentation.

**Helpful website on citation and/or plagiarism:**
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_apa.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism
http://www.southplainscollege.edu/behavior_sciences/soci/Plagiarism.doc

**Weekly Assignments**

Do not send your assignments to my SPC e-mail address. If you send your assignments to me at my SPC e-mail, I will not grade them. In addition, students will use what is termed the sociological perspective since you are now students of Sociology. This perspective stresses the social context in which people live and steps away from what is termed “person blaming.” Sociologists look beyond individuals and individual experiences. This perspective strives to understand human behavior by placing it within its broader social context. Depending on a person’s characteristics – gender, age, race, sexual orientation and religion among others – we each have different experiences. Sociologists using this perspective (and that includes you, the student) evaluate people and behaviors in terms of what is typical or atypical (not typical) by studying society and finding general patterns of behavior. They do NOT judge others or their behaviors with terms such as good/bad, moral/immoral or right/wrong. Do NOT use these terms in your assignments or discussion posts or you will lose points.

**Late work – assignment policy:**
For purposes of this course there are deadlines every Tuesday at noon for assignments. All assignments must be submitted by that time to receive full credit. Any assignment submitted between the initial deadline and the cutoff deadline will receive one-half (1/2) credit. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CUTOFF.** Again, understand that 12:01 pm or
later is after 12:00 noon and is considered late and will not be accepted. There will be NO exceptions. Excuses such as “The network was down,” or “I could not figure out how to sent the assignment” or “Time expired just as I went to hit the submit button” are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. Refer to the course calendar/assignment page for specific deadlines and due dates.

**Weekly Written Assignments:**
There is an Assignment 0 due the first deadline worth up to **10 points**. See the assignment for instructions. After that there will be a 1 page single-spaced or 2 page double-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 font) essay assignment for each grading deadline in the course.

- The length is excluding the heading as double spacing 4 lines of heading does not count towards your one single-spaced or two double-spaced pages.
- The assignment numbers have the corresponding chapter numbers listed.
- See the Assignments page for the specific options available for each chapter.
- These should be polished writing assignments which use the written standards of conventional English (i.e. spelling and grammar count!).
- Be sure and address textbook information in your assignment. **You need to make at least 3 direct references (with page numbers listed) to course material.** Bring the information into your discussion to show understanding. Do not just make a passing reference with no discussion.
- There are 13 assignments worth a possible 50 points each for a possible **650 points**.
- As in the Discussion Board requirements, you must use the sociological perspective and you should reference textbook material to show an understanding of terms and concepts to receive the maximum number of points.
- Do not copy from your text without the proper citation because that is considered plagiarism.
- Points are deducted for length, spelling, grammar, paragraph form, etc.

**Note on the assignments:** This course covers topics that some people feel very strongly about and for this reason I have offered you options for each chapter on your assignments and it is suggested that you choose one that you can use the sociological perspective on in your writing.

**Drop policy:** As per the attendance policy, if you miss submitting 3 assignments for any reason or fail to participate in the discussion forum for 3 consecutive weeks you will be dropped from the course. This includes failure to submit assignment, plagiarism of assignment or submitting late. **Once again, do NOT wait until the last minute to try and submit assignments.**