

PSYC 3640.001 – Marital Adjustment
Spring 2014 –Tuesdays 2:00-4:50pm

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Teaching Assistant: Alex Thompson
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Class Time: Tuesdays, 2:00-4:50 ENV 130

Required Text: Strong, DeVault, & Cohen, *The marriage and family experience*, 11th ed.

Course Objectives:

To understand the major research findings, methods, theories, and controversies within marital study, and to develop critical thinking skills in these areas.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected but not officially required. PowerPoint slides will be presented in class only; therefore, conscientious attendance is critical for success in the course. Attendance will also provide opportunities for extra points not earned by taking exams (see below). We will meet on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:50pm in ENV 130. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes/handouts and find out about any schedule changes that may have been made. Out of courtesy to both your instructor and TA's, please refer to your fellow classmates for such information. I will not be able to provide you with any notes that you missed, so please do not email me asking for them.

Exams:

Based on **two out of three tests**. Each test is worth 100 points. We will drop your lowest test score. The tests will consist of 50 questions. There may be material on each exam from the class lectures that is not covered in your book; therefore, it is in your best interest to come to class every day. You will need a #2 pencil and a scantron on test days. The final exam will be comprehensive and consist of 50 questions.

Makeup exams will be allowed for medical emergencies or pre-approved special circumstances. You must inform me of these no later than one week before the exam. Exams must be made up within **one week** of the original test date; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If you miss the test and have not informed me within the week prior to the test, you may still make it up. However, there will be an automatic 10% deduction to your overall grade. So, it is in your best interest to be at

each exam, and if you know you are not going to be there, then you need to be responsible and inform me ahead of time.

Reflection Paper:

I believe that it is important that you are aware of your own thoughts and beliefs, therefore, I am asking you to complete a reflection paper. You will be asked to freely, openly, and *respectfully* discuss your cultural viewpoints, without penalization, therefore creativity and honesty is encouraged. This paper needs to be in the following format: 2-3 pages typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12-point type, one inch margins, and stapled. The rubric and expectations for this paper are posted on Blackboard.

Research Paper:

You will need to write a scholarly research paper that focuses on the topic of your choice that relates to this class. Thoroughly research this topic and complete a 4-5 page paper (Title page and Reference page do NOT count towards the page total...meaning you need to write 3-5 actual pages). The paper needs to be in the following format: typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12-point type, one-inch margins, include APA formatted cover-page, APA references page, APA citations in text, and be stapled. Any deviation from these guidelines will result in a heavy loss of points. In addition to turning in a hard copy in class, you will need to upload a copy of your paper to TurnItIn on the Blackboard page for this class. If you do not upload your paper, you will automatically receive a zero for the paper. Papers must have a minimum of 5 sources, which must be peer-reviewed journal articles. The textbook for this course will not be allowed as a source. Papers are due no later than April 15, 2014. The paper is worth 100 points.

Late or Emailed Assignments:

Any emailed assignments will automatically be deducted 5 points. Any late assignments will be deducted 5 points for each day it is late. If you know you will be unable to turn in the assignment on the due date for whatever reason, I always accept assignments early.

Extra Credit:

You may complete up to 15 points of extra credit. Extra credit opportunities will be given throughout the semester. If you miss an extra credit opportunity because you were not in class, you will not get to complete it. There are no make-ups on extra credit assignments.

Grades:

Your grade will be computed on a point system:

2 Exams (100 points each, 200 total)

Reflection Paper (50 points)

Research Paper (100 points)

Total possible points = 350

315-350 points = A (90%)

280-314 points = B (80%)

245-279 points = C (70%)

210-245 points = D (60%)

Less than 210 = F

ODA:

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as

amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.unt.edu/oda/apply/index.html. Also, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation in the University Union (room 321) or call (940) 565-4323.

Student Behavior in the Classroom:

This syllabus is not a contract; dates and other features of the course may change over the semester. Incompletes are given only in unusual, emergency situations, as determined by the instructor. Cheating or the appearance of cheating will result in a zero on that test. Disruptions in class from talking, cell phones, or any type of inappropriate behavior will result in a loss of points and lower your grade. If you have an emergency, please let me know at the beginning of class and step out to take the call, but otherwise please refrain from texting when you are in class. If there is a repeated disruption, you will be dropped from the class and reported to the Dean's Office.

Spring 2014 Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Assignments Due/Content	Readings/Topics/Activities
01/14/2014	<i>Marriage and popular culture</i>	Syllabus/Chapter 1
01/21/2014	<i>Is the family in decline?</i>	Chapter 3: pages 61-78
01/28/2014	<i>Gender effects</i> /REFLECTIONPAPER DUE	Chapter 4
02/04/2014	<i>Love and friends</i>	Chapter 5
02/11/2014	<i>Relationship quality</i>	Chapter 5
02/18/2014	<i>Marital sex</i>	Chapter 6: pages 173-207
02/25/2014	<i>Monogamy and infidelity</i>	Chapter 6: pages 173-207
03/04/2014	EXAM ONE	
03/11/2014	<i>Spring Break No Class!</i>	
03/18/2014	<i>Communication</i>	Chapter 7
03/25/2014	<i>Mate selection</i>	Chapter 8
04/01/2014	<i>The family life cycle</i>	Chapter 8
04/08/2014	<i>Parenthood</i>	Chapter 10: omit pages 342-351
04/15/2014	<i>Integrating marriage and work</i> /PAPER DUE	Chapter 11; summarize all other ch's
04/22/2014	EXAM TWO	
04/29/2014	(Prepare for final/catch up day)	
05/06/2014	Final Exam, Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm	

This schedule is tentative and likely to change—if you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out about any schedule changes. This syllabus should not be construed as a contract; I reserve the right to change it at any time.