

# Syllabus

## SOCL 2505, version 1.2

Effective: February 23, 2018

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### ODL 2505—Marriage and Family

**Course Description:** Current issues and trends regarding marriage and family.

### Textbooks and Other Materials

ODL is not responsible for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. It is your responsibility to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

#### Textbook

Lamanna, Mary Ann, Agnes Riedmann, and Susan Steward. *Marriages, Families, and Relationships: Making Choices in a Diverse Society*. Thirteenth edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2018.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1-337-10966-6

**ISBN-10:** 1-337-10966-5

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### Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. Order by the ISBN above. This is the only way to ensure that you receive the correct materials.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at [Answers@outreach.lsu.edu](mailto:Answers@outreach.lsu.edu) for assistance.

### Other Materials and Resources

**Software:** MS PowerPoint, MS Word, Adobe Flash Player

You must use a recent version of MS PowerPoint to view module slides. You must also use MS Word to open module review documents.

We recommend that you use Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

The most recent version of Adobe Flash Player is required for online testing.

**Hardware:** Web cam, microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. You should review the technical requirements on the ProctorU website and perform an equipment test prior to enrolling in this course. Your internet connection must be stable and fast.

### ProctorU Technical Requirements

### ProctorU Equipment Test

## Nature and Purpose of the Course

This is a General Education course in the area of social science. The goal of such courses is to ensure LSU graduates demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, cultural and linguistic forces.

SOCL 2505 is designed to increase your knowledge about and awareness of one of the most important institutions in contemporary society—the family. Since we are all born into and spend much of our lives within various kinds of families, each of us, unavoidably, already possesses a great deal of information about many of the subjects that this course will address. It is important that you realize, however, that some of the information that you currently have about the family is, for various reasons, partial, incomplete, and in some instances, even wrong. There are two major reasons why this is so. First, your family is, of necessity, unique because each of the members of your family, including you, is a unique human being. Even though your family might resemble other families in terms of its size and composition, the ways in which the members of your family play the roles of wife, husband, parent, sibling, or child will not correspond exactly to the ways in which others in similarly structured families will play these roles. Thus, one important source of bias in your understanding(s) about the family arises from the fact that your family and your own personal experiences within it are unique. This leads to what sociologists call “pluralistic ignorance” about the family—a situation wherein each of us

knows what goes on inside our own family, but we don't know what goes on inside other families.

Another reason why your knowledge about the family is partial, incomplete, and sometimes incorrect is that the means by which you acquired your information about the family are limited in at least two ways. The first limitation is your own subjective involvement with your family. The fact you have personal relationships with each of the members of your family makes it virtually impossible for you to judge objectively the meaning of events and activities within your family. A second source of inaccuracy is that it is unlikely that you have acquired the training and skills necessary to study marriage and the family from a social scientific point of view—yet. This lack of training doesn't automatically mean that your observations and conclusions are faulty. In some cases they will be, and in others they will not be. What it does mean is that observations derived from the application of social science methods will be more accurate because they are designed to avoid many (but certainly not all) of the pitfalls of less systematic means for gathering information. One of the goals of this course is to offer you ample opportunity to evaluate the accuracy of your personal expressions, to correct those that are incorrect, to add depth to others, and to expose you to new things about marriage and the family that you didn't know before.

### Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you are expected to be able to:

1. Describe the role of the family institution in society currently and historically
2. Discuss how marriage and families change over time and vary by culture, including how they are affected by broader social, economic, and political forces
3. Explain the role of the family in socialization, economic exchange, social norms, and social support affecting our attitudes, values, and life choices
4. Describe how families are affected by social trends and forces such as population composition, discrimination, economic restructuring, poverty, and public policy
5. Evaluate family policy initiatives and their implications for individuals and society

### Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace (i.e., more than three per week), your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the module learning objectives, the reading

assignment, a graded quiz, and the graded module assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order.

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### Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

### Reading Assignments

To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. Do not begin the module assignment until you have done so. For each type of document you prepare for this course, follow carefully the guidelines provided in the textbook.

You will read an average of 30 pages per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module.

### Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Making Family Choices in a Changing Society
02	Exploring Relationships and Families
03	Gender Identities and Families

- 04 Our Sexual Selves
- 05 Love and Choosing a Life Partner
- 06 Nonmarital Lifestyles: Living Alone, Cohabiting, and Other Options
- 07 Marriage: From Social Institution to Private Relationship
- 08 Deciding about Parenthood

### **Midcourse Examination**

- 09 Raising Children in a Diverse Society
- 10 Work and Family
- 11 Communication in Relationships, Marriages, and Families
- 12 Power and Violence in Families
- 13 Family Stress, Crisis and Resilience
- 14 Divorce and Relationship Dissolution
- 15 Remarriages and Stepfamilies
- 16 Aging and Multigenerational Families

### **Final Examination**

## **Module Quizzes and Assignments**

The graded work in each module involves a short quiz and a module assignment.

### *Quizzes*

The quizzes consist of ten multiple-choice questions worth one point each, and they are automatically graded by Moodle. You will have two attempts, and your best grade will be entered into the grade book immediately after your second take. You will have ten minutes to complete each take. After your second take, you will be able to review the quiz answers.

### *Module Assignments*

The module assignments comprise a set of five to six essay questions that cover your reading of the textbook chapter associated with that module. Answers to the essay questions need to address every part of the question, and this requires *three to four sentences per individual part* (if there are multiple parts). Thus, an adequate response for an entire question would be at least one half of a full page in a document. Your answers should be detailed, thorough, and in your own words. Each module assignment is then assigned a grade out of 100 based on the overall quality of the responses.

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Carefully study the textbook and module materials before you begin to prepare the module assignments. This study should include a detailed examination of the key terms and quiz, as well as the assigned reading.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the modules in your Moodle course. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

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### Qualifying to Take the Final Exam

You must meet the following criteria to be eligible to take the final exam.

1. Enrolled in the course for at least three weeks, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. A grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 16 Assignment. The last module assignment will not be graded until after your three-week date has passed. Please allow at least seven days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the grade book. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week.

## Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

### Plagiarism

You are responsible for completing and submitting your own course work and preparing your own module assignments. All work submitted in the course modules must be the your own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

### Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

## Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations consisting of multiple-choice questions and essay questions that are similar to the questions in the module quizzes and assignments. The mid-course exam covers Modules 01–08, and the final exam covers Modules 09–16 *only*. You will have a maximum of three hours to complete each exam.

- Module assignments count 100 points each.
- Quizzes are 20 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + average of quizzes + exam scores. Each component is weighted by predetermined percentages.

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	25%
Average of Quizzes	15%
Mid-Course Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100% = A+  
 93%–96% = A  
 90%–92% = A-  
 87%–89% = B+  
 83%–86% = B  
 80%–82% = B-  
 77%–79% = C+  
 73%–76% = C  
 70%–72% = C-  
 67%–69% = D+  
 63%–66% = D  
 60%–62% = D-  
 0%–59% = F

**YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE EXAMINATIONS IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

**IMPORTANT:** The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 16 Assignment in order to unlock access to the final exam. You must complete the final exam before the class expires. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit the [ODL Policies Page](#).

### Taking Your Examinations

You are required to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the "Getting Started" module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

There is a separate charge for each proctored exam. You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need access to a web cam, a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and reliable high speed internet to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

### Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the [Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page](#) to view your options.



## Copyright

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