

Peru State College
Peru, Nebraska
College of Professional Studies

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1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: **SOC 340 (8-week session on-line)**
Course Title: The Family
Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description: This course provides an examination of the role of the family in contemporary society with an emphasis on the factors influencing the family structure, functions, and roles, and their implications for both the community and individuals. Topics include the structure and functions of families, myths and trends, cross cultural analysis, institutional and functional aspects of dating, courtship, marriage adjustment, gender roles, parenthood and child rearing, and challenges within marriages.

Credit Hours: 3.0 semester

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COURSE OUTLINE

Course objectives:

This course poses a number of questions about what is often called “family.” A student who successfully completes this course will:

- demonstrate competency in understanding the sociological study of family through study of the course questions and formulation of answers to the questions.
- demonstrate competency in core concepts of the field of sociology as they relate to the study of the family.
- demonstrate competency in critical thinking.

3. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Required text:

Knox, D. & Schacht, C. (2008). *Choices in relationships: An introduction to marriage and the family* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

B. Other resources:

1. The course text book’s companion website
2. Web field trips to assigned websites

C. Outside Reading/Research Required:

1. Novel or movie for book or film analysis paper

4. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Chapter questions/activities
- B. Discussion board
- C. Chapter quizzes
- D. Book or film analysis paper

5. GRADING SCALE

A	90 – 100
B+	85 – 89
B	80 – 84
C+	75 – 79
C	70 – 74
D+	65 – 69
D	60 – 64
F	59 or below

Americans with Disabilities Act – Reasonable Accommodations

If you have a disabling condition that may substantially limit your ability to participate in this class, please let me know of your concerns, then contact the Department of Student Support Services for additional information and assistance.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the basic principles of a college community. Peru encourages and expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. Please note that cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty are monitored and subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Dishonesty: This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Cheating on an examination, quiz or other required work
- Handing in any assignment or project that is not your own work
- Plagiarism: the use of any material without giving credit to the source and/or direct copying without indicating so with direct quotation marks and appropriate citation. Please ask the instructor if you need clarification.
- Falsifying information, signatures, etc. on any course related form

Engaging in academic dishonesty can result in an automatic failure in the course!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Assigned readings.** I strongly suggest you (gasp- God forbid) actually read the text and other materials provided to you. It is especially important since we do not meet in person for lectures, etc. I have also provided the power points I use when I teach this course in the classroom, you may refer to those as well, but do not rely solely on them! You didn't buy a book to never open it!
2. **Chapter questions/activities (150 points).** Chapter questions and activity assignments are posed each week to provide the opportunity for students to reflect upon and apply the concepts and theories discussed in the assigned readings. Writing reflectively after reading can enhance learning, comprehension, and retention of the material.
3. **Quizzes (150 points).** There will be a weekly multiple-choice quiz covering the assigned readings. These quizzes provide you with the opportunity to test your knowledge and understanding of the information.
4. **Discussion Board (100 points).** This requirement provides you with the opportunity to interact with your classmates to discuss the material and share understanding, experiences, and ask questions. I will post a topic for discussion to which you will have to respond. You will also be required to complete two additional posts; these can both be interactions with other students, or one can be your own question you would like to ask of the class. (Posting your own question must be done early in the week to earn credit for it.)

6. **Book or Film Analysis Paper (75 points).** For this paper you will read a novel or view a movie and use theories and ideas from the readings in this class to analyze the book/film.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Completing your own work is imperative in this course! I realize many students may work and study together; however, you must complete and write your own answers. If you submit work that matches someone else's work, closely enough that it is obvious you both turned in the same assignment, you will both earn a zero for that assignment, and depending on the situation, fail the course!

Communication: This course is a total of 8 weeks. Each week runs Monday through Sunday and all assignments due during a given week are to be posted by 11:59 P.M. Sunday. I will return work to you by the following Saturday. Comments will be added to your assignment in the assignment link which can be accessed by clicking on the item's grade in the grade book. I strongly suggest you check the grade book every week. If you do not agree with a grade, or if you do not have a grade posted for an assignment you know you turned in then let me know ASAP!

Late work is NOT tolerated! This course already moves at an extremely rapid pace, and getting behind is not an option of you, or me. I will not be punished (by grading work due two weeks ago) because you can't stay organized or on top of your responsibilities. I strongly suggest you talk with me ahead of time if you believe your work may be late. For example, if you have a death in your family, are going out of town, are having computer problems, etc., e-mail or call me ASAP to work something out.
Late work will NOT be accepted after week 6.

Grading: I will try to ensure all work is graded and posted in the grade book on a weekly basis. Check your grade book frequently.

Withdrawing: You may withdraw from the class for any reason during the first week of class only. After the "drop" deadline, a student may request a withdrawal. This "W" grade does not count on your GPA. If you quit attending, you will receive an "F" for the course. Another option (only at the request of the student and permission granted by the instructor) is an incomplete ("I" grade); a contract is signed, and work is completed within a reasonable time period. Refer to Peru's college catalog regarding stipulations for an incomplete grade.

I approach each student as a person of worth and ability, as a capable adult in a college course. I want you to get the most out of your educational experience in this class. I invite you to ask questions, request help or just discuss the material and relevant information at any time.