

**Saddleback College
Sociology 10 (8 Week)
Semester
Ticket # XXXXX**

**Professor Nicole Loftus
Introduction to Marriage and the Family
Distance Education Course**

**E-mail: nloftus@saddleback.edu
Office Hours: Via E-mail or by appointment
Class Meets From: XX-XX**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Catalog Description

A course emphasizing the sociological perspective of kinship systems, mate selection, child-rearing practices, and the family in relation to social change.

Course Description

This course focuses on the family as a social institution. Through a sociological lens, the topics of marriage and family (particularly in American society) will be explored through an intensive focus on social theory relating to the family, the role and structures of families, trends, and parenting. Topics covered include: relationships (selecting a mate and dating), communication, gender roles, family violence, the family life cycle, the institution of marriage, sexuality, work, social class, race and ethnicity, child-rearing, socialization, variations in marriage, homosexual families, divorce, and remarriage.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- To become familiar with and comprehend the theories, concepts, data, and other issues relating to marriage and family within the discipline of sociology.
- To be able to discuss and apply sociological theories to specific topics related to marriage and family.
- To become informed about socio-cultural and economical dynamics affecting the family including: dating, marriage, socialization of children, and changes in the modern family.
- To increase one's knowledge of marriage and family so that they may be able to apply it to their own lives and the society around them.
- To be able to discuss, analyze, apply, and synthesis to sociological issues relating to the study of marriage and the family.

Required Readings

Williams, Sawyer, and Wahlstrom (2009). Marriages, Families, and Intimate Relationships, A Practical Introduction, Second Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Pearson Publishing.
ISBN#0-205-52145-2

Please note the first edition (2006) is fine to use as well; however, you will need to make sure the chapters assigned coincide with the book chapter numbers (the communication chapter is switched around).

* You can purchase this textbook at the Saddleback Bookstore; however, I would recommend first trying to order it online. If it is done in advance, websites such as www.dealoz.com, www.half.com, and www.amazon.com can help you find cheap textbooks. Remember to order early or do rush shipping as you will be responsible for the all readings. Also, there is a local bookstore on Marguerite, across from the school.

*Throughout the semester additional required readings and other information may be linked to the course website and/or lecture.

E-MAIL AND COMMUNICATION

An online course requires constant communication between classmates and the instructor and students. The **first** discussion board titled “Student Question Forum” will be available throughout the semester as a means to ask pertinent questions regarding the course. Students who effectively answer questions here (before the instructor) will receive one extra credit point (for up to five extra points throughout the semester). Students must check this question forum on a weekly basis. If a student has a question or concern that he or she does not feel comfortable sharing on the forum, please email the instructor. Lastly, it is crucial that **each student check his or her Saddleback e-mail on a regular basis** throughout the course as this is my way of contacting you. Please provide the course ticket number and course title in the subject area of ALL e-mails sent to me (make sure to include your name). I will respond to crucial dilemmas as soon as possible, otherwise you can expect a response from me within 24-48 hours.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Participation and Expectations:

Your overall success in this class is dependent on your participation and virtual attendance. Every student must have access to a computer with internet and check their email frequently, as well as visit and participate on the Blackboard class site approximately five days a week. Also, it is necessary that you are familiar with the web and Microsoft Word. It is recommended that students check the class site every other day for any new announcements posted. Every student is required to check e-mail (your Saddleback e-mail via Mysite), check announcements, get weekly assignments, read weekly lectures (many test questions as well as assignments are taking from the lecture material- this is located under “Course Documents”), participate on the discussion board, turn in paper assignments, and take online exams as instructed. Every week under the “Assignments” tab, you will see the weekly assignment including readings (text and lecture), discussion board topic (s), and any other papers or tests that may be required for that week. Each student should allocate an average of eight to ten hours per week to this course.

PLEASE NOTE: It is **your responsibility to drop or withdraw yourself** from the class if you are no longer participating; however, I have the right to drop you from the course if you do not reply to the attendance emails in the first week, are no longer participating on the discussion

board (2 forums or more) AND/OR have not taken the first, second, or both exams (depending on the situation).

Blackboard: Your virtual classroom for the semester is the Blackboard learning system. The system includes such features as: class announcements, discussion board (our class discussion forum), lectures, email, assignments, study guides, links to additional readings, exams, and grades.

Course Website Address: <http://socccd.blackboard.com>

Your username is your Saddleback College e-mail address given to you at registration (first initial of your first name and your last name plus a number; do not include the @saddleback.edu) and your password is either your pin number plus two zeros or the last four digits of your social security number plus two zeros. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE THE SAME AS YOUR MYSITE AND EMAIL USERNAME AND PASSWORD; IF YOU CHANGE ONE YOU CHANGE THEM ALL.

Technical Difficulties:

If a student is experiencing difficulties with the website, which extends beyond a few hours, as the website could be temporarily down, he or she must immediately contact me. Questions regarding navigating the website usually can be found by reading the Blackboard instructions found through the Distance Education campus website: <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/> or check out this YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SaddlebackLIBRARY#p/u/3/0Z60Y97WHng>

Online Etiquette (Netiquette):

The online classroom should be treated as if you were sitting face to face with your classmates! Please be polite and respectful when making your posts, responding to other students' posts, and in all other written assignments. In addition, offensive language will not be tolerated. If a student is being disrespectful and/or providing a negative learning environment for others he or she will receive a warning or be immediately dropped from the course according to the instructor's discretion.

Please go to the following websites for information on "Netiquette":

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

<http://www.chirpingbird.com/netpets/html/computer/emoticon.html>

Library Information:

Phone: (949) 582- 4314

M-TH 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

F 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sat 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m

Closed Sundays

ASSESSMENTS

QUIZ:

Your first assessment will be a **ten point, multiple choice quiz** assessing your knowledge and comprehension of the course outline (syllabus), orientation information, and blackboard system. Please read the instructions below for completing exams. You will have twenty minutes to complete it. The quiz is located under “Assignments.”

DISCUSSION BOARD:

Each student must participate on the discussion board throughout the week. Before **Wednesday at NOON** for that week, students must post their main post to the question(s) by clicking on the button that says “thread +”. Before **Friday at NOON**, students must sufficiently respond to *at least* (more is better) two other students’ posts (not just “Good Job” or “I like what you said”) using the “reply” button. **Please identify the student you are responding to by using his or her name at the beginning of the post.** Your thorough participation (making comments, posting questions, and adding feedback) on this discussion board throughout the week is necessary for your success in the class. Grammar and spell check is available on the discussion board and should be used as this will also be taken into consideration when grading the assignments. Please use **black font** as well as the **font size default** for your responses and replies as it can be difficult to read otherwise. Each discussion board for the week is different: some you may need to apply material from the class, some you may be organized into groups to discuss different vignettes, others may require additional research (in this instance the student is required to cite the source(s) of the data used), and some are opinion questions. Please see the **“Rubric for Online Discussions”** for additional information on the grading for this assignment. I will be frequently checking the discussion boards and providing input and commentary. The discussion board requirement is worth up to **60** points.

ONLINE EXAMS:

There will be three online multiple-choice exams (covering 5 chapters each, which are not cumulative). Each exam includes 50 multiple-choice questions and is worth 50 points (there may be a few extra questions that count as extra credit). The exams usually will be assigned on **Sunday** and due on **Tuesday** at midnight (**except for the final- see dates below**). **Please note:** each exam has a specific deadline in which the exam must be completed by as well as a time limit once the exam is started. Students are allowed one hour and twenty minutes to take each multiple-choice exam. **One point will be deducted for each minute or portion of each minute beyond** the allotted time used to take the exam (up to 25 points can be deducted per multiple-choice exam). **NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE PERMITTED.**

To ensure that there are no **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES** while taking the online exams you will need to **close all OTHER BROWSERS, block all POP-UPS, and DO NOT click on “Refresh” or the “Back” button** as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. In this instance it will show that you have completed the exam and any questions you have not answered or saved will be marked incorrect. Please make sure you **click on “submit”** once you have completed the exam (if you only chose “save” the exam is not submitted to me). You may save your answers throughout (there is a save button to the right of each question). Make-up exams will not be allowed for such avoidable technical difficulties. Also, make sure your internet connection is not moving slower than usual before you take the exam as this could cause your exam to not be processed upon submitting it. Make sure you do not wait until the last minute to take exam as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is

within the last three hours allotted to complete the exam. It is best if you have downloaded “Firefox” (go to firefox.com) on your computer and use this as your browser to access the website.

PAPER ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be **two** paper assignments. Grades will be based on your adherence to the specific instructions, your use of application and sociological analysis (concepts, terms, social theory, and data from class), grammar and spelling, and your overall competence and delivery of the issue. Please make sure to read over all guidelines thoroughly as this is a major factor in the grading process. Specific paper instructions will be provided a week and a half prior to the due date. **No late papers will be accepted.** I do NOT except papers through e-mail.

1) Application and Analysis Paper #1 (Discussion Board Marriage and Family Interview):

You will be required to incorporate application and analysis from the class to an interview you will conduct on the subject of marriage and family. You will be incorporating application of terms, concepts, theories, and data from class. Specific instructions will be available at least one and a half weeks prior to the due date. Grading will be based on your adherence to the specific paper requirements, your use of application and sociological analysis, grammar and spelling, and your comprehensive coverage of the issues presented. **This paper is worth 50 points (plus 10 points toward the discussion board that week).**

**** PAPER 1 will be UPLOADED INTO TWO PLACES:** 1) via our Blackboard website to “turnitin” (under the assignments tab) AND 2) copy and paste your paper (from Microsoft Word) to the discussion board forum.

2) Application and Analysis Paper #2 (Family Case Study): This paper is a **comprehensive assignment** incorporating issues discussed throughout the semester. You will be analyzing, applying, and synthesizing different topics/ issues that were covered in the LECTURES to your family life. The particular assignment will be to incorporate application (terms, concepts, theories, and data from class lecture), analysis (from a sociological standpoint; describe, explain, and predict the outcomes of your issues), and synthesis (bring related issues together; cause and effect relationships and correlations) to your personal family life experiences. Specific instructions will be provided two weeks prior to the due date. **This paper is worth 100 points.**

****PAPER 2 will be TURNED INTO** our Blackboard website to the “turnitin” link (under the assignments tab).

IMPORTANT NOTE: See the syllabus for the dates the papers will be assigned as well as the due dates.

Feedback Time: You may access your grades throughout the semester through our Blackboard class website. I will input tests and necessary in-class assignments promptly. I will provide my feedback to your application papers within 10 days of the due date. To check your grades go to “Tools” and “Check Grade.”

Makeup Examinations/Late Paper Policy: The instructor is under no obligation to accept late papers or give makeup examinations and will only be considered 1) if **discussed with me in**

advance (prior to the due date or examination date) or 2) in the instance of a **medical emergency**. In either situation, you must contact me **prior to** the scheduled due date or examination time and **written proof** of the absence will be required in order to be considered for approval of a makeup exam or the turning in of a late paper. Approved late papers and makeup examinations must be turned in or completed in a timely manner and will result in a deduction of total possible points (**10% will be deducted for each day past the due date or assigned examination date**). Note: makeup examinations and late papers are rarely approved.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is cheating (obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means). Aiding someone with any of the above actions is also academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. Examples of academic dishonesty include: plagiarism (using another individual's words as your own and/or not citing another individual's work), unacceptable examination behavior (communicating with other students, copying an exam from another person, allowing another student to copy your own exam, using cheat sheets or other unauthorized material), unauthorized collaboration (including allowing other students to read your completed papers), fraud, and document falsification. The penalty for committing academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment, lowering of the final grade in the course, or the student receiving a failing grade in the course. It is up to the instructor on how to handle each situation. If you are unclear on the parameters of academic dishonesty please see me for clarification. **Please note: The "turnitin" program will be used for all papers to check for plagiarism.** See the Student Handbook for more information on academic dishonesty, [**http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf**](http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf)

Special Services

"Special Services provides support services and specialized instruction for students with disabilities." If you feel that you are in need of special services please contact the Special Services office: (949)582-4249; Office location: SSC113 (Student Services Center 113; first floor); Website: www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/

Note: please feel free to discuss special services issues with me. If you have already been assessed through Student Services please discuss accommodations with me and get the paperwork to me as soon as possible.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

The LAP is available for tutoring and can help you with writing assistance for this course. Please call or visit the LAP department. (949)582-4519 or Library, room 114 www.saddleback.edu/library/

RUBRIC FOR ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

- **Discussion Boards:** The discussion boards are a very important feature of our class and serve as our main means of communication for the semester. It is crucial that you are actively participating in our forums several times a week (at least three), offering comments, questions, and feedback to each other. Every week you must post an original thread in response to the information posted on the week's Discussion Board. You are

required to post your original thread by **Wednesday at noon** and make a thorough response to at least two (more is better) classmates by **Friday at noon**. **You will not receive any credit for responses posted after the week's end.**

I will use the following rubric to evaluate online discussions:

0-3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No original postings (replies do not count as original postings) ○ Too long/rambling/unorganized thoughts ○ Lack of respectful consideration of classmates' opinions ○ Grammar and spelling errors detract from expression of thought ○ Incomplete response ○ Postings clustered all on one day
4-6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appropriate, basic original posting with at least 2 appropriate replies to classmates (note: appropriate replies to classmates go beyond social comments such as "good idea" or "I agree") ○ Includes all information asked for ○ Postings spread throughout the week ○ Spelling and grammar do not detract from meaning of post
7-10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Original posting contributes to overall learning and knowledge of the class. May include links to additional resources on the topic ○ Replies expand upon classmates contributions ○ Succinct and to the point, yet complete ○ 3 or more posting spread throughout the week without overpowering the topic.

Point Distribution

Quiz	10 points
Discussion Board	60 points
Exams	150 points (50 points each)
Interview Paper #1	50 points
Family Case Study Paper	100 points
TOTAL	370 points

Keep Track of Your Total Points Below

Quiz	_____
Discussion Board	_____

Exam#1	_____
Exam#2	_____
Exam#3	_____
Interview Paper #1	_____
Family Case Study Paper	_____
Extra Credit Points	_____
TOTAL	_____

Grading Scale

333-370	A
296-332	B
259-295	C
222-258	D
221 or below	F

Tentative Course Outline

The following dates are subject to change and any changes made will be announced on our Blackboard website only. Our class week begins on Sundays and ends on Saturdays (exams will be available on Sundays when assigned). All discussion board assignments are due Friday at noon (main posts due on Wednesdays at NOON); however, there are a few instances in which there is a variation in due dates (please see below). **See “Assignments” on our Blackboard website on a weekly basis.**

Week of:

#1 **DUE BY WEDNESDAY AT NOON:** 1) Read the first announcement, syllabus, and orientation information (under “Course Information”) 2) Navigate through the blackboard course website 3) Read my introduction under “Faculty Information” 4) Read “Rubric for Online Discussions” (syllabus and in “Course Information”) 5) Take the quiz under the “assignments” link assessing your knowledge of the orientation, blackboard site, syllabus, and the requirements by **Wednesday 6)** Introduce yourself and respond to the discussion board forum titled, “Introductions/Discussion of Marriage and the Family” and read other students’ posts and respond to at **least two** other students **(main post due by Wednesday at noon, responses to others due by Friday at noon).** 7) Let me know if you have any questions.

#1 **Continued... DUE BY THE END OF THE WEEK (to stay current on the week’s assignments and readings, make sure the following is read by Saturday):**

Lecture	Under “Course Documents”
Chapter 1	<i>Seeking</i>
Chapter 2	<i>Understanding</i>
	Discussion Board

- #2 Lecture
Chapter 3 *Gender*
Chapter 4 *Love*
Chapter 5 *Involvement*
 Discussion Board
- #3 Lecture
Chapter 6 *Sexuality*
Chapter 9 *Communication*
 Exam #1 Available Sunday, must be completed by Tuesday
 (Lectures and Text: Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 Discussion Board
- #4 Lecture
Chapter 7 *Marriage*
Chapter 12 *Work and The Family; Social Class*
 Discussion Board
 Interview Discussion Board Paper #1 Assigned
- #5 Lecture
Chapter 10 *Reproduction*
Chapter 11 *Parenting (on EXAM 3)*
 Discussion Board: Interview Paper #1 due Wed. uploaded to
 the DB and “turnitin” link; response to ONE student due Fri.
- #6 Lecture
Chapter 8 *Variations*
Chapter 13 *Crises*
 Exam #2 (Available Sunday, must be completed by Tuesday
 (Lectures and Text: Chapters: 6,7,9,10,12)
 Discussion Board
 Paper #2 Assigned: Family Case Study
- #7 Lectures
Chapter 14 *Uncoupling*
Chapter 15 *Remarriage*
 Discussion Board
- #8 **Family Case Study Paper #2 Due Sunday before midnight (uploaded to the**
 turnitin link under assignments tab in BB)
Final Exam **Covers lectures and chapters: 8,11,13,14,15**
 (Available Monday, must be completed by Thursday before
 midnight)
 Discussion Board: Extra Credit-Discussion Board: Social
 Research Article and the Family (5 pts

GOOD LUCK!

FINAL NOTE: DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!! Every student must stay organized and on top of his or her work. It is extremely difficult to make up for lost time in an online class (specifically an eight week online course).