
MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Elaine S. Padilla is a Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Rockland Community College. She was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship with which she studied the anthropological connections of hispanic and indigenous populations in Mexico and New Mexico, and a fellowship at the East West Center in Hawaii to study Asian-American populations. In 1998 Dr. Padilla was a Fulbright Scholar and spent a month in Japan studying Japanese culture. Dr. Padilla is a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching as well as a National Award for Teaching Excellence. Her extensive research on ethnicity, culture, migration and family/kinship patterns has been funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health and the Ford Foundation. Dr. Padilla serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations in Rockland County and was President of the American Cancer Society. She, most recently, was the recipient of an NEH grant to develop curricula about Africa and the Americas. Dr. Padilla invites her students to meet with her, in person or by phone, to discuss coursework and related issues.

FALL 2009

SOC 203: MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY: OUR FAMILIES, OURSELVES

Dear Student:

Welcome to the Sociology 203 course, listed in the catalog as MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY, and also referred to as **OUR FAMILIES, OURSELVES**.

A Distance Learning course is an exciting, non-traditional approach to learning. It is "media-based" and essentially it involves:

1. following the schedule as presented;
2. viewing video tapes;

3. using a study guide;
4. reading assigned chapters; and taking exams and completing written assignments.

A very important aspect of media-based learning is that there is no regular contact with a classroom instructor. You should know, however, that I would like to hear from you and that you need not wait until you have a problem to contact me. Call to discuss the content of the course, to obtain clarification of course content, or simply to let me know how you are doing. When leaving messages for me, give your name and your daytime telephone number **at 845-574-4506**. **You may also email me at: epadilla@sunyrockland.edu**. Email is the most efficient.

There is another aspect of media-based learning that I would like to bring to your attention, and this is the importance of a personal schedule of study. A course outline is attached and after you have read this thoroughly, I would suggest that you determine at what time each day you will view the video programs and do your required reading.

You should anticipate spending approximately **3 hours per credit per week** (or the equivalent in winter or summer sessions) engaged in the learning activities mentioned earlier: assigned readings, viewing tapes, completing assignments, taking and preparing for exams, completing written work and contact with your instructor. This kind of diligence and scheduling has been helpful to many students.

I believe you will find this to be an exciting educational experience.

Again, I welcome you and look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Elaine Padilla, Ph.D.

Professor, Sociology and Anthropology

SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM

We highly recommend that you complete and submit our new assessment form, **IS DISTANCE EDUCATION RIGHT FOR ME?** We feel this will increase your chance of success in a telecourse or online course. You will find it on our website at: www.sunyrockland.edu/virtualrcc or pick up a copy at our office.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

The Distance Learning Program is located in the Technology Building. Questions related to the operation of the programs, such as educational planning, receipt of course materials, or any technical difficulties should be referred to this office. **The hours are 8:00-4:00, Monday through Friday**. You may call 845-574-4780 or 4713 for further information.

Questions or problems related to the requirements and content of this course should be discussed directly with your instructor.

I. COURSE TITLE

SOCIOLOGY OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines a wide range of sensitive, controversial issues -- sexuality, love, conflict and communications, economic uncertainty, and divorce -- issues that have affected dramatically the forms and functions of marriage and the family. Emphasis is placed upon personal growth and satisfying relationships through knowledgeable decision-making.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The basic purpose of this course is to call attention to some of the striking changes that have taken place in recent years in the American family and to acknowledge:

- A. the shifts in our perspectives regarding marriage;
- B. the interplay between personal troubles and societal influences; and
- C. the significance of personal choices throughout our lives.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

Marriages and Families: Choices, Changes, and Constraints by Nijole Benokraitis, Prentice Hall, 2008

Our Families, Ourselves Course Study Guide by INTELECOM

Both books are available in the College Bookstore. If you wish the books mailed to you, please contact the Bookstore Manager, ext. 4752.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Viewing

At the College:

All EIGHTEEN PROGRAMS must be viewed to fulfill the requirements for this course.

The Library and Technology **hours are:** 8:00am-10pm Monday-Thursday; 8am-5pm Friday;

8:30am-4:30pm Saturday and 11:00-4:00 Sunday.

Circulation Desk: 845-574-4408

Help-Desk: 845-574-4386

You may take videos from the Main Library Circulation Desk and bring them downstairs to the Library Technology Center, Lower Level I, for viewing.

Home Viewing:

In order to borrow videos, you must have an RCC Student ID.

THE MAIN LIBRARY CIRCULATION DESK WILL BE HANDLING

ALL BORROWING AND RETURNING OF VIDEOS AND AUDIOS.

We will try to accommodate all registered who wish to take tapes home, but students with medical needs will be given first priority. The hours for borrowing and returning videos will be 8 am to 10 pm, Monday through Thursday, 8-5 on Friday, and 8:30-4:30 on Saturday and Sunday.

All tapes must be returned by December 15, 2009. Unless you show written proof for an extension from your instructor, your grades may be impounded.

C. EXAMINATIONS

1. Four (4) required exams are scheduled. All exams will take approximately 1 hour each to complete.

2. Exams will be given in the Testing Center, located in the Technology Building.. To enter the Testing Center students must show an ID card with a photograph.

Call 574-4504, (Testing Center) before coming to be certain no unusual problem has caused an unscheduled closing.

The Testing Center hours are as follows:

DAY - 8:30am - 2:30pm

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

EVENING - 7:15 - 9:45pm

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

There are NO hours at all on Friday evenings, Saturdays or Sundays.

Bring a # 2 pencil to the Testing Center.

3.Grading:

The grading scale is:

95-100 A

90- 94 A-

87-84 B+

84-86 B

80-83 B-

77-79 C+

74-76 C

70-73 C-

59-69 D

0-58 F

4. If for some legitimate and verifiable reason you must make-up an exam, this **may** be possible. However, prior permission is necessary.

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

FALL 2009

Week 1:

View: #1 Changing Families

Read: Ch.1: The Changing Family

Week 2:

View: #2 Perspectives on the Family AND #3 Family History

Read: Ch. 2 Studying Marriage and the Family AND Ch. 3: The Family in Historical Perspective

Week 3:

View: #4 Race, Ethnicity and Family

Read: Ch. 4: Racial and Ethnic Families: Strengths and Stresses

Exam I

Week 4:

View: #5 The Role of Gender AND #6 Love and Loving

Read: Ch. 5: Socialization and Gender Roles AND Ch. 6: Love and Loving Relationships

Week 5:

View: #7 Sex and Sexuality

Read: Ch.7: Sexuality and Sexual Expression Throughout Life

Week 6:

View: #8 Making Connections, Choosing Partners AND #9 Singlehood

Read: Ch. 8: Choosing Others: Dating and Mate Selection AND Ch. 9: Singlehood, Cohabitation, Civil Unions and Other Options

Week 7:

View: # 10 Marriage and Commitment

Read: Ch. 10: Marriage and Communication in Committed Relationships

Exam II**Week 8:**

View: # 11 To Parent or Not to Parent

Read: Ch. 11: To Be or Not to Be a Parent: More Choices, More Constraints

Week 9:

View: # 12 Parents and Children

Read: Ch. 12: Raising Children: Promises and Pitfalls

Week 10:

View: # 13 Working

Read: Ch. 13: Balancing Work and Family Life

Exam III**Week 11:**

View: # 14 Family Violence

Read: Ch. 14: Family Violence and Other Health Issues

Week 12:

View: # 15 Divorcing AND #16 Remarriage and Stepfamilies

Read: Ch. 15: Separation and Divorce AND Ch. 16: Remarriages and Stepfamilies

Week 13:

View: # 17 Growing Older

Read: Ch. 17: Families in Later Life

Week 14:

View #18 Families Today and Tomorrow

Read Ch. 18: The Family in the Twenty-First Century

Exam IV

Please note that all work must be completed by **December 15, 2009**, in order to avoid receiving an I (Incomplete) grade.