

University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer 2024
SYLLABUS for Distance Learning in Marital Adjustment (PSYC3640-0071)

Department of Psychology
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name: Jessica Cintrón, Ph.D.
Email Address: Jessica.Cintron@untdallas.edu For a quicker response, please email me. I will respond within 48 hours or less. Note: All written communication will be delivered via e-mail or Canvas.
Classroom Location: <i>Online</i>
Class Meeting Days & Times: <i>Online</i>
Course Catalog Description: “Physiological, psychological and social economic factors involved in marital adjustment; practical education for marriage and parenthood.”
Prerequisites: General Psychology, PSYC 1630 or 1100
Required Text: Olson, D. H., DeFrain, J., & Skogrand, L. (2019). <i>Marriage and the family: Intimacy, diversity, and strengths</i> (9th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN: 9781259914294; Digital ISBN: 9781260130683
Recommended Text: American Psychological Association. (2020). <i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style</i> (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN-13: 978-1433832161
Access to Learning Resources: UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-1616 UNT Library Webpage email: library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652 UNT Bookstore Webpage e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com

Department of Psychology

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Supported Browsers:

Chrome Firefox
Flash 28, 29 (for audio/video)
Internet Explorer 11
Safari 10, 11

Supported Devices:

iPhone Android Chromebook
(Tablet users can use the Canvas app)

Getting Help with Canvas:

Canvas 24 /7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634

Canvas Help Resources:

web: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

For additional assistance, contact Distance Learning:

DAL1, Ste 150
email: distancelearning@untDallas.edu

If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, make sure to keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress.

If you have a course-related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact me by email.

Course Goals or Overview:

This course will examine a broad range of topics relevant to close relationships, physiological, psychological, and social economic factors involved in marital adjustment, and practical education for marriage and parenthood. Course topics will range from intimacy, marriage and family, diversity in relationships, and family systems theory. Six key qualities of healthy families will be identified and focused on: commitment, appreciation and affection, positive communication, enjoyable time together, spiritual well-being, and the ability to cope with stress and crisis. Empirical research will be explored through writing, student activities, class discussions, and critical thinking exercises.

Course Goals: The goals of this course are as follows:

To develop an understanding of intimacy, including how to develop and maintain close relationships, principles of marriage and family, and ideas, principles, and suggestions for building and keeping intimate relationships.

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Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the family systems theory by examining how families maintain themselves, evolve over time, develop separate lives, and maintain family connections.
2. Explain how a foundation for growth enables families to face challenges and solve problems they encounter.
3. Describe how diversity in structure characterizes families today, including the many different forms that families can take, including diversity in sexual orientation, and families of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
4. Explain how communication facilitates the process of change and growth, with a focus on communication and conflict resolution skills as an essential tool for creating healthy intimate relationships.
5. Identify ways in which families learn to function within the larger systems of community and society, by generating ways in which families, communities, and cultures can work together to build a healthier world in the future.

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added. These will be noted in the Announcements and Modules Section of Canvas. All activities are due by 11:59PM Central time on their due date.

Weekly Topics	Wednesday	Sunday
Week 1	June 5	June 9
<p>Get to know your peers, your professor, and this course</p> <p>Review the Syllabus and required textbook</p> <p>Create your Profile on Canvas</p> <p>Read Chapter 1: Perspectives on Intimate Relationships</p> <p>Read Chapter 2: Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure: Family Strengths and Challenges</p> <p>Read Chapter 3: Understanding Marriage and Family Dynamics</p> <p>Review on Canvas Chapter Summaries, Learning Objectives, and Instructions; Required Learning Materials for Chapters 1 – 3</p> <p>Census Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): Introduce Yourself (Bio) due Discussions (Canvas): Chapter 1, 2, <u>OR</u> 3 due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): 2 Peer Replies for the Introduce Yourself (Bio) due Discussions (Canvas): 1 Peer Reply due for Chapter 1, 2, <u>OR</u> 3 Quizzes (Canvas): Syllabus and Course Quizzes (Canvas): Chapters 1 – 3 due Extra Credit Assignments (Canvas): Changing Family (Chapter 1; 2 points) due

Weekly Topics	Wednesday	Sunday
Week 2	June 12	June 16
<p>Read Chapter 4: Communication and Intimacy</p> <p>Read Chapter 5: Conflict and Conflict Resolution</p> <p>Read Chapter 6: Sexual Intimacy</p> <p>Review on Canvas Chapter Summaries, Learning Objectives, and Instructions; Required Learning Materials for Chapters 4 - 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): Chapter 4, 5, <u>OR</u> 6 due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): 1 Peer Reply due for Chapter 4, 5, <u>OR</u> 6 Assignments (Canvas): Extramarital Sex (Chapter 6) due Quizzes (Canvas): Chapters 4 – 6 due Extra Credit Assignments (Canvas): Crossword Puzzle
Week 3	June 20 (Thursday)	June 23
<p>Read Chapter 7: Gender Roles and Power in the Family</p> <p>Read Chapter 8: Managing Economic Resources</p> <p>Read Chapter 9: Friendship, Intimacy, and Singlehood</p> <p>Review on Canvas Chapter Summaries, Learning Objectives, and Instructions; Required Learning Materials for Chapters 7 – 9</p> <p>Emancipation Day: University Closure on Wednesday, June 19th, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): Chapters 7, 8, <u>OR</u> 9 due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): 1 Peer Reply due for Chapter 7, 8, <u>OR</u> 9 Assignments (Canvas): Managing Money as a Couple (Chapter 8) due Quizzes (Canvas): Chapters 7 – 9 due Extra Credit Assignments (Canvas): Checking-in (2 points) due
Week 4	June 26	June 30
<p>Read Chapter 10: Dating, Mate Selection, and Living Together</p> <p>Read Chapter 11: Marriage: Building a Strong Foundation</p> <p>Read Chapter 12: Parenthood: Joys and Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): Chapters 10, 11, <u>OR</u> 12 due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): 1 Peer Reply due for Chapter 10, 11, <u>OR</u> 12 Assignments (Canvas): Five Types of Marriages (Chapter 11) due Quizzes (Canvas): Chapters 10 – 12 due Extra Credit Assignments (Canvas): Complete the course evaluation survey

Weekly Topics	Wednesday	Sunday
<p>Review on Canvas Chapter Summaries, Learning Objectives, and Instructions; Required Learning Materials for Chapters 10 – 12</p> <p>Start completing the course evaluation survey that the university sent you via email; or go to mydallas.unt.edu and click on course evaluation to complete all the evaluations for your summer courses</p> <p>(Extra Credit: 2 points - Email instructor letting them know that you completed the course evaluation)</p> <p>Last day to drop/withdraw: Friday, June 28, 2024</p>		<p>(2 points) due</p>

Week 5	July 3	July 5 (Friday)
<p>Read Chapter 13: Midlife and Older Couples</p> <p>Read Chapter 14: Stress, Abuse, and Family Problems</p> <p>Read Chapter 15: Divorce, Single-Parent Families, and Stepfamilies</p> <p>Read Chapter 16: Strengthening Marriages and Families Worldwide</p> <p>Review on Canvas Chapter Summaries, Learning Objectives, and Instructions; Required Learning Materials for Chapters 13 – 16</p> <p>Independence Day: University Closure on Thursday, July 4, 2024</p> <p>LAST DAY OF SESSION/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): Chapters 13, 14, 15, <u>OR</u> 16 due Discussions (Canvas): Reflection discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions (Canvas): 1 Peer Reply due for Chapter 13, 14, 15 <u>OR</u> 16 Discussions (Canvas): 1 Peer Reply due for Reflection Discussion Quizzes (Canvas): Chapters 13 – 16 due Extra Credit Assignments (Canvas): Abuse, Violence, and Aggression (Chapter 14; 2 points) due

Last Day to File for an Incomplete Grade (all signed paperwork must be received in the Registrar's Office by this date): Saturday, July 6, 2024 NO FINAL EXAM		
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Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. All activities will be turned in on Canvas.

Introduce Yourself:

In the first week of class, you will be asked to provide a personal biography with **two peer comments** and post in the Discussion section of Canvas. In an online setting it is important that we get to know and welcome one another early in the course so that we can create a sense of community with your instructor and peers. Introductions will be due by 11:59PM Central Time on the assigned date (see course schedule for due dates). Please see Canvas for instructions.

Assignments:

You will be asked to complete individual writing assignments to help you reflect on the readings and apply the assignments to your personal, career, and educational goals. These assignments are in the Assignment section on Canvas. Individual assignments are personal and only the student and professor can see them. Assignments will be posted Day 1 (Monday) of the week in which it is assigned, and due by 11:59 pm Central Time on the assigned date (see course schedule for due dates). You will want to carefully review the Assignment Rubric document located in Canvas. This will be used in evaluating your assignment. Please see Canvas for instructions. Students will be using **APA style** when citing sources within text and preparing a reference list for the Assignments.

Discussions:

You will be asked to answer discussions in the Discussion section of Canvas and comment on your peers' work. These discussions will be related to the weeks' readings from the required textbook. The questions will require critical thinking or application of course topics and will be used to help students stay engaged with their readings, study for their quizzes, and practice writing in APA style. Students will be using **APA style** when citing sources within text and preparing a reference list for the Discussions. Discussions will be posted Day 1 (Monday) of the week in which it is assigned, and due by 11:59 pm Central Time on the assigned date (see course schedule for due dates). You will want to carefully review the Discussion Board Rubric document located in Canvas. This will be used in evaluating your discussion board contributions each week. **Students will NOT be able to make up discussions after the due date since students typically move on to the next week's discussion activities. Please see Canvas for instructions.**

Peer Replies/Comments:

In addition to answering discussions, you will also be required to interact with your peers in the discussions. Your participation grade will consist of replies made to peers. You are welcome, and encouraged, to post more than the minimum required peer replies, as these discussions make the online experience rich and interactive. The purpose of peer interaction is to aid in processing material, to promote class discussion, to emphasize the practical applications of some of the concepts learned in class materials and in your readings, and to build community. Comments should be more than one sentence and should have the following to earn the full credit: (1) paraphrase what you learned from your peer; (2) add information to the discussion; and (3) ask a question related to the discussion. **Students**

will NOT be able to make up peer comments after the due date since most students move on to the next week's activities. Please see Canvas for instructions for the number of peers to reply.

Quizzes:

Traditional on-site courses typically have Midterms and Finals. We will have similar Quizzes, only ours will be administered based on individual learning units. Students will complete a multiple-choice chapter quiz independently, and the questions will be based on material taken from the required textbook and course. All Quizzes will be administered via Canvas. You may work on your quizzes for several days or in one sitting, and they are not timed. Quizzes are also limited to two attempts. The highest score will be recorded. Due dates for quiz completion are included in the "Course Schedule," and quizzes should be completed by 11:59PM Central Time on the due date. For a midterm and final test grade, the instructor will use the student's current grade.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit of **two points** will be offered to students and will be announced on Canvas or in the "Course Schedule." Please note that extra credit means that the tasks are optional, and this should not affect the student's final grade in a negative way.

Grading Matrix:

Activities	Total Points	Points Earned
Assignments (Canvas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Assignments total 20 points each 3 Assignments X 20 points = 60 points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2: Extramarital Sex (Chapter 6) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3: Managing Money as a Couple (Chapter 8) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4: Five Types of Marriages (Chapter 11) 		
Discussions (Canvas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Discussions total 20 points each 7 Discussions X 20 points = 140 points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: Introduce Yourself 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: Chapter 1, 2, <u>OR</u> 3 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2: Chapters 4, 5, <u>OR</u> 6 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3: Chapters 7, 8, <u>OR</u> 9 		

Activities	Total Points	Points Earned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4: Chapters 10, 11, <u>OR</u> 12 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5: Chapters 13, 14, 15 <u>OR</u> 16 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5: Reflection 		
Discussions (Canvas) Peer Replies/Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Replies total 8 points each 8 Replies X 8 points = 64 points 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: 2 Reply Bio 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: 1 Reply for Chapter 1, 2, <u>OR</u> 3 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2: 1 Reply for Chapter 4, 5, <u>OR</u> 6 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3: 1 Reply for Chapter 7, 8, <u>OR</u> 9 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4: 1 Reply for Chapter 10, 11, <u>OR</u> 12 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5: 1 Reply for Chapters 13, 14, 15 <u>OR</u> 16 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5: 1 Reply Reflection 		
Quizzes (Canvas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Quizzes 60 points each, except for the syllabus and course quiz 5 Quizzes X 60 points = 300 points 1 Quiz X 20 = 20 points 300 + 20 = 320 points 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: Syllabus and Course 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: Chapters 1 - 3 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2: Chapters 4 - 6 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3: Chapters 7 - 9 		

Activities	Total Points	Points Earned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4: Chapters 10 - 12 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5: Chapters 13 - 16 		
Extra Credit (2 points; this is optional and should not affect your grade in a negative way if you decide not to participate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 extra credit activities 2 points each 5 extra credit activities X 2 points = 10 points (this may vary) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1: Changing Family (Chapter 1) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 2: Crossword Puzzle (Chapters 4 – 6) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 3: Checking-in 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 4: End of the year course evaluation survey (University will email you the link or you can log in to mydallas.unt.edu and search for course evaluation to complete evaluations for all your courses) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 5: Abuse, Violence, and Aggression (Chapter 14) 		
TOTAL	584 points + Extra Credit opportunities	

Grade Determination:

UNT-D's Grade determination can be found at: [Grade determination](#).

Points	Percentages	Letter Grade
584 - 523	90-100%	A
522 - 465	80-89%	B

464 - 406	70-79%	C
405 – 348	60-69%	D
347 – 0	0-59%	F

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students:

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation(s) must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodation(s) at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the [Disability Services Office website](#). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu or in the Student Center Building, 1st floor.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. [Canvas Instructure Course Management System's Accessibility Statement](#) is also provided.

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Student evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class. Once you complete the course evaluation, you are welcome to email me to let me know and receive **2 points extra credit**.

Late Work Policy:

Make-up activities are allowed with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note, automobile accident report, funeral announcement, etc.). This documentation will be verified by your instructor, which means that documentation must provide a contact name and number. Exceptions will be made for legitimate emergencies at the instructor's discretion (e.g., illness, death in the family), but only if you contact me immediately. Computer problems, like crashes or lost/corrupted files, are not acceptable emergencies. Be sure to make back-up files of your work. Legitimate make-up work will only be allowed within one

week of the missed assignment. If arrangements are not made in a timely manner, I will need documentation (e.g., hospital notice, etc.) explaining the delay. Otherwise, make-up will not be allowed beyond one week. **Since participation must involve classmates, missed participation for discussions and peer comments cannot be made up after its due date.**

Final Grades:

Grades will not be changed after final grades for the semester are submitted, except in cases of documented errors in the computation of a student's total course points earned or in the recording of a student's grade. Students should retain all returned assignments until students have confirmed that the final grade has been computed and reported accurately. Please note that students must earn the exact number of points that correspond with the percentage associated with a letter grade to earn that grade.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy:

If you are unable to complete this course, you must withdraw from it by **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure, which you must initiate. Therefore, the instructor cannot do this for you. You may withdraw from a class by contacting the Registrar's Office. If you stop attending or are unable to complete this class and you do not withdraw before the official drop date, you will receive a performance grade, usually a grade of "F." Students sometimes drop a class when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with your instructor if you feel you need to withdraw. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online at [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#).

Incompletes:

Incompletes are generally reserved for students who have completed most of the coursework, but due to circumstances, are unable to complete the rest of the coursework. An incomplete will be granted at the instructor's discretion. If an incomplete is granted it is the student's responsibility to complete the coursework in accordance with university policy. If an incomplete is not granted, the student is responsible for all the work assigned in the course during the current semester. The last day to file for an incomplete grade is **Saturday, July 6, 2024**.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures in the [Student Code of Academic Integrity](#) Code 7.002 for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection:

Please be aware that in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Canvas classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online

presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Canvas, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to the [Registrar's Office](#) for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online “Netiquette”:

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, discussion board forum threads and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the [Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct](#) Code 7.001. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Assistance: To successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus.

If you have trouble accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical difficulties, first, notify your instructor. If the problem is still not resolved, call Canvas 24/7 Help Desk at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see [Canvas Student Guide](#).