

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2024
Marital Adjustment • PSYC 3640

University Information

Department of Sociology & Psychology
School of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructor Information

Instructor: Elizabeth Casa de Calvo, M.A.

Office: University of North Texas at Dallas Founders Hall, Founders Hall, #207

Phone: (469) 530-0405 *Texts are accepted, but please include your full name and course information.

Email: Elizabeth.Casadecalvo@untDallas.edu

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 8:20 am - 9:50 am; Tuesday/Thursday 8:20 am - 9:50 am (virtual hours via Teams). Please contact me to schedule an appointment outside of office hours, if needed. If you receive my voicemail I will return your call within 24 hours. If you send an email I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends.

Course Information

Classroom Location: Online

Class Meeting Day/Time: Online

Course Catalog Description: This course will examine physiological, psychological, and social economic factors involved in marital adjustment. Practical education for marriage and parenthood will be addressed.

Prerequisites: General Psychology, PSYC 1100

Required Text: Olson, D. H., DeFrain, J., & Skogrand, L. (2018). Marriage and the family: Intimacy, Diversity, and Strengths (9th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN-10: 1259914291 • ISBN-13: 978-1259914294

Learning Resources

UNT Dallas Library

Phone: (972) 780-1616

Web: <http://www.untDallas.edu/library>

Email: library@untDallas.edu

UNT Dallas Bookstore

Phone: (972) 780-3652

Web: <http://www.untDallas.edu/bookstore>

Email: untDallas@bkstr.com

Online Resources

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

Canvas Help - Student Guide Resources: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

UNTD Distance Learning - Canvas Student Assistance:

Location: DAL1, Room 157

Phone: (972)338-5580

Email: distancelearning@untDallas.edu

Supported Browsers

Chrome 67 & 68
Firefox 60 & 61
Flash 29, 30 (for audio/video)
Respondus Lockdown Browser
Safari 10, 11

Supported Devices

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

Screen Readers

VoiceOver (Safari)
JAWS (Internet Explorer)
NVDA (Firefox)
Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome

Course 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

- 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.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- 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.
- Explain how a foundation for positive growth enables families to face challenges and solve problems they encounter.
- Describe how diversity in structure characterizes families today, including the many different forms that family can take, including diversity in sexual orientation, and families of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- 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.
- 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.

Assignments

Assignments are due by 11:59 pm of the assigned date, and should be submitted via Canvas. The schedule is subject to change, as necessary. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated via email or Canvas announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Activities/Assignments sections of the designated weekly folder. Assignments available on Canvas may be completed early, but must be completed by the assigned due date.

Introductions: In the first week of class you will be asked to provide a personal biography. In an online setting it is important that we get to know and welcome one another early in the course, since the course will rely heavily on discussions with peers. Please see Canvas for instructions.

You must complete the first discussion board post (your bio) within the first three days of class. This will service as your course attendance “certification” (for Federal Financial Aid purposes).

Discussion Questions (DQs): You will be asked to answer DQs relating to the weeks readings. These questions will require critical thinking or applications of course topics and will be used to start class discussion. Original posts for DQs will be due on the discussion board by 11:59 pm of the assigned date. You will want to carefully review the Discussion Board Rubric document; this will be used in evaluating your discussion board contributions.

Participation (Peer Replies): In addition to answering DQs, you will also be required to interact with your peers. You are welcome, and encouraged, to post more than the minimum, 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, and to emphasize the practical applications of some of the concepts learned in class materials and in your readings. Students will NOT be able to make up participation points once a discussion board has closed.

Experiential Learning Assignments: Experiential learning typically involves learning a skill in a work setting or off-campus within a private industry, business, organization or agency. Since the timeframe and format of an online course does not allow for in-depth learning projects, we will have modified exercises. Details will be provided within Canvas.

Exams: Traditional on-site courses typically have Midterms and Finals. We will have similar assessments, only ours will be administered each week based on individual learning units. Unit Assessments are designed to test your knowledge of assigned weekly readings. Assessments will be multiple choice format, and will only cover information discussed within the designated week; i.e., Week 1’s Assessment will only cover information discussed in the assigned readings for Week 1. All Unit Assessments will be administered via Canvas. Assessment details (availability and due dates) will be provided in Canvas.

Schedule

Week 1

Monday: Aug. 26, 2024

- Read Week 1 Folder - Chapter 1: Perspectives on Intimate Relationships

Thursday: Aug. 29, 2024

- Personal Introduction Due

Sunday: Sept. 1, 2024

- Week 1 Assignment Due
- Week 1 Assessment Due
- Week 1 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 1 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 2

Monday: Sept. 2, 2024

- Read Week 2 Folder - Chapter 2: Cultural Diversity and Diversity in Family Structure: Family Strengths and Challenges

Sunday: Sept. 8, 2024

- Week 2 Assignment Due
- Week 2 Assessment Due
- Week 2 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 2 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 3

Monday: Sept. 9, 2024

- Read Week 3 Folder - Chapter 3: Understanding Marriage and Family Dynamics

Sunday: Sept. 15, 2024

- Week 3 Assignment Due
- Week 3 Assessment Due
- Week 3 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 3 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 4

Monday: Sept. 16, 2024

- Read Week 4 Folder - Chapter 4: Communication and Intimacy

Sunday: Sept. 22, 2024

- Week 4 Assignment Due
- Week 4 Assessment Due
- Week 4 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 4 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 5

Monday: Sept. 23, 2024

- Read Week 5 Folder - Chapter 5: Conflict and Conflict Resolution

Sunday: Sept. 29, 2024

- Week 5 Assignment Due
- Week 5 Assessment Due
- Week 5 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 5 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 6

Monday: Sept. 30, 2024

- Read Week 6 Folder - Chapter 6: Sexual Intimacy

Sunday: Oct. 6, 2024

- Week 6 Assignment Due
- Week 6 Assessment Due
- Week 6 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 6 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 7

Monday: Oct. 7, 2024

- Read Week 7 Folder - Chapter 7: Gender Roles and Power in the Family

Sunday: Oct. 13, 2024

- Week 7 Assignment Due
- Week 7 Assessment Due
- Week 7 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 7 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 8

Monday: Oct. 14, 2024

- Read Week 8 Folder - Chapter 8: Managing Economic Resources

Sunday: Oct. 20, 2024

- Week 8 Assignment Due
- Week 8 Assessment Due
- Week 8 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 8 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 9

Monday: Oct. 21, 2024

- Read Week 9 Folder - Chapter 9: Friendship, Intimacy, and Singlehood

Sunday: Oct. 27, 2024

- Week 9 Assignment Due
- Week 9 Assessment Due
- Week 9 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 9 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 10

Monday: Oct. 28, 2024

- Read Week 10 Folder - Chapter 10: Dating, Mate Selection, and Living Together

Sunday: Nov. 3, 2024

- Week 10 Assignment Due
- Week 10 Assessment Due
- Week 10 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 10 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 11

Monday: Nov. 4, 2024

- Read Week 11 Folder - Chapter 11: Marriage: Building a Strong Foundation

Sunday: Nov. 10, 2024

- Week 11 Assignment Due
- Week 11 Assessment Due
- Week 11 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 11 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 12

Monday: Nov. 11, 2024

- Read Week 12 Folder - Chapter 12: Parenthood: Joys and Challenges

Sunday: Nov. 17, 2024

- Week 12 Assignment Due
- Week 12 Assessment Due
- Week 12 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 12 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 13

Monday: Nov. 18, 2024

- Read Week 13 Folder - Chapter 13: Midlife and Older Couples

Sunday: Nov. 24, 2024

- Week 13 Assignment Due
- Week 13 Assessment Due
- Week 13 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 13 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 14

Monday: Nov. 25, 2024

- Read Week 14 Folder - Chapter 14: Stress, Abuse, and Family Problems

Sunday: Dec. 1, 2024

- Week 14 Assignment Due
- Week 14 Assessment Due
- Week 14 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 14 Peer Replies (2) Due

Week 15

Monday: Dec. 2, 2024

- Read Week 15 Folder - Chapter 15: Divorce, Single-Parent Families, and Stepfamilies

Sunday: Dec. 8, 2024

- Week 15 Assignment Due
- Week 15 Assessment Due
- Week 15 DQ Replies (2) Due
- Week 15 Peer Replies (2) Due
- Note: No final exam for this class.

Grades

It will be your responsibility to monitor the progress of your course grade by using the grading outline provided below. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about how to calculate your grade. You can use the outline below to track points you've earned for each assignment. If you have concerns regarding your grade at any point, please contact me as soon as it arises. Also, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible if you are having difficulty understanding the course material.

The course will consist of the following assignments:

- Introductions: Personal introduction (bio) and welcome replies. Total Points: 40
- Weekly Discussion Questions (DQs): 30 DQs, 8 points each; 30 DQs x 8 points = 240 points total
- Weekly Participation (Peer Replies): 30 peer replies, 8 points each; 30 replies x 8 points = 240 points total

- Weekly Assessments: 15 assessments, 16 points each; 15 Assessments x 16 points = 240 points total
- Weekly Assignments: 15 assignments, 16 points each; 15 Assignments x 16 points = 240 points total
- Total Course Points: 1000

Course Grading Scale

A = 90% and above (A = 900 - 1000 points)
 B = 80 to 89.9% (B = 800 - 899 points)
 C = 70 to 79.9% (C = 700 - 799 points)
 D = 60 to 69.9% (D = 600 - 699 points)
 F = 59.9% or below (F = 0 - 599 points)

Course Policies

Grading Timeline: While it is your responsibility to turn assignments in on time, it is my responsibility to grade and return them in a timely matter. As faculty we are asked to do this within seven days of the assignment due date. I will do my very best to return each assignment within 2-3 working days from receipt.

Late Work Policy: Grades for course work will be reduced by 10% per calendar late day (e.g., 20% reduction for an assignment two days late, 30% for three days late, and so on). Exceptions will be made for legitimate emergencies, but only if you contact me immediately. Computer problems (e.g., crashes, lost or corrupted files) are not acceptable emergencies. Be sure to make back-up files of your work. An easy way to do this is to send yourself an email with the file attached.

Make-Up Assignments: No make-up activities are allowed without proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note, automobile accident report, funeral announcement, etc.). Additionally, make-ups will not be allowed until your documentation has been verified, 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. 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-ups will not be allowed beyond one week. Since participation must involve classmates, missed participation cannot be made up once a week has ended.

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 particular letter grade to earn that grade.

Incompletes: Incompletes are generally reserved for students who have completed the majority 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 of the work assigned in the course during the current semester.

Email: Please include your full name and the specific situation you wish to address. In the subject line, please place the name of the course, the course number and section. (Example: PSYC 1100-001). E-mails without this information may be considered junk by outlook, and filtered into the spam folder.

Electronic Devices and Online Policies: This course requires access to the Internet; preferably high-power internet from a computer in your home. It is not recommended to use a smart phone, tablet, or an e-reader to complete your online exams, as they may not display correctly.

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 accommodations 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 accommodations 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 Disability Services Office (<https://sa.untDallas.edu/disability-services>). You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDDisability@untDallas.edu or at Building PL, room 1104.

Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting: Students are expected to engage with the instructor and other students in this class in a respectful and civil manner at all times to promote a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave class due to disruptive behavior is not permitted to return to class until the student meets with a representative from the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Dean of Students before class meets again and to provide the instructor confirmation of the meeting. A student who is directed to leave class will be assigned an unexcused absent for that class period and any other classes the student misses as a result of not meeting with the Dean of Students. The student is responsible for material missed during all absences and the instructor is not responsible for providing missed material. In addition, the student will be assigned a failing grade for assignments, quizzes or examinations missed and will not be allowed to make up the work.

The Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Policy 7.001) describes disruption as the obstructing or interfering with university functions or activity, including any behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff access to an appropriate educational environment. Examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a student being directed to leave the classroom include but are not limited to: failure to comply with reasonable directive of University officials, action or combination of actions that unreasonably interfere with, hinder, obstruct, or prevents the right of others to freely participate, threatening, assaulting, or causing harm to oneself or to another, uttering any words or performing any acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual's rightful actions, and harassment. You are encouraged to read the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct for more information related to behaviors that could be considered disruptive.

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 Accessibility Statement is also provided <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>.

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.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy

Course Evaluation Policy: Student's 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.

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. Refer to UNT Dallas' Student Code of Academic Integrity for complete provisions of this code www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf.

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 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.

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 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 <http://www.untDallas.edu/registrar> 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 effected 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 messages 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 UNT Dallas Student Code of Conduct at https://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of 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 particular 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

In order 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 experience difficulty 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 Student Assistance (Distance Learning) 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:

- UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>
- Canvas Instructure Supported & Unsupported Operating Systems <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>