

# SYG2430: Marriages and Families

3 Credit Hours

*This course expires 16 weeks from the date of your enrollment.*

## ABOUT THE COURSE

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeanne Holcomb  
holcombj@ufl.edu

**Course Website:** [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu)

### Course Communications

Email through the course management system is the best way to get in touch with me. I try to respond to all questions within 24 hours on work days and within 48 hours on weekends.

### Required Textbooks

Cohen. 2014. The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change. Norton.  
978-0-393-93395-6

### Purpose of Course

This course is an introductory course related to family life experiences. We will explore the social science data relating to major trends in family life experiences, but the class is designed to encourage questioning and critical thinking. I'm hoping the course will help you to develop a new way of seeing your surroundings. Ideally, much of the learning that takes place during the course will be carried with you beyond the classroom – I hope you develop skills that include being able to acknowledge different perspectives, to evaluate arguments presented to you, and to develop well-thought responses.

### Course Goals and/or Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Describe family diversity in the U.S.
2. Interpret family life experiences using the sociological imagination, making connections between macro-level issues and family life.
3. Develop personal, well-thought responses to current family issues.

### Instructional Methods

This class is divided into thirteen modules. Each module is centered around a chapter from the textbook, with a supplemental reading or video, an assignment, and a quiz.

## COURSE POLICIES

### Performance Policy

This Flexible Learning course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance as a Flexible Learning student are as high as they would be if you were taking this course in a classroom.

### Participation Policy

Students are required to participate in all course activities and submit all assignments posted on the website.

### Assignment Policy

**The course expires 16 weeks after your enrollment.** Complete all modules in the order they are presented on the course website; do not skip modules. **All assignments must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the course expiration date.**

### Course Technology

Students must use their Gatorlink email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email account DAILY for the duration of the course. Access to and on-going use of a computer with Internet access is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. At times, computers crash and Internet connections fail. It is in your best interest NOT to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

For help with e-Learning, contact the Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2.

### Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations provided in the course modules (med-term and end-of-term evaluations).

### Course Deadline and Extension Policy

Each student is allowed 16 weeks from the time of their enrollment to complete a course. If the time is about to expire, the student will be assigned a failing grade ("E"). Students have the option to request an extension if they have made sufficient academic progress (defined as completing at least 50% of the course) and have extenuating circumstances (i.e., medical, etc.) that have prevented them from completing the course. Each extension petition must be made in writing and will be administratively evaluated by the instructor.

## Tuition Refund Policy

A tuition refund will be granted after a Flexible Learning student submits a written request to cancel their course within 30 days of enrollment. Refund requests may be made by fax, e-mail, or U.S. mail. All requests will receive a written response in the form of a detailed receipt. A refund is issued on course materials at the time of cancellation if they are returned within 30 days of sale and are in their original condition. No refunds are granted after 30 days. If a credit card was used to pay for tuition, the refund will be in the form of credit to that card.

## Dropping a Course

In order to drop a Flexible Learning course, students must send a written request by e-mail, fax, or mail to the Office of Flexible Learning. After 30 days, no refunds are given and the student will receive a W on their transcript.

## Transfers

Students may transfer from one Flexible Learning course to another within 30 days of enrollment. This request must be in writing and sent by fax, e-mail, or U.S. mail. Any difference in tuition will be collected or refunded. There is a \$50.00 transfer fee. After the transfer has taken place, the original enrollment and expiration dates still apply.

## Book Buy-Back Policy

Textbooks and materials in continued use by Flexible Learning that are in good condition may be repurchased at 50% of the original purchase price within 30 days of completion or withdrawal from a course. Students can contact the Office of Flexible Learning for details at 800-327-4218.

## How to Request a UF Transcript

The student can view their grades by logging into [MyUFL](#) with their Gatorlink login and by selecting Student Admin. To receive an official transcript, the student must complete a [transcript request form through the Registrar](#). The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Grades are not given over the telephone.

## Grading Policies

For more information about the current UF grading policies for assignments and grade points go to the [UF Grades and Grading Policies web page](#).

Type of Assignment	Total Points
Assignments	13 x 30 points each = 390
Quizzes	13 x 25 points each = 325

Type of Assignment	Total Points
Discussion Postings	13 x 15 = 195
Final Assignment	90 points
TOTAL	1000 points

### Grading Scale

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93 or above	A	4.00
90 – 92	A-	3.67
87 – 89	B+	3.33
83 – 86	B	3.00
80 – 82	B-	2.67
77 – 79	C+	2.33
73 – 76	C	2.00
70 – 72	C-	1.67
67 – 69	D+	1.33
63 – 66	D	1.00
60 – 62	D-	0.67
59 or below	E	0.00

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Weekly Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Module	Topic	Readings/Activities	Assignments
Start Here			
Module 1	A Sociology of the Family	Chapter 1; Reading: Decline of the Family	Assignment 1 Discussion 1 Quiz 1
Module 2	The Family in History	Chapter 2; Assignment: Orphan Trains	Assignment 2 Discussion 2 Quiz 2
Module 3	Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration	Chapter 3; Reading: Immigration	Assignment 3 Discussion 3 Quiz 3
Module 4	Families and Social Class	Chapter 4; Film: Growing Up Poor	Assignment 4 Discussion 4 Quiz 4
Module 5	Gender	Chapter 5; Film: Growing Up	Assignment 5

Module	Topic	Readings/Activities	Assignments
		Trans	Discussion 5 Quiz 5
Module 6	Sexuality	Chapter 6; Film: Let's Talk about Sex	Assignment 6 Discussion 6 Quiz 6
Module 7	Love and Romantic Relationships	Chapter 7; Activity: Love Test	Assignment 7 Discussion 7 Quiz 7
Module 8	Marriage and Cohabitation	Chapter 8; Reading: High Hopes But Even Higher Expectations	Assignment 8 Discussion 8 Quiz 8
Module 9	Families and Children	Chapter 9; Film: The Business of Being Born	Assignment 9 Discussion 9 Quiz 9
Module 10	Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families	Chapter 10; Reading: Divorce and Remarriage	Assignment 10 Discussion 10 Quiz 10
Module 11	Work and Families	Chapter 11; Readings: Work and Childcare	Assignment 11 Discussion 11 Quiz 11
Module 12	Family Violence and Abuse	Chapter 12; Assignment: College Sexual Assault	Assignment 12 Discussion 12 Quiz 12
Module 13	The Future of the Family	Chapter 13; Assignment: Working with what We've Got	Assignment 13 Discussion 13 Quiz 13

## UF POLICIES

### **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**The Flexible Learning office should be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.**

## University Policy on Academic Misconduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read the [Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#).

## GETTING HELP

### Technical Help

**For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas**, please contact the UF Help Desk:

- Location: HUB 132
- Email: [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- Phone: (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- Website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

### Questions about Flexible Learning

If you have any questions about the course, please contact the instructor. If you have administrative concerns (e.g., paying for the course, receiving the textbook, etc.), please contact the Flexible Learning Office.

#### UF Flex Learning Office Contact Information

**Email:** [learn@dce.ufl.edu](mailto:learn@dce.ufl.edu)

**Phone:** (352) 294-3896

**Fax:** (352) 392-6950

**Website:** <http://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/>

## Other Resources

**Other resources** are available at the [UF Distance Learning website](#) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please [email the Distance Learning office](#) or visit the [UF Distance Learning website](#) to submit a complaint.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.