Exploring Marriage & Other Intimate Relationships
SOC 3400 001 17613
Fall 2014 Semester, Friday, 9:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Instructor Information

- T. Morton, Ph.D.
- Office hours: prior to and after class
- Messages (Main campus only): (313) 993-6823

Course Description:

- Students examine, from a sociological perspective, issues concerning intimate relationships. Major emphasis on description and analysis of changes in monogamous marriage. Non-traditional marital forms also examined. Focus upon the intimate relationships as they relate to personal, functional concerns of the student.

Course Objectives:

- Look at how we establish and maintain relationships.
- Examine the nature and issue of marriage and relationships in today’s society.
- Explore the ups and downs of intimate relationships.

Required Readings:

*Marriage & Family: the Quest for Intimacy, 8th Edition*
R. H. Lauer and J. C. Lauer

*ESO: Extending Sexual Orgasm, 2nd Edition*
A. P. Brauer, M.D. and D. J. Brauer

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I*</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II*</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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*Please note: the instructor has the right to change the syllabus as necessary and impromptu writing assignments may be given out to students throughout the semester.

**Cellular telephones are to be set to vibration or turned off.**
TO THE STUDENT:

*Attendance.* Please arrive promptly for class. ANY STUDENT WHO ARRIVES AFTER 9:50 A.M. WILL BE CONSIDERED ABSENT FOR THAT DAY. Your attendance is expected at all class sessions and an attendance sheet will be circulated at the end of each class session. However I am aware that emergencies do occur. You are allowed to miss one class period for the semester without it effecting your attendance overall. Please inform me one week prior to your missing class. PLEASE NOTE ATTENDANCE IS 25% OF YOUR OVERALL GRADE.

*Class participation.* Dialogue is an essential part of this class. Please read the material prior to attending class and expect to participate in the discussion. CLASS PARTICIPATION IS 25% OF YOUR OVERALL GRADE; lack of participation will effect your grade. Students are encouraged to express their ideas in a manner respectful to those who may voice a different opinion. Do not scream/yell over each other to voice your opinion. This semester we will focus on creating and maintaining intimate relationships, the ups and downs of intimate relationships in today’s society. And while sensitive remarks about the topics covered may be viewed as sexist or explicit, I suggest we agree to disagree while maintaining decency, order, and respect for cultural differences in the classroom.

*Exams.* There are two (2) exams for this class. Students will need scantrons and a No.2 pencils to score their answers. Neither scantrons nor the exams will be returned to the student. However, students may view their answer sheets by setting up an appointment. There are no makeup exams. Should any student miss the exams for any reason, they will forfeit their percentage points for their overall grade. **Students who arrive after the start time of the examination period will not be allowed entrance into the room. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class on exam day. You will be allotted 90 minutes for your exams.**

*Children are not allowed.*

*Office hours.* I am only on campus during the time of the lecture; if you need to see me, please do so after class or leave a message at the telephone number listed on the front of the syllabus.

*Students with documented health problems* please see me after class.

*The University’s policy on cheating and plagiarism* is as follows: “The principle of honest is recognized as fundamental to a scholarly community. Students are expected to honor this principle and instructors are expected to take appropriate action when instances of academic dishonesty are discovered. On discovering such an instance, I, Dr. Morton, may give a failing grade on the assignment or for the course. I have the responsibility of notifying the student of alleged violation and the action being taken. Both the student and the instructor are entitled to academic due process in all such cases. Acts of dishonesty may lead to suspension or exclusion. Information on procedures is available in the Office of the Dean.”

*Classroom Conduct.* It is expected of students to carry themselves in a manner respectful not only to the adjunct, but to your fellow students. Snacks are allowed; however, doing homework for other classes, conducting conversations with fellow students during class lecture or discussion, browsing through magazines and newspapers, and being disrespectful to other students while they’re voicing their opinions during class sessions, are all signs of improper conduct. Any disruptive behavior will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and/or Public Safety (main campus) or Farmington Hills Police Department (Oakland campus) will be alerted for removal and full disciplinary action will be brought against the student.
*Course Withdrawals:*

Please note the following changes to Wayne States University’s course withdrawal policies:

1. The last day to **add** a class is Wednesday, September 10th.
2. The last day to **drop** (100% tuition cancellation) is Wednesday, September 10th.
3. The last day to **withdraw** from a class is Sunday, November 9th.
4. Beginning the fifth week of class students are no longer allowed to drop but must **withdraw** from classes. **It is the student’s responsibility to request the withdrawal.** Failure to do so will result in a grade of **F. No withdrawals are permitted after the last day of classes.**
5. Student who request withdrawals will receive one of the following notations:

   - WP - Withdrawal with a passing grade earned to date
   - WF - Withdrawal with a failing grade earned to date
   - WN - Withdrawal never attended, or no graded work to date

Students are able to make requests to withdraw on Pipeline, and the instructor is able to approve the request on Pipeline, much as happens now with final grades. **Please note that you will not be reinstated in the course once your request to withdraw has been processed.**

Students who do not complete course requirements, or do not withdraw appropriately (in timely ways) will receive a failing grade. **So, if you stop coming to class and forget to withdraw from the class, you will receive an F.**

**Reading Schedule**

**August 29th**  
Introduction, Q & A, Class Syllabus, Expectations

**September 5th**  
Chapter 1: Marriage and Family in America: Needs, Myths and Dreams

   - The Need for Intimacy: We are Social Creatures, pg. 4
   - Loneliness, pg. 4-6; Well-Being and Intimacy, pg. 6
   - Myths about Family Life, pg. 6-7
   - We’ve Lost the Extended Family, pg. 6
   - Opposites Attract, pg. 7
   - People Marry Because They Love Each Other, pg. 7-8
   - Having Children Increases Marital Satisfaction, pg. 8
   - A Good Sex Life is the Best Predictor of Marital Satisfaction, pg. 8
   - Happily Married People Don’t Have Conflict, pg. 8-9
   - The Dangers of Myths, pg. 9-10
   - Changing Patterns of Intimate Relationships, pg. 10
   - Premarital Sex, pg. 10
   - Living Alone, pg. 11
   - Cohabitation, pg. 11
   - Delayed Marriage, pg. 11
   - Employed Mothers, pg. 12-13
   - Divorce, pg. 13
   - What Do We Want? What Do We Need?, pg. 14
   - The Great Debate, pg. 14-15
   - Changes in Traditional Arrangements, pg. 15-16
Marriage & Other Intimate Relationships

Me or We?, pg. 16-17
Strengths and Benefits of Marriage and Family, pg. 17-18
Till Death?, pg. 17-20
Systems Theory, pg. 20
Exchange Theory, pg. 20
Symbolic Interaction Theory, pg. 21-22
Conflict Theory, pg. 22
Theory and Intimacy, pg. 22

12th Chapter 2: Diversity in Families
The Social Context of Family Life, pg. 26
Variations among Societies, pg. 27-28
Variations within Societies, pg. 28-29
The Single-Parent Family, pg. 28
Extent of Single-Parent Families, pg. 29-30
Challenges of Single Parents, pg. 30-31
Challenges of Children of Single Parents, pg. 32
Problems between Parents and Children, pg 32-33
The Successful Single-Parent Family, pg. 33-35
Racial/Ethnic Families, pg. 35
The African American Family, pg. 35-39
The Hispanic Family, pg. 39-42
The Asian American Family, pg. 42-44
The Native American Family, pg. 44-45
The Interracial Family, pg. 45-47

19th Chapter 7: Selecting a Life Partner
Cohabitation: The Best Way to Select?, pg. 150
Who Cohabits?, pg. 150
Patterns of cohabitation, pg. 150-151
Cohabitation Compared to Marriage, pg. 151-152
Cohabitation as a preparation for Marriage, pg. 152-153
Is There a Best Way to Select a Life Partner?, pg. 153
What We Expect in a Life Partner, pg. 153-154
Qualities Desired in a Life Partner, pg. 154-156
Exchange and Equity, pg. 156
Life Partner Selection as a Filtering Process, pg. 156-158
Age, pg. 158
Race and Ethnicity, pg. 158
Education, pg. 159-160
Propinquity, pg. 161
Attraction, pg. 161
Family Traditions and Pressures, pg. 161-162
Predictors of Marital Satisfaction, pg. 162
Timing, pg. 163
Equity, pg. 163-165
Communication, pg. 165
Prepare: A Multifactor Approach, pg. 165-166
Chapter 8: Getting Married

What Are Your Chances of Getting Married?, pg. 174
Marital Status of the Population, pg. 174
Who Does and Who Doesn’t Marry?, pg. 175
Why Do People Marry?, pg. 175
The Need for Intimacy, pg. 175-176
Social Expectations, pg. 176
Social Ideals and Personal Fulfillment, pg. 176-177
Desire for Children, pg. 177
Marriage as a Practical Solution, pg. 177
Types of Marriage, pg. 175-180
Expectations, pg. 180-181
Our Private Contracts: 181
Role Expectations, pg. 181
Negotiation: Changing Personal Contracts, pg. 182-183
Adjusting to Marriage, pg. 185
His Marriage and Her Marriage, pg. 185
Starting with Two Strikes, pg. 185-186
Adjustment and In-Law Relationships, p. 185
First-Year Changes, pg. 187-188
Commitment, pg. 188
The Meaning of Commitment, pg. 188-189
The Role of Commitment, pg. 189
Building Commitment, pg. 189

October 3rd  Midterm Exam, Selected Readings, (Lauer & Lauer, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8)

Chapter 4: Sexuality (Lauer & Lauer)

The Meaning of Sex, pg. 78
Sex as Physical: The Response Cycle, pg. 78-80
Sex as Social Behavior, pg. 80-82
Sex and Intimate Relationships, pg. 82-84
Contraception, pg. 87
Amount and Kinds of Contraceptive Use, pg. 87-89
Who Uses Contraceptives?, pg. 89
Demographic Differences, pg. 89
Other Factors, pg. 89-90
Premarital Sex, pg. 91
The Double Standard, pg. 91
Changing Attitudes, pg. 91-92
Changing Behaviors, pg. 92

Chapter 4 (continued): Sexuality (Lauer & Lauer)

Extent of Premarital Sex, pg. 92
Premarital Sex and Social Background, pg. 92-93
Sex in Marriage, pg. 93-94
Sexual Practices in Marriage, pg. 94
Sexual Satisfaction and Marital Satisfaction, pg. 94-95
Change in Marital Sex over the Lifespan, pg. 95
Extramarital Sex, pg. 95-96
Why Extramarital Sex?, pg. 96
Some Consequences of Extramarital Sex, pg. 96
Sexual Diseases, pg. 97
Major Types of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, pg. 97
Incidence, pg. 97-98
Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Sexual Behavior, pg. 98-99
Sexual Dysfunctions, pg. 99
Types of Sexual Dysfunctions, pg. 99
Prevalence of Sexual Dysfunction, pg. 99
Inhibited Sexual Desire, pg. 99-101
Safe Sex, pg. 101

24th Chapter 1: The Promise of Pleasure (ESO Book)
The Promise of Pleasure, pg. 1-4
What is ESO?, pg. 4-5
Female ESO?, pg. 5-7
Male ESO?, pg. 7-10

Chapter 2: Creating the Conditions for Pleasure
For Couples, pg. 11-14
Reasons for ESO, pg. 14-17
Emotional Risks of Practicing ESO, pg. 18
Reasons to Postpone ESO, pg. 18
Creating Trust, pg. 19-20
The Questions of Time, pg. 20-21
Scheduling ESO, pg. 21-22
Times to Avoid, pg. 22-23
ESO Skills Improve with Practice, pg. 23-24
Interruptions, pg. 24
Creating Romance, pg. 24-28
Paying Attention, pg. 28-29
Arranging a Place, pg. 29-31
Lighting, pg. 31
Bathing, pg. 34
Alcohol, pg. 34-35
Anger, pg. 36

31st Chapter 3: Developing Skills
What You Should Know About Anatomy, pg. 37
Female Anatomy, pg. 37-40
Locating the inner Trigger-The G Spot, pg. 40-43
Male Anatomy, pg. 43-49
Similarities, pg. 49-51
Differences, pg. 51
The Chemistry of Sex, pg. 51-53
Learn to Control Your Mind, pg. 53-57
Breathing, pg. 60
Self-Stimulation for Men, pg. 63-66
Self-Stimulation for Women, pg. Pg. 76-81
Mirroring Your Partner, pg. 81-84

Chapter 4: Getting Together
Talking About Feelings, pg. 85
Appreciations and Resentments, pg. 86-88
More about Trust, pg. 95-96
Saying Yes to Sex, pg. 96-98
Connecting, pg. 98-99
Kissing, pg. 99-101
Sexual Exploration, pg. 102-103
Sexual Communication, pg. 103
Foreplay, pg. 103-106
Massage, pg. 106
Sensory Focus, pg. 106-107
Mutual Stimulation, pg. 107-109

November 7th
Chapter 5: Female ESO: How to Stimulate a Woman
How to Stimulate a Woman, pg. 112-114
Stroking the Clitoris, pg. 114-118
Building Arousal, pg. 118-119
Female Extended Orgasm, pg. 127-137

Chapter 6: Male ESO: How to Stimulate a Man
How to Stimulate a Man, pg. 138-140
Romancing the Male, pg. 140
Differences-Controlling the Two-Stage Reflex, pg. 140-141
The Prostate: A Man’s Hidden Trigger, pg. 141-142
Achieving Erection, pg. 144-147
Controlling Ejaculation, pg. 152-160

14th
Chapter 7: ESO: More Ways to Give Intercourse, pg. 163-165
Control Positions, pg. 165-173
Oral Lovemaking, pg. 173-181
Resistances, pg. 181
Focus on Arousal, pg. 181-182
Safer Sex, pg. 183-184
Safer Sex Categories, pg. 185-186
Condoms, pg. 186-187
Other Barrier Materials, pg. 187-194

21st
Chapter 8: Overcoming Resistances
Overcoming Resistances, pg. 195
Dealing with Children, pg. 197-199
Common Resistances, pg. 199-200
Changing Behavior, pg. 201-202
Controlling Thoughts II, pg. 202-205
Visualization/Fantasy, pg. 206-210
Sensitive Encouragement, pg. 212-213
28th  No class in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

December 5th  Chapter 9: ESO: The Future
ESO and Health, pg. 214-216
Sex and Aging, pg. 216-217

Chapter 10: Solving Problems
Solving Problems, pg. 220
Defining Sexual Problems, pg. 221
Medical Problems, pg. 221-22
Anxiety, pg. 222
Traumatic Early Experience, pg. 222-223
Male Problems, pg. 223-237
Female Problems, pg. 237-243
Problems Common to Both Sexes, pg. 243-247
More Communication, pg. 247-260
Learning to Vocalize, pg. 260-262
Learning Oral Lovemaking, pg. 262-265

12th  Exam II, Selected Readings from ESO Book Only