

Martin Community College  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2011

**COURSE NUMBER: SOC 213 (1)**

**INSTRUCTOR: Rhonda Breed**

**COURSE TITLE: Sociology of the Family**

**OFFICE NO: Building 4, Room 5**

**CREDIT HOURS: 3**

**OFFICE HOURS: MW, 12:00-4:50  
TTH, 12:00-12:50  
TTH, 2:30-4:30  
F, 12:00-2:15**

**CONTACT HRS/WK: 3**

**PREREQUISITES: None**

**PHONE NO: 252-789-0264**

**COREQUISITES: None**

**FAX: (252) 792-0826**

**E-MAIL: rbreed@martincc.edu**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course covers the institution of the family and other intimate relationships. Emphasis is placed on mate selection, gender roles, sexuality, communication, power and conflict, parenthood, diverse life-styles, divorce and remarriage, and economic issues. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze the family as a social institution and the social forces which influence its development and change. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem-solving.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of related technology.
3. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Apply basic research methods, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of sociology and the sociological perspective.
3. Explain the nature of our society's social institutions and how they impact a person's behavior.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Knox & Schacht, (2010). *Choices in relationships: An introduction to marriage and family*. (10th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN 0-495-80843-1**

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES:** As directed throughout the semester

**LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS:** It is your responsibility to read the text and other assigned material. Class lectures will follow along with the text but will not cover it completely. To do well on exams, you need to read the text and **outside reading assignments**, attend lectures, watch assigned videos, and take notes. (Check your email often for supplementary material, announcements, and special instructions.)

**ASSESSMENTS/METHODS OF EVALUATION:** There will be three exams during the semester and one final, comprehensive exam at the end of the semester. The exams may be comprised of multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions. I will offer make-up exams only to those with

**excused absences** (documented serious illness, death in the immediate family, etc.). Throughout the semester, there may be pop quizzes on material from the text. There will be no make-up quizzes; however, I will drop the lowest quiz grade in the event you miss a quiz (an incentive not to miss class). In addition to pop quizzes, I will have you write brief opinions/reflections of the videos you are assigned to watch; these will count the same as a quiz grade.

**Research Paper:** You are required to write a 3-5 page research paper on a topic of your choice that is relevant to this class. The paper requires the use of at least **three** reliable sources for information, including at least one **outside reading source** (academically based books, published research articles, etc.). You may also use government data (i.e. Census reports), reputable media sources (i.e. MSNBC), interviews (please discuss anonymity with me before using this type of source), and other preapproved sources. Your text book or Wikipedia **cannot** be used as one of the three sources. The proper referencing for sources is required. I will accept MLA, APA, or ASA format; however, APA is preferred. Detailed expectations for the paper will be discussed as the semester progresses and I will hand out a sheet with more detailed specifications. Please select a paper topic and submit it in writing by January 28, 2011. The paper is due Friday, March 25, 2011. (Although this is not a class in expository writing, I expect college level work.)

**Class participation:** All students are expected to participate in class during open discussions. I will give everyone the opportunity to offer relevant opinions, share information, and ask relevant questions regarding the subjects we cover. Student input is a vital part of the learning process and is highly encouraged. (Please respect other students, even if you disagree with their ideas or opinions during open discussion.)

**Extra credit:** I will award 10 extra points to your lowest exam grade for participating in at least three hours of documented volunteer services or for donating blood (does not include court ordered community service). Volunteer services must be for a recognized organization (public/private school or daycare, hospital, church, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, animal shelter, fire/rescue, correctional facility, etc.).

**Academic integrity:** Commitment to academic excellence through honesty and integrity is expected of everyone. As such, verified cheating and/or plagiarism will likely result in failure (see MCC policies). I expect each student to do his/her own work unless specifically stated otherwise (e.g. group assignments).

**GRADING POLICY:** Grading is based upon the following ten-point scale:

A = 90-100	B = 80-89	C = 70-79	D = 60-69	F = 59 or below
Each of the four exams counts as 15% of your final grade				60%.
The average of your quiz grades (less the one lowest) count as 15% of your final grade.				15%
The research paper, with the <b>outside reading assignment</b> , equals 15% of your final grade.				15%
Participation will count as 10% of your grade.				<u>10%</u>
Total possible score .....				100%

*(I will not give you a grade; you will earn a grade. If you receive an A, you earned an A. Likewise, if you receive an F, you earned an F. Keep in mind that I do not want to assign anyone a failing grade. Please, try to do your best and if you need help, do not hesitate to ask.)*

## COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1: Introductions and Chapter One  
Week 2: Chapter Two  
Week 3: Chapter Three  
Week 4: Chapter Four/Exam One  
Week 5: Chapter Five  
Week 6: Chapter Six  
Week 7: Chapter Seven  
Week 8: Chapter Eight/Exam Two

Week 9: Chapter Nine  
Week 10: Chapter Ten  
Week 11: Chapter Eleven  
Week 12: Chapter Twelve/Exam Three  
Week 13: Chapter Thirteen  
Week 14: Chapters Fourteen and Fifteen  
Week 15: Chapter Sixteen and Seventeen  
Week 16: Semester Review/Final Exam

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Students must be present in at least one class during the first ten percent (10%) of the course in order to be considered enrolled in the class. If a student has not attended at least one class by the ten percent census date, the instructor will mark the student as NA (never attended). Following school policy, you must attend class 85% of the time. Over-cutting will result in failure of the class. For this class, you will have overcut if you miss more than 7 hours of class (5 classes). That is, if you have more than 8 hours of UNEXCUSED absences, you will fail the class. Three tardies equal one hour's absence. If you are more than 5 minutes late to class or leave class more than 5 minutes early, that will count as one tardy. If you are tardy or leave early, write your name on the board and record the time you arrived/departed class. Students who miss more than six back-to-back contact hours, or fail to attend the required percentage of total hours without a justifiable absence and verifiable contact with the instructor, may be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor and given a grade of "WF." The "WF" will be equivalent to an "F" when calculated into the student's GPA. EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE LIMITED TO THOSE FOR WHICH THE STUDENT CAN PROVIDE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION (DOCTOR'S NOTE, COURT SUBPEONA, DEATH NOTICE FOR IMMEDIATE FAMILY, ETC.). ALL OTHER ABSENCES WILL BE CONSIDERED UNEXCUSED AND WILL COUNT TOWARDS THE 7 HOUR LIMIT. Make-up work is only allowed for excused absences (except for pop quizzes). Students will be counted absent from the date they register for each course.

**REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES:** In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a minimum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by the student's faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor(s) prior to the census date of each class. The *Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances* form can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work.

**CONTACT:** If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services by phone at (252) 789-0246 or (252) 789-0247, or by email at [pbroughton@martincc.edu](mailto:pbroughton@martincc.edu), or in person in her office in Building 2, Room 33.

To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to [www.martincc.edu](http://www.martincc.edu).

*If you need disability related accommodations, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.*