



THIS COURSE IS A SOCIAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COURSE.

FCS 2400

Family Studies Across the Life Course

FINE A AUD . 9:10-10:35 T, TH

Spring 2006

Dr. Kowaleski-Jones

Course Goal: To encourage students to consider the extent to which our own family experiences are related to larger social forces such as gender, race and ethnicity, social class, and changes in cultural attitudes.

Course Text: Lamanna, Mary Ann and Agnes Riedmann (2003) *Marriages and Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society*. 9TH Edition. Wadsworth Publishing Co.

Course Requirements:

- **Exams:** There will be three tests given during the regular semester. Tests 1 through 3 cover the prior 4-5 weeks of material from lecture and text. Test 4 is a cumulative final to be given in Exam week. The highest 3 of 4 test grades are counted. This means if you are satisfied with your first 3 test grades, you do not have to take the cumulative final exam. Each of the three exams and the final exam will be worth 32% of your final grade. Each test will have a random reporting number on it. I will report grades using this code.
- **Term Paper:** There is not a required term paper for this course. However, you have the option to turn in a term paper instead of taking the cumulative final exam. The due date for this paper will be the final exam date. The optional paper should be a 6 page paper on a topic relevant to this course. I will email guidelines for this paper separately to interested students.
- **Class Participation:** I look forward to seeing you! Even though this is a large class, we still manage to have great discussions.

TENTATIVE COURSE TOPICS

Week 1	CH 1	<i>Introduction to Course; What is a family?</i>
Week 2	CH 3	<i>Family history; family theories; research methods</i>
Week 3:	CH 2	Class and Race: Implications for families
Week 4	CH 4	<i>Gender: Implications for families</i>
Week 5	CH 6	Sexuality: Implications for families

PART TWO: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Week 6	CH 7	<i>Alternatives to marriage</i>
Week 7	CH 8	<i>Committing to Partners</i>
Week 8	CH 9	<i>Marriage</i>
Week 9	CH 12	<i>Becoming a Parent</i>
Week 11	CH 13	<i>Parents and Children</i>

PART THREE: FAMILY CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

Week 12	CH 11	<i>Power and Violence</i>
Week 13	CH 14	<i>Balancing Work and Family</i>
Week 14	CH 15-16	<i>Divorce and Remarriage</i>
Week 15	CH 17	<i>Aging Families</i>

Week 16 exam Week **Optional Final Exam Or Paper Turn In Tuesday May 3rd 8 A.M. – 10 A.M.**