

Courtship, Marriage, and Divorce: Family & Interpersonal Relationships

2023 Fall [Course Schedule](#) | Face-to-Face (In-Person) | Tues/Thurs, 11:00 am-12:15 PM | Portable 5



Instructor: Thien-Huong Ninh, Ph.D.

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Canvas Inbox: the best method of contacting the instructor

Email: thien-huong.ninh@reedleycollege.edu

Response time: Usually between 24-48 hours but not during non-working hours, including weekends & holidays. Please contact me again if I do not respond within 72 hours.

Office Hours:

Day(s)	Time	Location(s)
Mon	11:00 am -12:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Zoom (link on Canvas course navigation menu)
Tues & Thurs	10:15 am-11 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Outside green metal tables between the library and Portable 5● Zoom (link on Canvas course navigation menu)
Wed	10:15 am-11:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Faculty Annex 3● Zoom (link on Canvas course navigation menu)
Fri	10:15 am-11:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Faculty Annex 3● Zoom (link on Canvas course navigation menu)

“Studying sociology should be a liberating experience. The field enlarges our sympathies & imagination, opens up new perspectives on the sources of our own behavior, and creates an awareness of cultural settings different from our own. Insofar as sociological ideas challenge dogma, teach appreciation of cultural variety and allow us insight into the working of social institutions, the practice of sociology enhances the possibilities of human freedom.” – Richard Duneier et. al The Essentials of Sociology.

Course Description

Sociology 32 is the introduction to the principles of marriage and family relationships, including love, courtship, mate selection, marriage, sexuality, family planning, pregnancy and childbirth, sexually transmitted diseases, family conflict, conflict resolution, communication skills, divorced families, step-families, aging, and widowhood. ADVISORIES: Eligibility for English 1A or 1AH. (A, CSU-GE, UC) (C-ID SOCI 130)

Course Objectives

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the dynamics of interpersonal relationships.
2. Identify varieties of family patterns and the types of problems encountered in each pattern.
3. Demonstrate awareness of psychological factors and cultural values that affect mate selection and marriage forms.
4. Identify basic differences between male and female sexual physiology and functioning.
5. Identify common sexual dysfunctions and their causes.
6. Identify common sexually transmitted diseases and their symptoms.
7. Analyze the connections between interpersonal relationship dynamics and issues concerning human sexuality.
8. Identify various contraceptive methods available and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
9. Identify and evaluate functional and dysfunctional communication forms.
10. Demonstrate conflict-resolution skills appropriate for the family setting.
11. Identify basic issues faced by divorcing couples and their child(ren).
12. Evaluate alternatives faced by divorcing couples and their child(ren).
13. Demonstrate awareness of the issues concerning aging within relationships.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate how to make well-informed decisions concerning interpersonal relationships and human sexuality.
2. Identify functional and dysfunctional patterns of communication within relationships, and be able to select ways for improving communication in relationships.
3. Analyze sociological concepts and theories to describe and/or explain dating, marriage, and family life.

Course Materials

- **FREE (woohoo!!!) ebook option:** [Sociology of the Family](https://freesociologybooks.com/Sociology%20Of%20The%20Family/01%20Changes%20and%20Definitions.php) by Ron Hammond, Paul Cheney, and Raewyn Pearsey: [https://freesociologybooks.com/Sociology Of The Family/01 Changes and Definitions.php](https://freesociologybooks.com/Sociology%20Of%20The%20Family/01%20Changes%20and%20Definitions.php)
- Additional materials on CANVAS
- **Wifi-Connected Computer Access:** It is utmost important that you check Canvas and your college email **regularly** — **at least 1-3 times per week** — for announcements, updates, and course assignments. (Make sure that you receive alerts or messages from Canvas by setting this up in your Canvas profile.) Your computer should be able to access the following applications & software:
 - Current browser with flash
 - Microsoft Office suite
 - PDF reader
 - Media player

Canvas and Online Learning Technology:

This course uses a Web-based Learning Management System Canvas as the method to disseminate course materials and for communication.

Need Tech Help? Support for Canvas and online learning technology:

1. Technology Help

- Information is on this website:
<https://www.reedleycollege.edu/campus-life/technology-help.html>

2. Canvas Student Guides

- Instructure, the developer of Canvas, has created a wonderful guide that will help students learn to navigate within the learning management system.

3. Additional Learning Resources

- If you're new to Canvas or need some additional learning resources on how to work with Canvas, please consider enrolling in the Online Learning: Self Assessment Course. This course is designed for novices and includes the self-assessment tool and an introductory tutorial. It ends with the link to the second course, which is for students interested in learning how to become better online learners, whether they are new or experienced.

Assessment ★

Please submit all assignments on Canvas via the appropriate assignment submission links. No other forms of submission are accepted (zero points).

The following course requirements are designed to achieve the learning objectives of the class:

Graded Item	Description (More details are in the assignment links on Canvas)	Points
Participation	In-class (synchronous) participation in discussions, lectures, group activities, campus events, guest presentations, etc.	~360
Exams 1, 2 and 3	Three exams (60 points/exam x 3 exam). Covers everything since the previous exam.	180
Final Research Paper	Write a 5-page, double-spaced <i>sociological</i> research paper about our course topic. Present a nearly-final draft of your paper at the end of the term (slides must be included in the presentation and submitted on Canvas).	100
TOTAL POINTS		~640

Grading Scale

<i>A</i>	<i>100 %</i>	<i>to 90.0%</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>< 90.0 %</i>	<i>to 80.0%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>< 80.0 %</i>	<i>to 70.0%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>< 70.0 %</i>	<i>to 60.0%</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>< 60.0 %</i>	<i>to 0.0%</i>

Teaching Philosophy

Critical Thinking & Active Learning

Please participate often and regularly in the class. In addition to the required readings, there will be in-depth discussions and class activities throughout our class. We will engage with our course materials critically and constructively. There will be many debates and intellectual discussions, but petty arguments and discriminatory or derogatory remarks will not be tolerated.

Rights & Responsibilities

This is a college course, and I treat you as an adult. Please be respectful of the instructor and your classmates.

Our course will discuss a number of issues which may be controversial and sensitive to some. It is also my utmost priority to ensure that you are comfortable and feel safe in expressing, sharing, and relating your ideas and opinions to others - inside and outside of the classroom. At the same time, I expect you to treat other students and myself courteously and professionally, even if you do not share similar perspectives.

If you have specific pronouns that you prefer to be called by (he, she, they, them, etc.), please let me know.

Engaging in discussions about potentially sensitive subjects in a professional manner is an important life and career skill, and we will learn and practice it in our class. Remember, humility, empathy, respect, and opening yourself to the possibility of being changed are essential for lifelong learning and teaching.

If you ever feel uncomfortable or have any concerns, please contact me as soon as possible.

Special Accommodations

Reedley College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all individuals with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

Students requiring accommodations for a certified disability that may affect class performance are requested to schedule an appointment with me during the first week of the semester. You can also meet with a staff member at [Disabled Student Programs and Services \(DSPS\)](#) so those appropriate arrangements can be made. DSPS can be reached:

REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOURS: Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

CONTACT:

Phone: 559-494-3032

Fax: 800-624-1499 TTY: 559-638-0382

Location: DSP&S Building Campus Map Reedley College

Attn: DSP&S

995 N. Reed Ave Reedley, CA 93654

Course Policies

1. Adding/Dropping/Withdrawing: I may drop you from the course if you do not complete Week 1 due item(s). I may drop you if you are at risk of failing the class.

In general, you are responsible for adding/dropping/withdrawing yourself from the course. Please reference the registrar’s calendar for deadlines.

2. Identity Authentication and Academic Honesty: Authenticating student identity will be conducted through the use of the Learning Management System, CANVAS. CANVAS requires each student to log into the program using a secure login and password to access.

You are responsible for submitting your own work. Cheating and plagiarism are **not** tolerated. Engaging in academic dishonesty will result in failure in the course and possibly additional penalties, including expulsion. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the College’s Academic Policies.

Please submit all assignments on Canvas via the appropriate assignment submission links. No other forms of submission are accepted (zero points).

3. Assignments and Deadlines. Please reference assignments on Canvas for details about deadlines for each assignment.

The deadlines for all assignments are **firm**.

Assignment make-ups and extensions are only considered under extenuating circumstances with supporting documentation (e.g. doctor’s notes). Please contact me within 3 days of missing the assignment.

4. Grades and Regrading.

If you would like me to re-grade any of your assignments, please send me a message via Canvas Inbox within 7 days (1 week) in which the grades are posted on Canvas. Regrading requests after this 7-day window may not be considered.

5. Proof of Submission. For all graded work, it is your responsibility to keep proof of submission (e.g. an image capture of your submitted work). If you submitted an assignment on the online course site, it is your responsibility to make sure that it was appropriately and successfully submitted (you can do this by taking a screenshot of confirmation of

submission, check to make sure that the submitted file is openable in PDF and/or Word, etc.). Please do not ask me about it.

You can also immediately email yourself the assignment after you submitted it online so that you have another proof of submission and it is time stamped.

Absolutely no credit for an “attempt” of submission without actual submission of the assignment (e.g. the submitted file cannot be opened, the wrong file was uploaded, you tried to submit the assignment but your computer crashed, etc.). ***If I cannot open your assignment on CANVAS, you will receive a zero (0) — no exceptions.***

6. Regular Effective Instructor Contact

Regular and Effective Instructor Contact will be met through instructor initiated threaded discussion forums; weekly announcements to students; timely and effective feedback on student assignments; email, phone or messaging to individuals; and office hours.

Before contacting instructor about your questions, please make sure to do the following:

- check the course syllabus
- check online course announcements & emails from the instructor
- ask a classmate

7. Netiquette and Online Participation

1. We will use respectful and appropriate language in all discussions and communications. We do not use texting abbreviations and we use complete sentences. We use a person’s name when we reply to their posts.
1. Emoticons are an acceptable way to show emotion.
2. We avoid CAPS as they come across like YOU’RE YELLING (unless you’re using them to highlight something or as subheadings)
3. We read all Discussion posts.
4. We respond to the appropriate number of Discussion posts with thoughtful comments.
5. We understand our messages are public and comment accordingly.

8. No Recordings Without My Permission. This includes no photography, video, and audio recordings of any kind of our class, whether online or in our face-to-face meetings. This is to ensure that our classroom, online and in-person, is safe for productive learning and discussions.

Course Schedule: 2023 Fall

Study week runs from 8 am Mon (when weekly materials on Canvas are published) to 11:59 pm Sun. Weekly course materials are published by 8 am on Mon of the week.

[Important College Dates \(e.g., drop deadlines\)](#)

Study Week	Dates (Mon-Sun)	Topics
1	8/7-8/13	Welcome Ch. 1 Introduction – Changes and Definitions
2	8/14-8/20	Ch. 1: Introduction – Changes and Definitions cont.
3	8/21-8/27	Ch. 2: Studying Marriage and Families Ch. 3: Sociological Theories of the Family
4	8/28-9/3*	Ch.4: Gender and Socialization
5	9/4-9/10 (9/4 Labor Day Holiday)	Ch. 5: Love and Intimacy
6	9/11-9/17	Thurs: Exam #1 Ch. 6: Communications and Connections
7	9/18-9/24	Ch. 6: Communications and Connections cont
8	9/25-10/1	Ch. 7: Sexual Scripts Ch. 8: Dating and Mate Selection
9	10/2-10/8	Ch. 9: Marriage and Other Long-Term Relationships Ch. 10: Parenting
10	10/9-10/15	Tues: Exam #2
11	10/16-10/22	Chapter 11: Family Resources and Economics Chapter 12: Divorce and Separation
12	10/23-10/29	Chapter 13: Remarriage and Stepfamilies Chapter 16: Violence and Tragedies
13	10/30-11/5	Chapter 18: Rape and Sexual Assault Chapter 17: Family Strengths and the Future
14	11/6-11/12 (Fri, 11/10 Veterans Day)	Thurs: Exam #3
15	11/13-11/19	FRP Presentations

Study Week	Dates (Mon-Sun)	Topics
16	11/20-11/26 (11/23-11/24 Thanksgiving)	FRP Presentations
17	11/27-12/3	FRP Presentations
18	12/4-12/10 Finals	Final Research Paper Due on Canvas: Tuesday, December 5, 11:00 am - 12: 50 pm

*The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change based on the needs of the class. If there were to be any changes to the course syllabus or schedule due to unforeseen circumstances, they are **only** made and confirmed after they've been announced on Canvas or sent out by emails to all students in the course. Please take responsibility for any changes made.*