



# Modern Family

## Family and Consumer Studies 2400

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### **Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to topical issues and perspectives surrounding the modern family. This course examines how the institution of the family not only shapes individual lives, but also how the family itself, its forms and functions, is also influenced by larger social forces. We will examine the social significance of the American family by looking at how families have varied across American history, social groups, and social contexts. It is hoped that through discussion and debate about family related issues, that students will be able to critically evaluate how social structure and social change have impacted the family, and what these changes mean for society and individuals.

### **Readings:**

- **Required Text:** *Families as They Really Are*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Barbara J. Risman and Virginia E. Rutter (Eds.)
- During parts of the course I will assign supplemental readings. I will either provide copies for you when this is the case or post these readings on Canvas.

### **Assignments:**

- **In-Class Assignments: Pop Quizzes & Group Exercises (10 – 3% each; 30% total of final grade):** Over the course of the semester you will participate in a total of 12 in-class assignments. They will come in the form of pop quizzes and group exercises covering the readings. Quizzes will consist of 1 short answer question, group exercises will include several questions. If you have done the readings you should have no problem completing these assignments.
  - **Note:** Quizzes will be given promptly at the beginning of class. If you are late you cannot take the quiz.
  - **Note:** In-class assignments cannot be made up.
  - **Note:** I will drop your 2 lowest grades. This includes any assignment that is missed.
- **Exams (3 – 20% each; 60% total of final grade):** Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams are designed to test your knowledge of concepts related to the family, theoretical positions regarding the family, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. Question types vary between multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, and essay.
- **Paper: Family in the News (10% of final grade):** In this paper you will write a 3-page paper applying ideas and concepts from the course to a contemporary news story. The new article can be anything related to family life, but it must have been published within the last year. Details and instructions for this assignment will be given later in the semester.