

**YORK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
FACULTY OF HEALTH
PSYCHOLOGY 3630 3.0: PSYCHOLOGY OF THE FAMILY**

| Instructor | TA – Student Surnames: A-K | TA – Student Surnames: L-Z |
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| Lisa Fiksenbaum, PhD | Sheila Konanur | Sadia Zafar |
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| Office Hour: By Appointment | Office: 143 BSB | Office: 031 BSB |
| | Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30am-11:30am | Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-11:00am |
| SECRETARY: Agnes Levstik, Office: 281 BSB Telephone: (416) 736-5125 | If you are having trouble with the lectures or the text visit the TA's. Your TA will be available for consultation regarding text readings, exams, grades, study habits, etc. | |

Prerequisite: HH/PSYC1010 6.0 (or equivalent) – Introduction to Psychology - with a minimum C grade

EMAILING PROTOCOL (if not, emails will be deleted unread).

1. If you send an email to me or to the teaching assistants, we will endeavour to answer all email within 24 hours on weekdays. An email sent on the weekend is unlikely to be answered until the following Monday.
2. Make sure when you send email that you include:
 - a. your name and student number
 - b. make sure you include either the course number (i.e., PSYC3630) or course title (i.e., Psych of Family) in the subject line of the email.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Lamanna, M.A., Reidmann, A., & Stewart, S. (2015). *Marriages, families and relationships: making choices in a diverse society* (12th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of ways in which psychologists and other social scientists have thought about and researched families. Basic assumptions made about family/families and various topic areas (e.g., divorce, mate selection) will be explored.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify social trends and processes in the arena of family life
- evaluate the changes occurring in contemporary family life
- identify research that explores the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation on family life
- analyze the reciprocal relationships among family, work, school, and leisure
- examine societal issues and concerns such as family violence or child abuse and elder abuse as they relate to family functioning

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading: The course grade will be based on performance on three tests throughout the term: Tests #1 & #2 are worth 40% each, and test #3 is worth 20%. For each test, you will only be responsible for the material covered since the last test, i.e., the tests are NOT cumulative.

Reviewing Tests with your TA

Students are encouraged to review their tests with their TA. Once graded, the TAs will be available during office hours to review these with you. The TAs will keep the written tests in order that students may examine their tests and receive feedback regarding how students are doing and how to do better. Tests may not be removed from the office nor copies made.

Requests for re-evaluation of term work, review of midterms etc must be received before the last class of the term.

POLICY ON MISSED TESTS AND EXAMS

Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. Make-up exams will be granted ONLY under EXCEPTIONAL DOCUMENTED CIRCUMSTANCES, such as **serious** illness, or death in the immediate family. If you miss a mandatory piece of course work for no documented reasons, you will receive a grade of zero. Please note that I am extremely strict about the conditions that will allow you to write a make-up examination.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the teaching assistant (or instructor) in person, by telephone, or by email, within 48 hours of the missed exam. In this email, please (a) outline the reason for your absence, and (b) confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation to support this reason. Again, be sure to note your course section and your full name and student number in the subject header of your email. Please note that there will be one set date for the make-up test/exam - – so please make every effort to make this date. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an examination in the other course at that time). No individualized testing is available unless arranged formally through one of the offices at the University (e.g., Counselling and Disability Services (CDS)).

The TA will arrange a date and time for the make-up exam. You will need to receive confirmation of the make-up examination date from your TA; you should be back in touch within a few days with your TA if you have not heard back. It is your responsibility to find out the information about when the make up test/exam is and ensure that you are set to write the make-up test/exam.

Documentation when missing an exam/test

- A. Tests or examinations missed on the grounds of *medical circumstances* must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement from the Office of the Registrar. (NO other forms will be accepted). The Attending Physician's Statement can be downloaded from:

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement.pdf

NOTE: the physician's office may be contacted to verify that the forms were completed by the physician.

B. Tests or examinations missed on grounds of *non-medical circumstances* must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel, etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates.

Missing an exam for a vacation etc. is not an acceptable reason for a make-up exam. Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.

If you are ill or facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, I highly recommend that you consider dropping the course.

Grading:

Grades are NOT negotiable. There will be NO extra assignments. In this course your work will be graded with percentages. However, in the grade report given by the University to you at the end of the year, only letter grades are used. Listed below is the conversion table used in this course (note: the nature of the conversion may change across courses).

% LETTER GRADE

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|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 90 - A+ | 80 – 89 A | 76 – 79 B+ | 70 – 75 B | 66 – 69 C+ | 60 – 65 C |
| 56 – 59 D+ | 50 – 55 D | 48 – 49 E | >48 F | | |

OTHER INFORMATION:

Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. Reading the textbook and listening in class are essential for successful performance in this course. If you miss a lecture, it is your own responsibility to find out what you have missed (e.g. by asking a fellow classmate for their notes); the **instructor and teaching assistant do not provide lecture notes for students.**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are encouraged to read carefully the Faculty of Arts Policy on Academic Dishonesty (http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/policies/academic_honesty.htm)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

| DATE | LECTURE TOPIC | CHAPTER |
|---------|---|---------|
| Sept 11 | Introduction | 1 |
| Sept 18 | Theoretical Perspectives on the Family | 2 |
| Sept 25 | Rosh Hashanah – No class | |
| Oct. 2 | Our Gendered Identities & Choosing a Life Partner | 3 & 5 |
| Oct. 9 | Exam #1 | |
| Oct. 16 | Marriage | 6 & 7 |
| Oct. 23 | Parenting | 8 & 9 |
| Oct. 30 | Co-Curricular Day – No class | |
| Nov. 6 | Exam #2 | |
| Nov. 13 | Work & Family & Family Stress | 10 & 13 |
| Nov. 20 | Power and Violence in Families | 12 |
| Nov. 27 | Divorce & Remarriages & Stepfamilies | 14 & 15 |
| Dec. 4 | Exam #3 | |

Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade: Nov. 7