

## **Marriage and Family Relationships 10-809-128**

Spring Semester 2010-Monday-6:00 to 8:50 p.m.

Section 02; 3 Credits; Room A236

January 18 to May 10, 2010

**Instructor:** Sue Ghrist Priebe, Ph.D.

**Phone:** (O) 715-675-3331 Ext. 1835; (H) 715-675-0022

NTC Toll Free Number: 1-888-682-7144 Ext. 1835

**Email Address:** [priebe@ntc.edu](mailto:priebe@ntc.edu)

**Office Complex:** A 155-Wausau Campus

**Office Hours:** Monday: 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday: 4-5 p.m.

Thursdays: 11-1 p.m.

By Appointment

**How to Contact Me:** My office and home telephone numbers and office hours are listed above. If I am not in, please leave a message on my phone voice mail and I will try to return your call within 36 hours. If calling my home, please call between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Make sure to leave a phone number and a good time to return your call. Please call the NTC toll free number if your call is long-distance. You may also e-mail me at the address above. I will check my e-mails daily on weekdays, and if necessary, try to respond to your message within 36 hours.

### **Course Information**

**Course Description:** This course introduces the student to the sociological aspects of marriage and family in contemporary American society. Emphasis is on the study of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral patterns associated with courtship, love, mate selection, sexuality and marriage. Moreover, it discusses the life span development in the family life cycle, balancing work and family and parenting. This course is based on the premise that human attitudes, feelings and behaviors are largely shaped and influenced by philosophy, gender, communication, and personal beliefs. Therefore, success in the institutions of marriage and family require knowledge and skills in the roles of partner and parent and ways to apply concepts to daily life.

### **Course Competencies:**

1. Explore courtship practices
2. Explore the concept of love
3. Examine gender issues in relationships
4. Explore marriage and family as an institution
5. Examine changes in family structure
6. Identify stages of family life cycle
7. Examine marital satisfaction
8. Examine sexuality in relationships
9. Explore communication patterns in relationships
10. Examine child developmental stages
11. Explore parenting
12. Examine the challenges for contemporary families

**Core Ability Statement:** Core abilities are broad outcomes or skills that every graduate of an NTC program is expected to achieve. These skills go beyond the content of a specific course or program and are

the skills employers tell us they expect employees to have. NTC has identified seven Core Abilities that are important in every area of learning. The **core abilities** for this course are: communicate clearly, work cooperatively, act responsibly, work productively, demonstrate integrity, think critically and creatively, and develop global awareness.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required Text:** (1) *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families (1997)* by Stephen R. Covey, ISBN: 0-3-7-4408-7; (2) *Why Him? Why Her? How to Find and Keep Lasting Love (2009)* by Helen Fisher, ISBN: 978-0-80509152-6; and (3) *Pocket Guide to APA Style-2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2009)* by Robert Perrin. These books can be purchased via most book outlets and NTC bookstore.

**Additional Supplies:** (1) Folder for materials distributed during class; (2) Blank notebook for journaling, taking notes and activities.

### **Course Requirements**

These requirements are performance-based tasks that will help you to demonstrate your learning.

**Class Sessions:** Class time will be primarily lecture and discussion in format augmented with small-group activities. Class sessions will be used to amplify and clarify information in the text and to present additional supplemental material not in the text. **In-class activities** will occur throughout the semester. Some of the class activities will account for a portion of your final grade and will be conducted on a pass/fail point system (unless otherwise stated). The activities include love music (5 points), love-type questionnaire (5 points), map drawing (10 points), gifts questionnaire (5 points), mission statement activity (10 points), win-win game activity (10 points), money quiz or divorce activity (5 points) parenting activity (10 points), communication exercise (10 points), family violence reaction paper (5 points), sexuality reaction paper (5 points), and *Spanglish* reaction group activity (10 points). **There will be no make-ups for in-class activities. Total= 90 points.**

**Student-Guided Discussion:** You and several classmates will be asked to organize and lead a Habit-focused discussion, which should last about 15 minutes. The discussion will be conducted on a pass-fail system and the format is open. However, for you to earn the points, you must attend the discussion, be prepared for the discussion and verbally participate in the discussion. If you do not complete the above guidelines, you will earn 0 points. Groups, dates and discussion guidelines will be distributed later in the semester. **Total=20 points.**

**Project and In-Class Presentations:** Each student will prepare a written project as well as deliver a 15 minute oral presentation on a topic of his/her choice, which is **related to intimate, marriage or family relationships**. For the presentation, you may use any type of medium you wish such as poster, game, PowerPoint, video and/or demonstration. Each student will sign up for a time slot to present at the end of the semester. More details will be distributed later in the semester. **Project=100 points and presentation=50 points. Total=150 points.**

**Homework Assignments:** Several out-of-class assignments are required during the course of the semester. These include: "Save the Marriage" analysis (5 points/3x), Personality-Type and Partner Match (25 points), Pause-Button (25 points), Leo Video Reaction Paper (25 points), Busy Lives (25 points), Win-Win (30 points), Family Culture #1 (30 points), Family Culture #2 (40 points), and Healthy Family Interview (25 points). **Late assignments will be accepted up to two weeks past the due date with a penalty of points. The penalty will be the same regardless when the late assignment is turned in. After two weeks, you will earn 0 points on the assignment. Total= 240 points.**

**Extra Credit:** Students may earn extra credit by completing additional projects. Information will be distributed later during the semester. All extra credit is due no later than the beginning of the last day of class.

## Grading

Successful completion of all course competencies is required to pass this course. The total number of points you earn throughout the semester will determine your grade. The grading system is based on in-class activities (90 points), homework assignments (240 points), student-guided discussion (20 points), project (100 points), and presentation (50 points). Total number of points for class is 500 points. Grades will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible. Grades will be assigned by the following percentages:

A =93-100%  
A- =91-92%  
B+ =89-90%  
B =83-88%  
B- =81-82%  
C+ =79-80%  
C =70-78%  
D =60-69%  
F =Below 60%

### Record Your Points Here

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

In-Class: \_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_

Assignments: \_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_+\_\_\_\_\_

Guided Discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Credit: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/500 Points

In general, I will allow an incomplete grade (I) only if a serious and documented emergency or illness prevents you from completing the course requirements. Any incomplete must be completed before the end of the next regular semester or your grade will revert to a F.

## Classroom Expectations

**Attendance:** You are required to be in class for all class sessions. Please act responsibly by arranging your schedule so you are able to attend each class session. If you must miss a class, please call or email me to schedule a meeting time so that you can receive the material you missed and set a reasonable make-up work timeline so that you will not fall behind and can continue to be successful in the course. Please be here so that you are successful! You will be responsible for any announcements and all material presented in class. If you have to absent, be sure to check with me regarding any handouts or other materials. If NTC is closed, we will not have class

I don't take attendance in class after the first few weeks of the semester but regular attendance is expected at every class. Please be on time for class. If you are late, please enter quietly without creating a class disruption. If you do not attend the first class of class and do not contact me, the instructor may drop you from the class involuntarily. Also, **if you miss more than 2 consecutive classes without instructor notification, the instructor may drop you from the class involuntarily.**

**In-Class Material:** PowerPoints and assignments are posted on Blackboard. Students will be responsible for any material they miss during class. See me for any additional handouts and ask a classmate for notes if you have to miss class.

**Office Visits:** I encourage you to arrange an office visit, especially if you are having any difficulty in following lectures, taking notes, understanding the text or just want to talk “psychology”. I am available so that your experience in psychology is positive, rewarding and meaningful. ☺

**Participation:** Never hesitate to ask a question (there is no such thing as a “dumb question”, if you truly don’t know). I welcome your questions and ideas at any point. If you find relevant material in the news that relates to the topic we are discussing, please bring it to class for discussion. Also, reading assigned material before class will enhance your ability to participate in discussions and ask questions. Last, it is important that you participate constructively and show respect for your fellow students and instructor.

**Written Work:** All written assignments (except review application sheets), such as assignments, must be typewritten or computer-generated using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. **Reference materials must be cited according to APA guidelines.** In general, written assignments will include scoring guidelines.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is important to the learning organization's purpose of helping learners to develop critical, independent thinking skills and habits. Academic honesty is also a key way to demonstrate the core abilities such as "demonstrating integrity." Just as your employer will expect you to complete your own original work, so does NTC. To optimize your success and avoid confusion later, for purposes of this course, we will define academic dishonesty as:

Plagiarism:

Presentation of work that originates from another unacknowledged source as one's own. Presenting someone else's ideas, argument, or information verbatim (or close to verbatim) without acknowledgement of the source in assessments, papers, or discussions, constitutes plagiarism.

Cheating:

- a) Giving, receiving, using, or attempting to give, obtain, or use, unauthorized information or assistance during an assessment or an examination
- b) Obtaining or conveying, or attempting to obtain or convey, unauthorized information about an assessment or examination questions
- c) Giving or receiving assistance on an essay or assignment that goes beyond that specifically allowed by the instructor (this includes buying and selling, or attempt to buy or sell essays and/or research assistance relating to course assignments)
- d) Impersonating someone else or causing or allowing oneself to be impersonated in an examination, or knowingly availing oneself of the results of impersonation
- e) Presenting a single piece of work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved

Students who engage in dishonest behavior will not receive any credit (score of 0) for the learning activity and may be subject to disciplinary action under the college’s policies and procedures.

**Conduct:** Disruptive or rude behavior that interferes with the learning environment will not be tolerated. Students who are disrespectful of others will not be welcomed in class and repeat offenders will be dropped from the class. Respectful behavior includes, but is not limited, to: (1) issues of diversity; (2) respecting another student’s right to be heard (no side conversations); (3) respecting another person’s view, even if you disagree; (4) paying attention in class; and (5) keeping personal information shared in class confidential. In addition, ground rules will be developed during the first day of class with the expectation that these are developed by the class and will be followed by the class.

**Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices must be turned off during class, including, but not limited to headphones, CD players, cell phones, laptops, or Blackberries or any other electronic device unless it is being used for a classroom activity. If it is necessary for your cell phone to be turned on, please use vibrate mode. I don’t mind if you take notes on your laptop during class or watch the classroom video, **but I will not accept activities such as working on another assignment, online surfing, watching webcasts, instant messaging or text messaging while in class. If you are involved in this activity: (1) you will**

**receive a verbal warning to discontinue this activity; (2) If you do respond to the warning and the behavior continues, I will discount 100 points from your final semester point total; (3) If the behavior further continues, you will be dropped from the class.**

**Children in the Classroom:** Children may not find this class particularly enjoyable and could pose safety concerns. Therefore, so that you and other students are not distracted and are able to learn, please make child care arrangements and do not bring children to class.

**Computer Use during Class:** Use of computers during class is prohibited, unless approved by the instructor.

**Computer Use:** NTC provides computing and networking facilities and informational resources to support its educational mission. Each computer user must respect the rights of others and abide by NTC computer policies. Users must apply the highest level of ethical conduct to their use of computing and networking facilities. Successful learners must practice acceptable computer etiquette. Read more about NTC's Computing, Networking and Information Resource "Acceptable Use" at [http://www.ntc.edu/ntclibrary/policies\\_infosecurity.htm](http://www.ntc.edu/ntclibrary/policies_infosecurity.htm)

**Dropping the Course:** If you have concerns regarding the class, please see me. However, if you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to go to Student Services and officially withdraw. Students have until the end of the semester to drop. A "W" will be recorded for students who officially withdraw from the class. A "DR" will be recorded when the student is dropped by the instructor.

**Distance Education/ITV Classroom Policies:** Videotaping of a class is not a substitute for attendance. In case of technical difficulties in broadcasting a class, the class will be taped and the tapes will be available for student checkout. Students should direct their questions about taping to the instructor. The US mail system is used to submit and return assignments/tests to and from the instructor. Materials will be returned to you to review after they have been received and reviewed. In the ITV environment, we need to be sensitive to everyone's learning needs. We need to be courteous and not disrupt class or distract others. Classroom time is for class-related discussion.

**Special Needs/ADA Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, etc.), and believe that you could benefit from academic accommodations, please contact me to let me know how I may best assist you with regard to special needs accommodation. Or, please visit the Student Success Center or call 715-675-3331, x1085. For more information, please visit our website <http://www.ntc.edu/students/studentservicesdisability./htm>

**Class Notes:** A good set of lecture notes is essential for this course. I will provide a lecture outline for each chapter. Your notes should follow the outline. However, don't rely solely on the outline. You should include in your note taking any information that is put on the overhead, board or screen as well as significantly discussed during class lecture. The outline and your class notes will be very useful as you review and quiz yourself regarding the lecture content.

**Time:** You should expect to spend a considerable amount of time on this course. The amount will vary from one person to another but my suggestion is to plan on about 4-5 hours per week outside of the classroom. It will probably take several hours just to read and digest a chapter. Also, spend at least 20 minutes hour reviewing your lecture notes 2-3 times per week. Rehearse the information relating the information to you or examples, take a break and then rehearse more.

**NTC Policies:** Students with questions regarding affirmative action, equal opportunity, harassment, inclement weather, computer use or other information about any other policy, you may refer to the current student handbook available at Student Services. Further information can be found at [www.ntc.edu/about/policies.htm](http://www.ntc.edu/about/policies.htm).

**The Learning Center:** The Learning Center provides individualized and group instruction to help students achieve their personal, academic and vocational goals. To inquire about academic help, contact NTC at 715-675-3331 on the Wausau Campus.

**Student Help Desk:** NTC has a Student Help Desk to provide technical support for our online students. Requests for help may include login and password problems, course software use, software technical problems, and browser questions. If you have questions or need assistance when you are working on your course, you can contact the NTC Student Help Desk via e-mail at [studenthelpdesk@ntc.edu](mailto:studenthelpdesk@ntc.edu) or call 1-888-682-7144 ext 1160 or 675-3331 ext 1160. Please provide the following information: name of course, your student ID number, what you were trying to do, any error messages you may have received, and how to contact you.

**Marriage and Family Relationships Class\***  
**Course Content Outline by Week**  
**Reading Assignments, Assignments, Project & Presentation Due Dates**  
**Spring Semester 2010-Monday**

<b>Week of January 18:</b>	Introduction to 7 Habits & Culture; <b>Read pp. 2-26 (C); Read pp. 1-17 (F)</b>
<b>Week of January 25:</b>	Gender Roles and Love; <b>Read pp. 27-112 (C)</b>
<b>Week of February 1:</b>	<b>No Class-Faculty In-Service; Read pp. 18-237 (F)</b>
<b>Week of February 8:</b>	Money and Relationships
<b>Week of February 15:</b>	Dating and Search for a Partner, <b>Read pp. 113-168 (C)</b>
<b>Week of February 22:</b>	Habits #1
<b>Week of March 1:</b>	Habit #2
<b>Week of March 8:</b>	Habit #3; <b>Read pp. 169-200 (C)</b>
<b>Week of March 15:</b>	Human Sexuality
<b>Week of March 22:</b>	Parenting and Children Issues
<b>Week of March 29:</b>	<b>No Class-Spring Break ☺</b>
<b>Week of April 5:</b>	Habit #4; <b>Read pp. 201-246 (C)</b>
<b>Week of April 12:</b>	Habit #5; <b>Read pp. 247-312 (C)</b>
<b>Week of April 19:</b>	Habits #6 and #7
<b>Week of April 26:</b>	Family Violence; Divorce, Remarriage & Step-Parenting
<b>Week of May 3:</b>	Presentations
<b>Week of May 10:</b>	Presentations

Habit #1: Be Proactive  
Habit #2: Begin with End  
Habit #3: Put First Things First  
Habit #4: Think Win-Win  
Habit #5: Seek First to Understand  
Habit #6: Synergize  
Habit #7: Sharpen the Saw

**Family Culture Paper #1 Due:** Monday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Video Reaction Paper Due:** Monday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Personality Type Analysis Due:** Monday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Pause-Button Assignment Due:** Monday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Busy Lives Time Sheet Due:** Monday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Interview Assignment Due:** Monday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Win-Win Assignment Due:** Monday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m.  
**Family Culture Paper #2 Due:** Monday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**Project Due:** Day of your presentation

**Extra-Credit Due:** Beginning of class period on last day of class

\*Tentative Schedule