Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description:

Course explores the significance of the most fundamental and intimate human relationship, marriage and the family. It considers a cross-cultural understanding, the individual dimension and the interpersonal interactions which occur. Focus is on the American marriage and family to see why and how it has evolved into its present form.

Spring, Sat 9–3:30, Mar 16–May 4, Professor Soo

Course Objectives:

[1] Learning different theories and practices of both American traditional and nuclear marriage and family systems, with a critical mind. The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of this fundamental institution.

[2] The student should have an open mind to study different marriage and family systems, across cultural settings. Such a perspective would make the student appreciate the significance of culture, gender, and age, etc. in marriage and family life.

[3] Since this course emphasizes the importance of moral values, it is essential for the student to learn what these moral values are, for example, love, commitment, fidelity, communication, responsibility, honesty, sacrifice, as well as maturity and wisdom.
**Important Policies**  
[http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html)

**Written Work**
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

**Request for Accommodations**
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html).

**Attendance**
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

**Deadlines**
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.
The Syllabus of the Course  (handed out in the first class on March 16) :

**Introduction**: To marry or not to marry?

1. **Cultural Perspective of Marriage / Family**
   
   1.1 Universality of M / F
   1.2 Cultural variations in M/F

2. **The Marriage / Family System in America:**
   
   2.1 Status Quo : changing and evolving
   2.2 Historical roots : for origins of American M/F
   
   2.3 “American traditional M/F system”
      
      A. Social / cultural context
      B. Basic structure
      C. Division of Labor
      D. Traditional mentality

   2.4 “Nuclear” Family System
      
      A. Social / cultural Context
      B. Pluralistic Nuclear M / F System
      C. Contemporary Issues & Challenges
         
         [a] Women’s Liberation Movement
         [b] Dual-Career Couple / Family
         [c] Divorce
         [d] How to understand Man/hood and Woman/hood, etc.

3. **Philosophical Perspective of Marriage / Family:**
   
   3.1 Philosophical Foundations
      
      A. Love
      B. Commitment
      C. Communication, etc.
      D. Maturity

   3.2 The Future of M/F
      
      A. The challenges and possibilities
      B. Marriage : enduring institution
      C. Parenthood : Mankind
      D. The source of happiness

4. **[In addition] : One-Day Marriage/Family Seminar**  [ Saturday, April 13 ]

   ! --- Enjoy the Course --- !
Memo : No. 1

1. **Course Requirements:**
   
   1.1 **Midterm** .................................................. [25%]
   1.2 **Final** ....................................................... [25%]
   1.3 **A Reflective Paper** ......................................... [25%]
   1.4 **“Participation”** ........................................... [25%]

   [a] Class attendance (taken for each class) – **required**
   [b] Weekly reading assignments
   [c] Weekly “thinking” and “reflection” assignments
   [d] Small group discussions / class discussions
   [e] Each student should have some classmates as “Study-Friends”

   **In addition,** one day **Marriage/Family Seminar** – **required**

2. **Two Course Reading Packets, I & II** include:
   
   2.1 Required reading assignments
   2.2 Recommended, supplementary reading assignments.
   2.3 **The Course Reading Packet I** is available in the first class.

3. **Grade System** is [roughly]:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
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<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>60</td>
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   **Excellent** above **Average** **Average** below **Average**

   **Grade Reports.** All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

4. **The Class Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>First Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Class / <strong>Midterm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td><strong>M/F Seminar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Class / <strong>Final</strong></td>
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