

# SS4570: SOCIOLOGY OF MARRIAGE AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

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## Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Sociology of Marriage and Intimate Relationships

### Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

### Course Number

4570

### Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course is to discuss microsociological dynamics of marriage and intimate relationships in modern society. The purpose is to provide students with a more perceptive awareness of marriage and intimate relationships in everyday life. Specifically, this course examines the evolutionary origin, formation, development, maintenance, change and termination of marriage and other close relationships characterized by emotional and sexual intimacy. The course mainly focuses on but not limited to close relationships between men and women. Key themes include relationship structure, interaction and communication, love, partner selection, stress, parenting, infidelity, conflict, and violence or dissolution.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	identify and review key concepts in understanding modern marriage and intimate relationships;	25	x	x	x
2	demonstrate critical understanding of the complexity of issues of marriage and intimacy in their everyday lives through examination of the interplay between the biological/emotional self and public society;	25	x	x	x
3	Examine with a cultural sensitivity specific issues and processes associated with marriage and intimate relationships in modern society; and	25	x	x	x
4	Explain the outcomes and/or problems caused by modern marriage and intimate relationships.	25	x	x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Lecture:	Students will be equipped with the major concepts and theories concerning marriage and intimate relationships and their implications for society. Local and overseas examples are illustrated.	1, 2, 3, 4	

2	LTA2: Class discussion	Students will be engaged in vibrant class discussion issues about marriage and intimate relationships in class. The discussion is pertinent to lessons taught.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1: Research project	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
2	AT2: Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	40	
3	AT3: Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Research project

**Criterion**

Collection of content-rich, experience-near data.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Poor

**Assessment Task**

2. Paper

**Criterion**

Articulation of theory, findings, and conclusion coherently

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Poor

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**Assessment Task**

3. Quiz

**Criterion**

Recognition of theory-data fit accurately

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

High

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Significant

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Moderate

**Marginal (D)**

Basic

**Failure (F)**

Poor

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**Part III Other Information**

**Keyword Syllabus**

1. Evolutionary origin of marriage and intimate relationships
2. Constructing close relationships
3. Love and emotional processes
4. Partner selection: attraction/dating/ courtship
5. Relationship maintenance: communication and interaction
6. Parenting
7. Stress/crisis
8. Infidelity
9. Conflict
10. Violence/Abuse
11. Dissolution

**Reading List**

**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Buss, D. M. (1994). <i>The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating</i> . New York: Basic Books.
2	Finkel, E. J. (2017). <i>The All-or-Nothing Marriage</i> . New York: Dutton.
3	Fowler, A. C. (2007) "Love and Marriage: Through the Lens of Sociological Theories." <i>Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge</i> : 5(2): 61-72.
4	Giddens, A. (1992). <i>The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love and Eroticism in Modern Societies</i> . Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
5	Jamieson, L. (1998). <i>Intimacy: Personal Relationships in Modern Societies</i> . Cambridge, UK: Polity.
6	Konstam, V. (2019). <i>The Romantic Lives of Emerging Adults: Getting From I to We</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.
7	Quah, S. (2015) (Ed.) <i>Routledge Handbook of Families in Asia</i> . New York: Routledge.
8	Simpson, J. A., & Campbell, L. (2013). (Eds.). <i>The Oxford Handbook of Close Relationships</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.

### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Brizendine, L. (2006) <i>The Female Brain</i> . New York: Harmony Books.
2	Brizendine, L. (2010) <i>The Male Brain</i> . New York: Harmony Books.
3	Gray, J. (2012). <i>Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus: The Classic Guide to Understanding the Opposite Sex</i> . New York; London; Toronto; Sydney: Harper Paperbacks.
4	Ogolsky, B. G., Lloyd, S. A., & Cate, R. M. (2013). <i>The Developmental Course of Romantic Relationships</i> . New York: Routledge.
5	Rippon, G. (2019). <i>The Gendered Brain: The New Neuroscience that Shatters the Myth of the Female Brain</i> . London: The Bodley Head.
6	Weisfeld, C. C.; Weisfeld, G. E; & Dillon, L. M (2018) (Eds.) <i>The Psychology of Marriage: An Evolutionary and Cross-Cultural View</i> . Lanham; Boulder; New York; London: Lexington Books.