



Fall 2025 Syllabus

## HDFS 2313–421: Courtship and Marriage

### Instructor Information

Fatmanur Cifci

[Fatmanur.Cifci@unt.edu](mailto:Fatmanur.Cifci@unt.edu)

Matthews Hall 316

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3–4:30 pm; Wednesday 1–3 pm; or by appointment

### Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

**Course Description:** The study of dating, courtship, and marriage relationships.

**Objectives for courses in the UNT Language, Philosophy, and Culture Core Curriculum:**

1. To develop critical thinking skills,
2. To develop communication skills,
3. To develop personal responsibility,
4. To develop social responsibility.

**Course Prerequisites:** This is a 2000–level course and has no prerequisites.

**Course Format:** The course will be 100% distance education and administered through the Canvas Learn system at UNT and will include 14 modules over 16 weeks. Content will primarily be communicated from textbook readings and online materials. The online content provides students with considerable flexibility in how they approach and process the material. Students can review content at any point and as often as desired. The overall goal of the provided material is to replicate the presentation in the traditional classroom. Students will explore topics such as relationship conflict, communication, power dynamics, family structures, and more. As a student in this course, the goal is for you to leave the class with healthy relationship skills such as appropriate conflict management, communication, safe dating practices, and knowledge on family dynamics.

### Required/Recommended Materials

#### **Required Textbook:**

Rice, F., Stinnett, N., Stinnett, N., & DeGenova, M. (2017). *Intimate relationships, marriages, and families*. Oxford University Press.

**Technology requirements for courses with digital materials:** This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at Learn Anywhere (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

## How to Succeed in this Course

Share your availability with students (office hours, communication preferences, etc.) in a way that communicates the value of connecting outside of class and normalizes success through goals and challenges. Share what success means to you. Include common feedback you receive from students when they utilize office hours and other academic resources. Include the ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](http://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding ([Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>)

## How to Communicate with Your Instructor

Please contact me if you have any question about the course. The best way to do this is to send me a message through the Canvas inbox tool. You can also email me via campus email account: [Fatmanur.Cifci@unt.edu](mailto:Fatmanur.Cifci@unt.edu). My goal is to respond to messages within 5 hours between 8 am and 6 pm, Monday through Friday. However, if you do not receive a response back within the 24-hour time frame between Monday and Friday, resend the message as it may have gotten lost in cyber space. I usually reply to emails within 15 hours during weekend. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

## Assessing Your Work

1. Introduction Discussion board	10 points
2. Discussion boards: 5 @ 10 points each	50 points
3. Midterm	100 points
4. Final exam	100 points
5. Pecha Kucha Presentation	100 points
6. Pecha Kucha Reflection	100 points
7. ARTS	100 points
<b>Total points</b>	<b>560 points</b>

The following grading scale will be used:

504–560= A, 503–448, =B, 447–392=C, 391–336= D, < 336= F

**\*\*No late work will be accepted.**

**All initial discussion board posts are due by Wednesdays and peer replies are due by Fridays. All the other assignments are due by Sundays.**

All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#) and provides documentation **within 48 hours** of the missed deadline.

## Extra Credit

If you submitted your all five main initial discussion board posts by the due date (Wednesdays) and replied to at least one of your peers, you will get an extra 5 points.

Course Requirements/Schedule			
Week	Topic & Assignments & Due Dates	Chapters	Possible Points
<b>Week 1</b> 8/18 – 8/24	<b>Intro to Relationships</b>	<b>Chapter 1</b>	
	<i>Intro posts</i> Initial post due Wed. 8/20 @ 11:59 PM Peer post due by Fri 8/22 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	10 pts
<b>Week 2</b> 8/25 – 8/31	<b>Singlehood</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	
	<i>Discussion 1</i> Initial post due Wed. 8/27 @ 11:59 PM Peer post due by Fri 8/29 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	10 pts
	<i>PK topics sign off</i> 8/31 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	
<b>Week 3</b> 9/1 – 9/7	<b>Attraction and Attachment</b>	<b>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</b>	
	<i>ART 1</i> 9/7 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	20 pts
<b>Week 4</b> 9/8 – 9/14	<b>Defining Love</b>	<b>Chapters 5 &amp; 6</b>	
	<i>Discussion 2</i> Initial post due Wed. 9/10 @ 11:59 PM Peer post due by Fri 9/12 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	10 pts
	<i>ART 2</i> 9/14 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	20 pts
<b>Week 5</b> 9/15 – 9/21	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Chapter 2</b>	
<b>Week 6</b> 9/22 – 9/28	<b>Power and Communication Sexual Relationships</b>	<b>Chapters 9 &amp; 10</b>	
	<i>Discussion 3</i> Initial post due Wed. 9/24 @ 11:59 PM Peer post due by Fri 9/26 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	10 pts
	<i>ART 3</i> 9/28 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	20 pts
<b>Week 7</b> 9/29 – 10/5	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>All material covered</i>	100 pts

<b>Week 8</b> 10/6 – 10/12	<b>Family Planning</b>	<b>Chapter 11</b>	
	<i>PK Presentation</i> 10/12 @11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	100 pts
<b>Week 9</b> 10/13 – 10/19	<b>Pregnancy and Childbirth</b>	<b>Chapter 12</b>	
	<i>Discussion 4</i> Initial post due Wed. 10/15 @ 11:59 PM Peer post due by Fri 10/17 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	10 pts
	<i>ART 4</i> 10/19 @11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	20 pts
<b>Week 10</b> 10/20 – 10/26	<b>LGBT Families and P-C Relationships</b>	<b>Chapters 7 &amp; 13</b>	
<b>Week 11</b> 10/27 – 11/2	<b>Work and Family</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>	
	<i>PK Reflection</i> 11/2 @11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	100 pts
<b>Week 12</b> 11/3 – 11/9	<b>Conflict and Violence</b>	<b>Chapter 15</b>	
<b>Week 13</b> 11/10 – 11/16	<b>Divorce and Repair</b>	<b>Chapters 16 &amp; 17</b>	
	<i>Discussion 5</i> Initial post due Wed. 11/12 @ 11:59 PM Peer post due by Fri 11/14 @ 11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	10 pts
<b>Week 14</b> 11/17 – 11/23	<b>Final Exam Preparation</b>		
<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK (24–30 NOVEMBER)</b>			
<b>Week 15</b> 12/1 – 12/7	<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>All chapters since midterm</i>	100 pts
<b>Week 16</b> 12/8 – 12/14	<b>Final Week</b>		
	<i>ART 5</i> 12/10 @11:59 PM	<i>In Canvas</i>	20 pts

*Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and the above calendar is subject to change. Please review the following pdf for more information: [Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy \(PDF\)](#).*

## Discussions (60 pts)

We will have 6 discussion boards (each 10 pts), including introduction posts, in class which you will be required to engage in. The discussions are a way for you to interact with your peers in a manner that allows you to grow and stretch your thinking. To be successful, a few items need to be included in your discussion. First and foremost, you must relate your discussion back to your readings. This is why it is extremely important to read the material.

Once you are ready to participate, please reply to the prompt question and **respond to at least one other participant's posts**. The original post requires a **minimum of 200 words** in length and all responses to peers should be at least 100 words. **Go beyond "I agree with you,"** to relating their posts to course material. You will not be able to see others' posts until you reply to the prompt. **Initial posts to discussion boards are due on Wednesdays and replies due on Fridays.**

Please pay attention to due dates around initial post times and response to peers as these dates differ. The dates for participation can be found below in the course syllabus. You must participate within the assigned dates to earn credit. Discussions cannot be made up after closing date. Late postings for discussions will not earn any credits (i.e., posting after the assigned dates; for example, initial post after 9/1 or peer reply after 9/3 for discussion #1). The bottom line is that discussions cannot be made up later.

### **Dates assigned for each discussion:**

Discussion question #Introduction (initial post due: 8/20; peer reply due: 8/22)

Discussion question #1 (initial post due: 8/27; peer reply due: 8/29)

Discussion question #2 (initial post due: 9/10; peer reply due: 9/12)

Discussion question #3 (initial post due: 9/24; peer reply due: 9/26)

Discussion question #4 (initial post due: 10/15; peer reply due: 10/17)

Discussion question #5 (initial post due: 11/12; peer reply due: 11/14)

## Pecha Kucha Presentation (100 pts)

Each student will examine varying cultural/religious beliefs and customs for dating, courtship, marriage, and family life for a group/location. For this assignment, each student will create a presentation containing a minimum of 15 slides but no more than 20 slides, each set at 20 seconds. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The Pecha Kucha presentation is due Sunday, October 12th at 11:59 pm.

You need to upload your presentation as a **Microsoft PowerPoint**. Do not use google slides. For PK presentations, you must make an audio record yourself over the PowerPoint presentation.

### Pucha Kucha Reflection (100 pts)

After completing your presentation, you will be required to view a minimum of FIVE recorded presentations posted on the class PK discussion board and write a 3–4 page reflection paper. The Pecha Kucha reflection is due Sunday, November 2nd at 11:59 pm.

### Exams (200 pts)

You will be completing two exams this semester (a midterm and a final). The first will take place during mid-term week. The second will take place during your final exam time. These exams will be comprised of multiple choice or true/false questions and will cover material read in your textbook. The second exam will NOT be comprehensive. Your exams will be online and open book. You are expected to take each test with no outside help other than your text and accompanying lecture materials. Exams will be time (2 minutes per question). This is sufficient time to respond thoughtfully and to check your answers. It is highly recommended that you study and be prepared beforehand since you will not have time to look up each item during the actual exam. You may NOT copy any test items or look at any copied test items from this course: Doing so is an honor code violation.

### ARTS (100 pts)

You will be completing 5 ART activities, (each 20 pts) and there will be fun activities like true false questions, open-ended questions, survey questionnaires, games, art pictures, and music selections that you must submit before the due dates. For ART 1, you must have TWO completed questionnaires attached with this activity so please notate two separate sets of answers for you and for whom you ask the questionnaires.

## University and Classroom Policies

### Standards for Academic Integrity

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of [guidelines for your academic success](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty.

According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
- b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
- c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;
- d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or
- e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term "plagiarism" includes but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Please review [Academic Integrity Policy \(PDF\)](#)

### Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu>.

### ADA Statement

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## Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link:

<http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html>

## SPOT Course Evaluation

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. SPOT is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.