

Distance Education . (CRN 32155, CRN32333)
FMST214 Family, Relationships & Intimacy
Bailey Drechsler, M.A. Psychology

W E L C O M E . . .

Course Site Registration Opens Friday Before Classes Begin.

Special Announcements (Read very carefully):

You are expected to already have the computer skills for an online class such as correct formatting, manipulating files, and “clicking in space” to lock in answers while taking online tests, before enrolling in this class. When you sign up for this class you are confirming that you have this experience/background and that you realize that an online course requires thorough reading of materials. **Please consider the half unit Intro to Online before taking this course. Your first test to see if you will be successful in the class is if you can register for all of the components of the course correctly without computer help support and complete your first assignment on time!**

All coursework (discussions, assignments, exams) will be completed outside of a classroom and submitted online using Blackboard, a course management system. It is your responsibility to be proficient in Blackboard. (See below for information on accessing technical support.) There are no face-to-face class meetings. Keep in mind that this course will require as much time—if not more— as a traditional course requires, however you will find more flexibility.

• **Office Hours:**

When the semester starts, I am available by e-mail where I can answer questions or address any concerns. I will make every attempt to respond within 36 hours Monday- Friday. Use bdrechsl@cuesta.edu if you need to contact me prior to the start of class.

When the course begins (day one of the semester), please use the Blackboard email tool only. Additionally, I will hold office hours M/W 10-11am and T/R 12:30-1:30pm. My office is located in bldg. 4000 on the SLO campus, room 4033. If there is an emergency, you may leave a message with the Human Development Department @ (805) 546-3263.

• **Accommodations:**

If you have a disability and need accommodations in this class, please contact me as soon as possible so that you can receive appropriate accommodations in a timely manner.

• **Required Texts:**

Marriages & Families, Olsen, 7th edition.

Access to the Course:

You can log into the course on the first day of the semester; you can NOT access the course before the semester starts! When the semester starts, please log in right away so that you will not be dropped from the course. Mark your calendars! I will not contact you: starting on day one of the semester, course information will be provided in Blackboard.

To log in go to <http://blackboard.cuesta.edu> and follow the instructions; there is also now a direct link to Blackboard on our Cuesta.edu home page (<http://cuesta.edu>). It is located on the lower right hand corner of the page.

- Your login ID matches your Banner/my.cuesta ID: `firstname_lastname` (all lowercase). The default password for Blackboard is `STUDENT` (all upper case). Change your password once you have logged in. Passwords for my.cuesta and Blackboard can be set to be the same; it is your choice. If you have taken a course before, through Blackboard/WebCT, you will use your existing password. If you are having technical difficulties with the course website or can not log on, contact support@my.cuesta.edu or call 546-3100, extension 2802; help is available during working hours only. You will find 24/7 limited help (resetting passwords) at <http://library.cuesta.edu/distance/techspt.htm> or click on the student tab on myCuesta: choose the Distance Education link and technical support.

- **Minimum Computer Requirements:**

You need a reliable computer and internet connection, as well as a Cuesta e-mail account (check your Cuesta email before the beginning of the semester for course updates). Additionally, your computer needs to meet minimum system requirements to run Blackboard, the web-based course management program we are using.

Windows:

Microsoft Windows 98 2nd Edition or newer

- o Intel Pentium-II or higher
- o Netscape 4.0 or greater
- o Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or greater
- o AOL 4.0 or greater

Macintosh:

MAC OS 9 or newer

- o Power Macintosh power PC processor (G3 or higher recommended)
- o Netscape 4.0 or greater
- o Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.5 or greater
- o AOL 4.0 or greater

DSL or cable connection is preferred, but 56K telephone modem may be sufficient.

Adobe Acrobat Reader: Most recent free version can be downloaded from:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>