



Marcus H. Martins, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Religious Education

Office: Stake Center # 182-B
Phone: (808) 778-3077 (8am-5pm)
E-mail: martinsm@byuh.edu

Office Hours:
Any day, by appointment

[Click Here to See the Course Schedule & Reading Assignments](#)

Course Purpose

This course is centered on the doctrine of the family and the central role families play in Heavenly Father's plan of salvation. Course content is based on "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," other teachings of latter-day prophets, and the scriptures.

Course Outcomes

Students will increase their understanding of the true doctrine of the eternal family and the role of families in leading to happiness on earth and eternal life with Heavenly Father.

Students will be able to explain, promote, and defend the doctrine of the family, the place of the family in Heavenly Father's plan, and how the family is the "fundamental unit of society".

Students will be more prepared to evaluate questions and current issues in the light of scriptural and

Required Materials

- **The Standard Works** - so far: The Bible; The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ; The Doctrine and Covenants; & The Pearl of Great Price
- **Document: [The Family: A Proclamation to the World](#)** (available online)
- **[Reading Assignments for The Eternal Family](#)** (Available online under the course schedule)
- **Handout: [A Few Ideas for Outstanding Academic Papers](#)** (mandatory reading)
- **Accessory: [Online Dictionary](#)** (highly recommended for consultation--at least once a week)
- **You and your brain**, equipped with "a sound understanding" (Alma 17:2)

Class Format

I do not lecture--in the traditional sense of the word--very often. Instead, most of my classes are typically dialogue-driven; more like a group conversation, or like a Q&A (question-and-answer) session.

Therefore, it is essential that you read and think about the assigned materials before coming to class, so you will have good questions to ask me, or insights and experiences related to the readings to share with the class. Our discussions should focus on ways to apply the information in the lessons to analyze real-life situations or issues and propose solutions (currently feasible or not) to them.

Speaking of questions, we often hear the old cliché "*That question is not important to our salvation*", with which I agree when applied to regular Church meetings. But in a university class, questions are important to our education. Therefore, if you want to learn

prophetic teachings.

something gospel-related that will be important--either to your salvation or to your education--I'll teach you, always based on official doctrine or church policy, and also on my own research.

In my opinion, at the end of the day the relevant factors are:

- 1) Was the discussion academically stimulating at a college level?
- 2) Were my explanations accurate, intelligent, and defensible from a doctrinal standpoint?
- 3) Did those explanations bring you to a higher level of understanding of the doctrines of the restored gospel, and inspire you to study and learn more?
- And above all: (4) Did you eventually feel by the power of the Holy Ghost that what you learned is true? (This last factor is outside of a teacher's control, and in some cases it may take some time to happen).

This way we may accomplish the Apostle Peter's counsel that we "... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15)

Assignments & Grading Policy

Contrary to popular (and false) belief, I consider that an excellent final grade should be the result of excellent performance both at the Testing Center and in the classroom. An "A" should not be given simply because someone is "nice" (whatever that means) or has a testimony of the gospel. That high grade should be reserved for those who read all the assignments, attend class regularly, participate in classroom discussion frequently, and study for the exams diligently. This is the breakdown of the total points possible in this class:

Midterm	150 points
Reflection Paper	150 points
Final Exercise	200 points
Class Participation	<u>100 points</u> (Attendance, Comments)
Total Points	600 points

And the final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A 585-600	B- 525-539	D+ 460-474
A- 570-584	C+ 505-524	D 445-459
B+ 555-569	C 490-504	D- 430-444
B 540-554	C- 475-489	F 001-429

Exams

There will be one midterm and one comprehensive final exam, both administered in the "relaxing" Testing Center. A study guide for each exam is incorporated in the reading assignments' web pages (click on "Course Schedule" hyperlink above). Study guides will not be

handed out in class. In the event of exams taken late due to non-extenuating circumstances (see "House Rules" below), a penalty of 15 points will be imposed. Extenuating circumstances that could waive this penalty should be reported immediately.

Reflection Paper

During the semester we will read a good amount of excellent prophetic statements and wise counsels about marriage and family life. But far from making this just an empty exercise, I propose that you reflect on how to incorporate these teachings into your life.

So, as you read the assignments for each class, inspect your feelings--think about who you are, how you behave, and make some decisions about how you would implement those teachings in your life in preparation for (or to refine an existing) marriage. Although it is not entirely necessary for this exercise, I still would encourage you to read my handout "[A Few Ideas for Outstanding Academic Papers](#)"

Choose three or four topics of our discussions, and explain how you would incorporate the knowledge you have obtained in this class in your future.

The paper should be no longer than 3 pages (double-spaced, using a 12-point font, and 1 inch margins) and it must honestly discuss what changes or refinements you will implement in your life. Since this paper will deal with private and sensitive matters, I will not "grade" it in the regular sense of the word; rather, I will merely verify that you completed the assignment. All I want is for this class to be a relevant force for change or refinement in your life.

The deadline for the paper is [May 20](#).

Do not print the paper; just upload it using the Canvas system. Use formats ".doc" or ".docx" (Microsoft Word), or ".pdf" (Adobe Acrobat).

Once again, I encourage you to read my handout "[A Few Ideas for Outstanding Academic Papers](#)"

House Rules

I like to use BYU-H's Honor Code to our advantage. This Honor Code is based on mutual trust. That implies a commitment to be "... honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous ..." (The 13th Article of Faith). In practice, that requires us to give credit to others' ideas, to speak the truth and accept full responsibility for our actions--or for the lack of them. That commitment also requires us to respect and to develop love for each other as children of the Most High and heirs of eternal kingdoms, independent of our differences in ideas, beliefs, gender, race, or national origin.

As a consequence of the commitment to accept full responsibility for our actions, there will be no make-up exams, and no assignments for extra credit. The exercises (or exams, if you prefer) will not be given on dates different than the ones mentioned here, except in cases of extenuating circumstances.

Extenuating circumstances do not include the following: forgetfulness, early travel arrangements, homesickness, your best friend's wedding, a mid-semester family vacation, the death of your family's dog, a great surfing day, the discovery of your eternal companion, assignments for other classes, pizza parties, and other similarly unholy and impure excuses.

Cases of conflicting final exam schedules, serious infirmities, or other truly extenuating circumstances, should be reported immediately and not postponed until the day before an exam. If you are planning to get married within the next 4 months, please, schedule your ceremony for a non-conflicting date. (This request does not apply to births, of course ...)

Classroom Etiquette

I believe that the university's dress and grooming standards reflect the standard that any educated and civil person should

Participation

Class participation will be judged on both the amount and the quality of your questions, comments and contributions to the progress of your peers. The breakdown for those 100 precious points is the following:

- **Attendance** up to 50 points

A lot of money and resources are spent in your maintenance in college. So, the least one can do is to attend classes and try to gain the most from them. Occasionally, circumstances may lead you to miss one class period. **One absence due to illness or one job interview, or one field trip in another class, and absences due to athletic & performance groups, will be waived, but you need to inform me immediately. In all other cases there will be a penalty of minus 15 points for each absence.**

If you need to leave class early, please let me know at the beginning of class. But if you leave class less than 25 minutes after the roll call, or if you sneak out, you will be considered absent on that day, and will lose 15 points. Arriving in class more than 15 minutes late--without a reasonable explanation--will also be considered an absence.

- **Comments in Class** up to 50 points

Our objective with this exercise is to learn from the inspired insights we will gain while studying the readings. Please, avoid "half-baked" remarks (i.e. overly simplistic or unrelated to the assigned chapters) or mere quotations from general authorities. As a college student you must develop analytical skills and find the practical implications of your readings.

Our class periods should be seen as opportunities for mutual enlightenment. I encourage and expect many exchanges of ideas and

adopt anywhere in the world. As a professor as well as a Church high priest I adhere to that standard and expect all my students to do the same.

Since our classes are held in a sacred building, we must display the proper reverence and demeanor suitable to a house of worship. I ask that you refrain from wearing hats, shorts, "grubby attire," beachwear, and from enjoying foods and drinks in the classroom. Falling asleep occasionally is forgivable, but chatting during lectures is not.

To avoid distractions to you and others, while in class, please turn off cell phone ringers--and do not take calls or messages while in class. If you are expecting an emergency call, it might be better for you to miss class and take care of the emergency. Just be sure to send me an e-mail explaining the nature of that emergency. By the way, talking to an old friend, or to your sweetheart in Bangkok, Beijing, or Boston does not constitute an "emergency"--unless he/she is about to undergo brain surgery.

Laptops and Cell Phones in Class

For those among you who are "techno buffs": you are welcome to download the readings to your laptop or access them online in class.

Feel free to share online your ideas, opinions, questions, or short accounts of non-confidential experiences in response to any of the assigned readings or to an idea shared during classroom discussion. In fact, you are welcome to include your Facebook friends in our discussions--but your interactions must be about the topics being discussed in class, not unrelated matters. **I count on you to honor this requirement!**

You are welcome to share with the class the comments and questions your online friends may send you. All such communications must be intelligent, respectful of others, and real contributions to our education.

Other than the interaction described above, be sure that during class you will use your computer or cell phone to explore that day's reading assignment, not for mindless social networking, e-mail, games, or work for other classes.

Those who use their cellular phones to browse the web are welcome to access the readings in class that way, but the ringer must be silent during class. No phone calls or text messaging are allowed! Any exceptions to this must be due to a (real) emergency and cleared with me before each class.

I will not constantly monitor what you do with your electronic devices in class, but if I catch you indulging in stuff unrelated to class, well ... "Houston, we'll have a problem ..."

What If You Belong to Another Faith?

No problem at all. I am a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I respect whatever religious background you come from.

I will never be my intention to offend you or hurt your feelings. I will teach you according to my beliefs in the hope that if you do not accept the restored gospel, at least you will understand the core beliefs of the Latter-day Saints, and help dispel many of the myths and misconceptions about those beliefs. We still would like you to be a good friend of the Church.

experiences from your service in the Church.

If you consider yourself shy, I recommend that you put your shyness in a box and mail it to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean (the Pacific isn't far enough). While in college, take advantage of the resources available to you and "re-engineer" yourself, thus becoming an active participant in a society. Semester-long silence will be rewarded with 0 (zero) points.

Frequent "parallel conversations" (i.e. chatting with classmates often about matters unrelated to the class) may be penalized with a 5-point discount.

Since full participation in class discussion necessarily requires frequent reading of the texts, failure to bring your personal copy of (or electronic access to) the readings to class may be penalized with a 5-point discount ... each time.

What If English Is Not Your Native Language?

Once again, no problem. You are welcome to pray in class in your own language ... provided that there is someone available to translate your words into English--for the benefit of all those present. Take a look at the Apostle Paul's words on the subject:

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. ... [When] thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room ... say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?" (1 Corinthians 14:14, 16)

Disabilities & Special Circumstances

If you have a diagnosed disability or believe that you have a disability that may require reasonable accommodation, let me know right at the beginning of the semester.

My role and function as a teacher are to assist you in achieving spiritually enriching, rewarding, and intellectually stimulating experiences in and out of the classroom. Your concerns and suggestions--whenever you have them--will always be appreciated.

Official Communications

Class announcements will be made via e-mail. You are responsible to check your e-mail "inbox" regularly. E-mail messages sent to BYU Hawaii e-mail addresses are considered official notification of course policies and procedures.

Official University Statements

Religion Department Outcomes

Factual Learning Outcome

Students will learn the ancient and modern settings of the scriptures and they will have the ability to recall the factual information sufficient for demonstrating a basic understanding of LDS scripture, doctrine, and history.

Conceptual Learning Outcome

Students will be able to analyze and interpret LDS scripture, doctrine and history.

Application of Learning Outcome

Students will be able to use the factual knowledge and conceptual understanding of LDS scripture, doctrine and history in problem-solving and life application tasks.

Spiritual Learning Outcome

Students will have developed a deeper testimony of LDS scripture, doctrine and history, and have a greater desire to seek the Holy Ghost as an aid in studying, pondering, and living the doctrine of the Church.

Sexual Harassment and Misconduct

Sexual Harassment is unwelcome speech or conduct of a sexual nature and includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct. Conduct is unwelcome if the individual toward whom it is directed did not request or invite it and regarded the conduct as undesirable or offensive.

Preventing Sexual Harassment

Brigham Young University-Hawaii is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy), religion, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in admissions, employment, or in any of its educational programs or activities. University policy and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sexual harassment and other forms of sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity at BYU-Hawaii, including student-to-student sexual harassment. The following individual has been designated to handle reports of sexual harassment and other inquiries regarding BYU-Hawaii compliance with Title IX:

Debbie Hippolite-Wright

Title IX Coordinator

Vice President of Student Development & Life

Lorenzo Snow Administrative Building

55-220 Kulanui St.

Laie, HI 96762

Office Phone: [808] 675-4819

E-Mail: Debbie.hippolite.wright@byuh.edu

Sexual Harassment Hotline: (808) 780-8875

BYU-Hawaii's Office of Honor upholds a standard which states that parties can only engage in sexual activity freely within the legal bonds of marriage between a man and a woman. Consensual sexual activity outside the bonds of marriage is against the Honor Code and may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

Students With Disabilities

Brigham Young University-Hawaii is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere, which reasonably accommodates qualified person with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Special Needs Counselor, Sister Leilani Auna, at 675-3999 or 675-3518. Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Human Resources Services at 780-8875.