**Hampton University**

# Freddye T. Davy Honors College

### **Syllabus for UNV 390: How to be Single and Happy • (CRN 22523) • 1 Credit • Spring 2020**

Wednesday 5:00 – 5:50 p.m. • Armstrong Hall 236

#### Instructor: Craig Wynne, PhD

#### Associate Professor of English

**Office:** Armstrong 237

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**Office Hours:** Monday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

As of March 30, 2020, office hours will be conducted via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Click on the following link: <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/59907a15c9b84f1cbf51959b89c92365>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide an opportunity for FTDHC students to learn about singlehood as a valid lifestyle choice. They will learn about the stereotypes that pervade singles throughout the world as well as how to overcome them. Students will also learn strategies for how to live as happy singles. **DISCLAIMER: This course will not teach you how to date or how to “get a partner.” It will also not show you how to be in a romantic relationship. If you are looking for that, this is not the course for you.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this seminar, students will have:

* Developing an understanding of the stigma of singlehood
* Practiced strategies in order to be happily single
* Advocated for a change to a policy that favors married people

**Student Expectations**

You are expected to secure (buy) the required reading texts, read all assigned readings, attend class/individual sessions as scheduled, participate in all class activities and complete all assignments. The usual classroom decorum is expected. For example, listen, respect each other as individuals, tolerate any differences that may be revealed, and be sensitive to the needs of your classmates as well as your own.

**Required Reading**

Kislev, Elyakim. *Happy Singlehood: The Rising Acceptance and Celebration of Solo Living*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2019. Click on this [link](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328449232_Happy_Singlehood_The_Rising_Acceptance_and_Celebration_of_Solo_Living?fbclid=IwAR29UAoEiV371cLOTA-24nqPtJ8kIyNRrMhP6HBIYvL9S5Xw8h9qdxz_NuU) to purchase at a discount.

Various Hyperlinks and PDFs

Save a few dollars for some activities the course will require you to do.

**Attendance Policy**

You will be allowed two unexcused absences. After that, you will lose a full letter grade from your average.

**Tardiness**

You are allowed a five-minute grace period. If you arrive between five and ten minutes late, you are marked tardy. Three tardies equals one absence. I also give reading quizzes during the first ten minutes of class. There are no make-ups.

**Late Assignments**

There will be a seven-day grace period for the first two major assignments, at a 5% reduction per day. So, if an assignment is due on Sunday at 11:59 p.m., and you submit it on Wednesday at 11:58 p.m., you would receive 15% off. The third major assignment will not be accepted late at all.

Smaller assignments are typically due at the beginning of class. I will allow a 24-hour grace period for you to submit them at half-credit. You lose five points from your Class Participation if it is not submitted; so for a late submission, you would lose two points.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is expected and will be enforced. Anyone found cheating or plagiarizing will be severely penalized (penalties may range from a 0 being recorded for the assignment/quiz to failure in the class). Please refer to your Student Handbook for the University policy with regard to academic integrity.

**Class Participation**

Class participation will be assessed on a class-by-class basis. Each of you will start off the course with the full 40% (100 points) for class participation. You can lose points (out of the 100 for class participation) for the following:

* Leaving class early without having cleared it with the instructor previously: 5 points and an absence on your record
* Engaging in off-task behavior (texting, being on Facebook or non-course related websites, sleeping, doing work for other classes): 5 points
* Coming to class without downloaded materials, textbook, or writing materials during a session in which it is needed: 5 points
* Not turning in a smaller assignment on time or having done the reading for a quiz: 5 points
* Other evidence of not being engaged with the class (saying “I don’t know” to a question or an evasive response that shows not having read the material): 5 points
* Wearing a hat in class and refusing to take it off when instructed to do so: 5 points
* Engaging in other behavior that disrupts the learning of the class or fails to follow the Hampton University Code of Conduct or Dress Code: 10 points, dismissal from the class session, and an absence on your record for the first occurrence; 20 points, dismissal from the class session, another absence on your record, and a referral to the Dean for the second occurrence. **If you have a concern with the way I am teaching the course, please speak with me privately; class time is not the proper venue to air those concerns.**
* Outright refusal to follow directions and other behavior that directly respects the instructor or a classmate: 20 points, dismissal from the class session, an absence on your record, and a referral to the Dean

Participation will be documented on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to be aware of it. If you see less than “100” for this on Blackboard, there will be a reason, which I will highlight. If you have a question or concern, you need to see me in my office.

**Dress Code**

Hampton University has a dress code. Appropriate attire is expected at all time. You will be expected to dress professionally on the date of any scheduled presentations or campus activities.

**Assignments**

Assignment #1 - Singlehood Manifesto 20%

Assignment #2 - Pop Culture Critique 20%

Assignment #3 - Policy Change Letter 20%

Class Participation (includes Attendance, Reading Quizzes, and Weekly 40%

Writing Assignments)

**EXTRA CREDIT**

You can earn five points toward your final grade by reading one of the following books and writing a book review:

*Singled Out: How Singles Are Stereotyped, Ignored, Stigmatized, and Still Live Happily Ever After* – Bella DePaulo

*Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone* – Eric Klinenberg

*The Unexpected Joy of Being Single* – Catherine Gray

Book reviews must be submitted by the end of the final exam. You must conference with me before Friday, March 14 in order to be eligible for this option.

**Class Schedule (Please note that readings and writing assignments will most be likely be added as the semester progresses.)**

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| Week of… | Schedule | Due |
| January 15 | Course Introduction | N/A |
| January 22 | Unpacking “Love” and “Relationships” | Read: “Happy Singlehood – Introduction” (on Blackboard); [“10 Tips for Being Single and Happy”](https://thoughtcatalog.com/cat-aleman/2014/05/10-tips-for-being-single-and-happy/)  Write: An Introductory Letter to Instructor, Signature of the Acknowledgement Page |
| January 29 | Understanding Singlism | Read “Singled Out”  HS 13 – 28 (stop at Economics)  Write: A paragraph about an example of singlism or matrimania you either experienced or witnessed (either in real life or in some form of popular culture)  Discuss Singlehood Manifesto |
| February 5 | Singlism in Everyday Life and How to Fight It | Read HS 29-44  Write: Interview an adult you know (family member, family friend, someone on campus) who has never been married. Write a short biography of that person. Details to follow in an assignment sheet. |
| February 12 | Empowering Singlehood; Soloing on Valentine’s Day | Read HS Chapter 2  Write: You’re going to go out to a restaurant (on or off-campus) by yourself. No friends, family members, significant others, etc. You’ll write about the experience. Details to follow in an assignment sheet. |
| February 19 | Empowering Singlehood; Practical Strategies for Living Single | Read HS Chapter 3  Write: You’re going to go to a movie by yourself. Again, no friends, family members, significant others, etc. You’ll write about the experience. Details to follow in an assignment sheet. |
| February 26 | Peer Review: Singlehood Manifesto | Printed copy of Singles Manifesto due in class  **Singlehood Manifesto Due Sunday, 3/1 at 11:59 p.m.** |
| March 4 | No Class – Spring Break |  |
| March 11 | Singlism in Popular Culture | Read: “Heteronormativity in Our Romantic Comedies”  Discuss Pop Culture Critique  Write: Watch an anti-single movie from a list, and write a reaction to its single message. Details to follow in an assignment sheet. |
| March 18 | Singlism in Popular Culture (con’t) | Read HS Chapter 4  Write: Watch a pro-single movie from a list, and write a reaction to its pro-single message. Details to follow in an assignment sheet. |
| March 25 | Independent Work Day (Instructor at Conference) | First Draft of Popular Culture Critique |
| April 1 | Peer Review of Popular Culture Critique | Popular Culture Critiques Due Sunday, 4/5 at 11:59 p.m. to Blackboard |
| April 8 | Singlism in the Law | Discuss Policy Change Letters  Read HS Chapter 5& 6; [Legal Benefits of Being Married](https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ACYBGNTkIhUJ04fbHH07fzVKPDlJtKK7WQ%3A1576679154781&ei=8jb6XdCxL6qa_Qb1p4TYDg&q=legal+benefits+of+marriage+nolo&oq=legal+benefits+of+marriage+nolo&gs_l=psy-ab.3..35i39.1570.2169..2408...0.2..0.515.1853.3-1j2j1......0....1..gws-wiz.......0i71j0j0i67.p8pFYjTZWeE&ved=0ahUKEwjQ8sfHs7_mAhUqTd8KHfUTAesQ4dUDCAs&uact=5) |
| April 15 | Discuss Topic Choices | Read HS Chapter 7; [Discrimination Against Singles in the Health Care System](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/living-single/201803/discrimination-against-singles-in-the-health-care-system) |
| April 22 | Peer Review of Policy Change Letters | Bring Two Printed Copies of Policy Change Letters |
| May 1 (5:30 – 7:20 p.m.) | Policy Change Presentations | Policy Change Letters due Sunday, 5/3 at 11:59 p.m. to Blackboard |

**Hampton University Code of Conduct**

Joining the Hampton Family is an honor and requires each individual to uphold the policies, regulations, and guidelines established for students, faculty, administration, professional and other employees, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Members of the Hampton Family embrace the core values of Exceptional Character: Respect, Professionalism, Integrity, and Community. No member shall lie, cheat or steal and each member is required to adhere to and conform to the instructions and guidance of the leadership of his/her respective area. Therefore, in maintaining The Standard of Excellence, the following are expected of each member of the Hampton Family:

**Respect:**

1. **To respect himself or herself.**

Each member of the Hampton Family will exhibit a high degree of maturity and self-respect and foster an appreciation for other cultures, one's own cultural background, as well as the cultural heritage from which Hampton University was born. It is only through these appreciations that the future of our university can be sustained indefinitely.

1. **To respect the dignity, feelings, worth, and values of others.**

Each member of the Hampton Family will respect one another and visitors as if they were guests in one's home. Students, faculty, and staff should engage in behaviors that are uplifting and encouraging. Moreover, to accost, bully, cajole, or proselytize students, faculty or staff, parents or others, use vile, obscene or abusive language or exhibit lewd behavior, is in direct violation of the Hampton University Code, on or off campus.

**Professionalism:**

1. **To foster a personal professional work ethic within the Hampton University Family.**

Every member of the Hampton Family must strive for efficiency and job perfection. Each individual must exhibit a commitment to serve, and tasks must be executed in a humane and civil manner.

1. **To foster an open, fair, and caring environment.**

The University will maintain an open and caring environment. It is understood that intellectual stimulation is nurtured through the sharing of ideas. In cases where issues arise, each member of the Hampton Family is assured equal and fair treatment.

**Integrity:**

1. **To respect the rights and property of others.**

Each member of the Hampton Family will only engage in activities that are legal and ethical, both on and off campus. No member shall lie, cheat or steal. Other transgressions include, but are not limited to, harassment of any form, possession of weapons such as knives and firearms, involvement in possession, use, distribution and sale of illegal drugs, theft, vandalism or hazing. Violators will be subject to all applicable provisions listed in the Faculty Handbook, Personnel Policies Manual for Administrative/Professional and Nonexempt Employees, the Official Student Handbook, the Hampton University Code, and statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1. **To practice personal, professional, and academic integrity**

Personal, professional, and academic integrity is paramount to the survival and potential of the Hampton Family. Therefore, individuals found in violation of Hampton University's policies against lying, cheating, plagiarism, or stealing are subject to disciplinary action that could possibly include dismissal from the University.

**Community:**

1. **To promote inclusion, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions.**

Each member of the Hampton Family will support equal rights and opportunities for all regardless of age, sex, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, ethnic heritage, socio-economic status, political, social, or other affiliation or disaffiliation.

1. **To promote the ethical use of technology and social media.**

As a Hampton Family we embrace the digital age. Each member of the Hampton Family is expected to use technology in a responsible and respectful manner. Individuals should utilize their best judgment before posting content and should specifically refrain from cyber bullying or using social media to cheat. Uses of technology or social media posts that violate any of the aforementioned tenets of this Code will subject one to disciplinary action.

1. **To be fully responsible for upholding the Hampton University Code.**

Each member of the Hampton Family will embrace all tenets of the Code of Conduct, Policies, and the Honor Pledge and is encouraged to report all violators to the appropriate administrator or the Council for Institutional Culture and Values.

**Acknowledgement**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the syllabus for Senior Capstone Seminar (UNV390 – H3) Fall 2019, and the University Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that I have been properly made aware of the requirements for this class. I understand that this syllabus is subject to change, and that any changes will be discussed in class. I understand that Dr. Wynne does not “give” grades, and I understand my responsibility as a student to ***earn*** the best grade that I can.

**Signature Date**