

Southern Illinois University
SOC 340 Sociology of Family
Spring 2012

Class Times: TR 2:00pm-3:15pm (Applied Sciences & Arts 118)

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Overview

The aim of this course is to develop critical and analytical thinking about the family and its role in society. In order to accomplish this it is essential to focus on the varying definitions of family, its changing and diverse forms and functions, and the interactions between families and other social institutions. Through reading assignments, lectures, discussions, research papers, writing exercises, and examinations, students will become acquainted with the conceptual, empirical, and methodological foundations of sociological scholarship on the family. Substantive areas include family theory and methods, family change and history, class, race, and ethnic diversity, gender and the sexual division of labor, work and family issues, sexuality, dating and mate selection, cohabitation, marriage, and same-sex intimacies, children and parents, the elderly and their families, domestic violence, divorce, remarriage, and step-families, and family policy.

Required Materials

1. Cherlin, Andrew, 2010, *Public and Private Families: An Introduction (Sixth edition)*. Boston: McGraw-Hill. [Text]
2. Cherlin, Andrew, 2010, *Public and Private Families: A Reader (Sixth edition)*. Boston: McGraw-Hill. [Reader]
3. Selected readings available on Blackboard. [Blackboard]

Course Requirements and Grading

1. *Exam I, Exam II, Exam III, and Final Exam*. Each of the exams will be based on a synthesis of the materials covered in readings, lectures, and classroom discussions, and will consist of multiple choice questions. The exams are designed for you to demonstrate what you have learned, apply concepts from the readings, lectures, and classroom discussions to specific questions, and extend the learning process to the tests themselves. Exams are scheduled for February 9, March 20, April 19, and May 10. The average of the four exams is worth 60% of the final grade. **(Note: Make-up exams will be permitted only for situations that are extremely serious; you must notify the instructor *in advance* if you need to reschedule an exam at other than the scheduled time)**
2. *Research Paper*. 25% of your final grade will come from a research paper you complete and hand in by the end of the semester. The paper is an opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned in this course, and should be framed around issues, concepts, or problems from the readings and class discussion (however, your paper may venture beyond the topics selected for class discussion). While your paper should focus on a course-related topic (or at least one applicable to the study of family life), you should develop a line of analysis that is not directly covered in the course. In other words, your paper should not be a reiteration or summary of course readings or lectures.

! You must hand in a brief *statement of your research topic* by **March 1**. Your statement should include a description of your research problem – that is, the question that will drive your research – and a description of how you plan to address it. Failure to hand in a topic statement will result in a 5% point reduction on the final grade of the paper.

! An *outline and working bibliography* of your research paper is due by **April 19**. Include a thesis statement. Topics and subtopics should be stated in full sentences. Failure to hand in a completed outline and working bibliography on time will result in a 10% point reduction on the final grade of the paper.

! *Final drafts* should be typewritten or word-processed, double-spaced, in standard 12-point fonts, and should be approximately 10 pages, excluding a cover sheet and the bibliography. General formatting of in-text citations and the bibliography should follow ASA style guidelines. For more information on ASA style, you should google “ASA Style Guide” (I also encourage you to see me or someone from the SIU Writing Center if you have any questions about the mechanics of writing a research paper). The research paper must contain a **minimum of 10 academic references from either professional journals or books**, and must follow all university rules related to academic honesty. For journal articles, consider using these search engines: *SocINDEX*; *PsycINFO*; *Family Studies Abstracts*; and *Social Science Citation Index* (Just go to the SIU library website and click on “Databases/Find Articles”). Also consider *WorldCat*, which is useful in searching books. Common family-related journals include: *Journal of Marriage and Family*; *Journal of Family Issues*; *Family Relations*; *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*; *Journal of Family Psychology*; *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*; *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*; *Journal of Family Violence*; *Journal of Family History*. **No late projects will be accepted**; papers are due by May 3 (**Note: In order to maximize your own learning, you should work continuously on your paper over the course of the semester. This is not a paper that can be written the night before it’s due**).

! The *format* for the research paper should be organized as follows: (1) **Introduction** - An introductory paragraph (or two) which describes the research topic, the research problem, and the purpose of the paper. Also, include a brief outline describing the organization of the rest of the paper. (2) **Research Section** - A literature review of your topic (e.g., How have others addressed your research problem? What are the major arguments and theories?). References should be as recent as possible. Sources should come from scholarly journals or books. Summarize what you have found about your topic. (3) **Your Opinions** - Indicate what you think about the topic and why. Support your argument by referring to the above research. What questions remain to be answered? What issues remain unresolved? (4) **Conclusion** - Conclude with a summary of your paper. The conclusion should include a brief reiteration of the problem and purpose of the paper as well as a summary of the major points of the paper. (I suggest that you reread your introduction, then ask yourself: “Did I accomplish in the paper what I set out to do?” If not, rework the paper until you feel satisfied with it). (**Note: At the end of the syllabus, there is a research paper evaluation form**).

! **Plagiarism**: When you copy something word for word, you must place it in quotation marks and reference it (Note: if you must quote another author, only use quotations that are essential to your argument. The use of “nonessential quotations” will result in a lower grade). If you are paraphrasing ideas in your own words, it is not necessary to use quotation marks, but you must cite the source. This should be done according to ASA guidelines (see above). If you use another author’s words without citing them, you are committing plagiarism and will receive an F.

3. Class Exercises. From time to time, you will be asked to complete class exercises, including possibly

pop quizzes. The exercises, which may take place in class or out of class, will be linked to concepts, issues, or questions drawn from the readings, class lectures, and/or film material. These exercises will serve several purposes: (1) to “jumpstart” the process of thinking sociologically during the class period; (2) to help you make sense of the reading, lecture, and/or film materials; (3) to develop students’ critical thinking and writing skills; and/or (4) to help the instructor assess who is having difficulty understanding the material and/or expressing ideas in writing so that appropriate measures may be pursued. The exercises will be graded only as “complete” or “incomplete,” and are worth 15% of the final grade. In addition, they will help me assess student attendance; therefore, *no-make-up or late exercises* will be accepted because of absence or tardiness.

4. Attendance. Naturally, attendance is expected and necessary in order to successfully complete this course as readings will be a supplement to and not a reiteration of lectures and class discussion. Attendance grades will consist of sporadic attendance checks. You are allowed to miss up to 4 class sessions. You will be docked 3 percentage points per class session for any additional class sessions you miss, REGARDLESS OF THE EXCUSE. (Note: **If you fail to come to class on time or leave before class is dismissed, you will be marked “absent”**)

Other Important Information

1. Classroom Decorum: No disruptive, distracting, or demeaning behavior will be tolerated in this class. If your *cell phone* must be on for medical, childcare, or other reasons, please set it to vibrate, not ring. *Computer laptops* are not allowed unless you have written permission from *Disability Support Services*.

2. Cheating: All SIUC policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be upheld in this course. A grade of “0” will be recorded for all works in which you were found to have been involved in any acts of academic dishonesty. If you are not familiar with the definitions and consequences of cheating or with your rights, refer to your *Student Conduct Code*, see an academic advisor, or ask me.

3. Grade Appeals: Any student who believes that she or he has been graded unfairly may appeal that grade following standard university procedures. Certain procedural rights are guaranteed to all students charged with academic dishonesty who are subject to disciplinary action. These rights are outlined in the *Student Conduct Code*.

4. Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Grading Scale: Out of 100 Percentage Points: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below.

- ! Exam 1 = 16 %
- ! Exam 2 = 16 %
- ! Exam 3 = 16 %

- ! Final Exam = 12%
- ! Research Project = 25%
- ! Class Exercises = 15%

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGING FAMILY

Week 1: Jan 17-19 Text: Chapter 1

Week 2: Jan 24-26 Text: Chapter 1

Week 3: Jan 31-Feb 2 Text: Chapter 2. Reader: Fischer & Hout "The Family in Trouble: Since When, For Whom?". Reader: Cancian "From Role to Self: The Emergence of Androgynous Love in the 20th Century".

Week 4: Feb 7-9 Text: Chapter 2. Blackboard: Giele "Decline of the Family"
Feb 9: **EXAM ONE**

GENDER, CLASS, & RACE-ETHNICITY

Week 5: Feb 14-16 Text: Chapters 3 & 8. Reader: Hochschild "Joey's Problem: Nancy and Evan Holt".

Week 6: Feb 21-23 Text: Chapters 8 & 4.

Week 7: Feb 28-Mar 1 Text: Chapters 4. Chapter 9 (293-300). Chapter 5. Blackboard: Maxine Baca Zinn "Family, Race, and Poverty". Reader: Qian "Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America".
Mar 1: **STATEMENT OF RESEARCH TOPIC DUE**

SEXUALITY, PARTNERSHIP, & MARRIAGE

Week 8: Mar 6-8 Text: Chapter 6. Blackboard: Bailey "Sexual Revolution(s)".

Week 9: Mar 13-15 **SPRING BREAK**

Week 10: Mar 20-22 Text: Chapter 7. Reader: Coontz "What's love got to do with it? A brief history of marriage". Blackboard: Bogle "From Dating to Hooking Up".
Mar 20: **EXAM TWO**

Week 11: Mar 29-31 Text: Chapters 7. Blackboard: Waite "Does Marriage Matter?". Blackboard: Bernard "The Two Marriages".

Week 12: Apr 3-5 Text: Chapters 6 (pp. 190-191) & 7. Reader: Edin & Kefalas "Unmarried with Children". Blackboard: Edwards et al. "Flying Solo".

LINKS ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Week 13: Apr 11-12 Text: Chapter 7 (234; 288-290) & 9 (272-277). Reader: Meezan & Rauch "Gay Marriage, Same-sex Parenting, and American's Children". Blackboard: Seidman "Gay Marriage." Blackboard: Cowan & Cowan "New Families: Modern Couples as New Pioneers". Blackboard: Simon "The Joys of Parenthood Reconsidered."

- Week 14: Apr 17-19 Text: Chapter 10. Reader: Bengston “Beyond the nuclear family: The increasing importance of multigenerational bonds.”
Apr 19: **EXAM THREE**
Apr 19: ***OUTLINE & WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE***
- CONFLICT, DISRUPTION, & RECONSTITUTION**
- Week 15: Apr 24-26 Text: Chapters 11 & 12. Leisenring “Controversies Surrounding Mandatory Arrest Policies and Police Responses to Intimate Partner Violence”.
Blackboard: Kurz “How Marriages End”.
- Week 16: May 1-3 Text: Chapters 12 & 13. Blackboard: Amato “The Consequences of Divorce for Adults and Children.”
May 3: ***FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE***
- Week 17 (May 10) **FINAL EXAM** (8:00pm-10:00pm)

RESEARCH PAPER EVALUATION FORM

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

Maximum Points

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| 1. Statement of topic done on time. | _____ /5 |
| 2. Outline and working bibliography done on time. Include a thesis statement. Topics and subtopics should be stated in full sentences. | _____ /10 |
| 3. Paper done on time. Grade drops (10 points) for every class day late. | _____ /10 |
| 4. Paper is 10 full pages (not including cover sheet or bibliography) typed, double-spaced, in standard 12 point fonts. Grade drops (10 points) for every page under the page limit. | _____ /10 |
| 5. Minimum of 10 academic references from professional journals or books. Grade drops (5 points) for every reference under the reference limit. | _____ /10 |
| 6. References cited in paper and bibliography according to ASA guidelines. | _____ /10 |

CONTENT OF THE PAPER:

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| 1. Your report is accurate according to research. | _____ /10 |
| 2. The paper is well organized: You followed these guidelines and used research to support your ideas. Your writing is logical and sequential. You included an introduction section, a research section, an opinion section, and conclusion section. | _____ /10 |
| 3. Grammar, spelling, typing, and sentence construction are correct (having someone proofread your paper or reading it out loud helps). | _____ /10 |

INTEREST CREATIVITY

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Paper is interesting and creative | _____ /5 |
| 2. You focus clearly on important points and are selective in choosing facts, ideas, and examples that are most significant to the topic. | _____ /10 |

Total Points _____ /100