

**Soc 304I/Section 001: Global Perspectives on the Family**  
**FALL 2010**

**Class Information**

Parkinson 108  
MWF: 8:00am-8:50pm

**Instructor Information**

Nadia Amin  
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Office hours: M 9:00am-12:00  
W 9:00am-12:00

**Required Texts:**

Leeder, Elaine, 2004, *The Family in Global Perspective: A Gendered Journey*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Selected readings available on Blackboard

**Course Description:** This course is designed to offer students with a cross-cultural understanding of the institution of family. Throughout the semester we will compare and contrast family patterns among contemporary and traditional societies in different parts of the world. Several theoretical perspectives will be employed to examine family structures and practices within their social and cultural milieu. Some relevant areas which will be explored in detail include globalization and family life; family theory; family change and history; gender and sexual divisions of labor; race, ethnic, and class diversity; sexuality and incest taboos; mate selection and courtship; intimate relationships and marriage; divorce and remarriage; intergenerational relationships; family violence; and the future of family life.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance & Participation:** Since lectures will incorporate material from the textbook and other external resources, your attendance in this class is required. I will take random attendances throughout this semester. Although regular attendance throughout the semester is required, it is a must on debate days. Student will lose 20% of their participation points with each missed debate.

You will be able to earn participation points by engaging in discussion based on readings and lecture material and by asking relevant questions during debates and class. Students' participation in the class makes it more exciting not only for instructor but also for other fellow students. I would not want you to lose attendance and participation points either!

**Quizzes:** There will be a total of 4 quizzes covering textbook and lecture material, and supplementary readings. These quizzes are designed to familiarize you with the format and material that will be covered on upcoming exams. The quizzes will also help you assess your grasp on relevant sociological concepts/terms for each exam.

**Paper and Debate/Presentation:** Students must participate in a debate addressing issues discussed in the course. You are expected to take a position on this topic and develop arguments accordingly. You are also required to write a paper on that topic. For details see Paper and Debate/Presentation Guidelines.

NOTE: I will **NOT** grade papers sent to me via email. If you have trouble turning in a hard copy please talk to me before hand.

**Exams:** There will be two exams consisting of multiple choice, and true/false questions and may have short questions. Exams may include material from the textbook as well as from the lectures, supplementary readings and documentaries shown in class. The exams will NOT be cumulative, although an understanding of certain key concepts will be required throughout the semester. There will be no makeup exams except at the discretion of the instructor, and any makeup must be completed within one 2 days of the test date. **Make-up exam will only have essay type questions.**

**No make-up exams will be given for the final exam or unexcused absences on regular test days.**

**NOTE: No INCOMPLETES will be given for the course.**

**Grading Criteria:**

2 Exams	100 points each	200 points
Paper and Debate	(50+50)	100 points
Attendance & Participation	(10+15)	25 points
4 Quizzes	10 points each	40 points

The grading scale will be as follows: A=90% and above, B=80% and above, C=70% and above D=69% and below

**Plagiarism:** You are not allowed to copy or use someone else's work without giving them credit for it. Plagiarized work WILL result in a grade of -0- for the assignment. Please see SIUC student code of conduct for details. ([http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf))

**Class Discussion/Debate Rules:** We will engage in discussion/debate in this course and therefore respect to others and their opinion is expected. Any disruption, disregard and lack of concern for others' opinion will not be tolerated.

*Emergency Procedures.* Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and health 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 BERT's website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline 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.*

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

### Week One

8/23: Introduction

8/25: Chapter 1

8/27: Chapter 1 cont.

### Week Two

8/30: Chapters 1&2

9/1: Chapter 2 DEBATE TOPIC /POSITION DUE

9/3: Chapter 2

### Week Three

9/6: **No Class – Labor Day**

9/8: Chapter 3

9/10: Chapter 3 **QUIZ 1**

### Week Four

9/13: chapters 3& 4

9/15: chapter 4

9/17: chapter 4

### Week Five

9/20: chapter 5

9/22: Chapter 5 **QUIZ 2**

**9/24: DEBATE 1 “Is Globalization a Positive Trend for Family Life?”**

### Week Six

9/27: Chapter 6

9/29: Chapter 6 cont.

**10/1: DEBATE 2 “Do Sexually Egalitarian Societies Exist?”**

### Week Seven

10/4: chapter 6

**10/6: DEBATE 3 “Should Sociologists and Anthropologists Work to Eliminate the Practice of Female Circumcision?”**

10/8: Exam 1 review

### Week Eight

**10/11: Exam 1**

10/13: chapter 7

10/15: chapter 7

Week Nine

10/18: chapters 7 & 8

**10/20: DEBATE 4 “Is Immigration a Problem in Developed Nations?”**

10/22: Chapter 8

Week Ten

10/25: Chapter 8

10/27: Chapter 8

10/29: Chapter 8

Week Eleven

**11/1: DEBATE 5 “Are Arranged Marriages A Good Tradition?”**

**11/3: DEBATE 6 “Should We Accept Alternatives to Monogamous, Heterosexual Marriage?”**

**11/5: DEBATE 7 “Should Divorces be Difficult to Obtain (as they are in many other societies)?”**

Week Twelve

11/8: chapter 9

11/10: chapter 9

11/12: chapter 9

Week Thirteen

**11/15: DEBATE 8 “Should Spanking a Child be Illegal (as it is in many countries)?”**

11/17: Chapter 10

11/19: Documentary **QUIZ 3**

THANKSGIVING BREAK (No class on 11/22, 11/24, or 11/26)

Week Fourteen

11/29: Chapter 10

12/1: Chapter 10

12/3 – Chapter 11 **QUIZ 4**

Week Fifteen

12/6 Chapter 11

12/8 Chapter 11

12/10: Review for Final Exam

Final Exam Date to be announced

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus if the need should arise. These changes will be announced in class.

## Paper and Debate/Presentation Guidelines

[Adapted from Chris Wienke's (SIUC) syllabus 2009]

Debate part of this assignment will be a group exercise, whereas, the paper will be student's individual effort. Two groups will be responsible for presenting the opposing views. One group (consisting of 2-3 students) will argue in favor of the topic and the other group (2-3 students) will argue against it. Individually each student is required to do the following:

1. Meeting with the other members of the group to discuss the arguments of the controversy according to your group's position (favor or against) on it. Together, you must prepare a list of arguments. Use course readings, lectures, and outside materials to prepare your lists. Also, make sure that the arguments reflect a cross-cultural understanding of the issue, which is the emphasis of this course. Try to use historical and comparative perspectives, examples, and evidence. This group exercise will lay the foundation for your group's debate and also for your own paper. Your group must meet at least once. The group leader will turn in attendance for meeting(s) and also its duration. This step is crucial to making this assignment productive.
2. Preparing a position paper stating your argument. This should be roughly 3-4 pages long (not including the cover sheet or reference page) and is due the day of your debate. This paper must be in your own words, and must include the argument, any hypotheses, and evidence based on the materials you marshaled to produce your two-column list (and anything else you wish to add). This position paper must *take a position on the issue, presumably the same position you are arguing in the debate*. Your paper must include a clear thesis statement, supporting evidence, and a conclusion. Your supporting evidence should include material from the course as well as outside references; do not just write a paper that is purely your opinion or your personal experience. Rather, use the paper as an opportunity to show that you have engaged the course material and other relevant information. *Again, make sure that your argument is informed by a global or cross-cultural perspective*. You should consider perspectives, examples, and evidence from cultures beyond your own.

General formatting of in-text citations and the bibliography should follow APA style guidelines. For more information on APA style, you should check out the *Publication Manual of the APA, Fifth Edition* or search the APA style website at <http://www.apastyle.org/> (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 "position" paper). The paper **must** contain a minimum of 5 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.

Papers must be typewritten or word processed, double spaced, and in standard 12-point fonts. Be sure to hand in a *final draft* -- that means a draft that you have revised based on the comments of either one or more of your teammates or of a consultant at the Writing Center (or both). It should contain no grammatical or typographical errors.

### ***Paper is due the day of your debate***

**(Note: Written work must be submitted on time; late work will be penalized a letter grade per day from the due date)**

3. Presenting your position with other members of your team in class. You may bring notes on a *single* 3" by 5" note card. You may **not** read a prepared statement. Each team member will have 2-3 minutes to make an initial statement and each team will have 3-4 minutes to make a rebuttal statement in which you engage with the opposing teams' arguments and make counter-arguments. You will then have to answer questions from your classmates and participate in the subsequent discussion.

Each student will prepare *one* controversy presentation and paper over the course of the semester. The most successful debates make it clear *who is on which side*, rather than simply having each 3 participant present materials and arguments at random. Don't just make inflammatory statements in order to provoke discussion; build and support the arguments on each side of the controversy by sharpening the contrast between your two teams. Present your rival hypotheses and evidence clearly and persuasively. **(Note: Failing to present will result in a zero for this assignment)**

The grade for this project will be based on the presentation and individual position paper and is worth 100 points (50+50).

#### DEBATE DATES AND TOPICS:

1. (9/24): Is Globalization a Positive Trend for Family Life?
2. (10/1): Do Sexually Egalitarian Societies Exist?
- 3.(10/6): Should Sociologists and Anthropologists Work to Eliminate the Practice of Female Circumcision?
4. (10/20) : Is Immigration a Problem in Developed Nations?
5. (11/1): Are Arranged Marriages a Good Tradition?
6. (11/3): Should We Accept Alternatives to Monogamous, Heterosexual Marriage?
7. (11/5): Should Divorces be Difficult to Obtain (as they are in many other societies)?
8. (11/15): Should Spanking a Child be Illegal (as it is in many countries)?

