

The Family: Sociology 166

Section 1, MWF 12- 12:50
Sequoia Hall 316
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Hours: MWF 10-11 or by appointment
Wed 10a: SacCT chat availability
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Course Objective:

This course will examine the construction of the family, its social makeup and the reciprocal relationship it has with the rest of society. Drawing on the various theoretical traditions of sociology, we will focus on how families are influenced by social conditions, how families help shape society, and how individuals experience family life. Throughout the course we will focus on the development of the family as an institution, from the initial attraction of two individuals through the courting and marriage, emphasizing the parenting phase of the family, including the biological components of reproduction, the conflict that is present in families and the dissolution of some family units. We will discuss the different controversial issues that arise for both men and women in this institution and whether the differences are linked to biology. Through readings, lectures, discussions, field studies, films and papers, we will explore how family members in different social, economic and cultural settings negotiate family processes such as marriage, intimacy, paid and unpaid work, and childrearing.

Required Texts:

Ferguson, Susan. 2010. Shifting the Center: Understanding Contemporary Families, Third Edition. McGraw-Hill.

The use of this reader offers students a diversity of examples and perspectives concerning different issues related to family. It allows students to learn more about the issues that impact the family, without learning from one voice, either in a textbook or solely from the professor's viewpoint.

Leeder, E. 2004. The Family in Global Perspective. Sage Publication.

This textbook offers the students a perspective for students of not only how the issue of family is a global experience but also greater insight into how the family is a larger institution, and not an individual experience.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Understand the family as an institution and as part of the culture that changes over time.

2. Understand that families are diverse, based on the social context, experience and culture in which each resides, while displaying similar components.
3. Identify basic concepts that are associated with the study of the family.
4. Recognize the similarities and differences of family in different cultures.
5. Discuss how family interacts with different institutions in the society.
6. Analyze how contemporary issues in society impact or are impacted by the family.

Policies:

The due dates for each of the papers are stated in the syllabus. No late papers will be accepted. The paper guidelines are on the web, as well as in a handout given at the beginning of class. As well, a brief statement in class about what is expected will be given. The due dates for each assignment are listed in the course calendar at the end of the syllabus. While I will attempt to offer reminders to impending due dates, it is ultimately your responsibility to insure that all papers are ready to be turned in by the expected due date.

Throughout the course, each student will be allotted four extensions for the papers/assignments. Each extension is worth one class day (ex. If the paper is due on Monday, and you turn it in on Wednesday, that is one extension). You do not need permission from the professor. You may use these extensions whenever you want, subject to the rules given below:

1) You get four extensions. Don't ask me for more- you will not get them. Hence, you should use extensions wisely when you really need them, such as sickness or an athletic event.

2) You may use a maximum of two extensions on any one paper; by using two on one paper, you can turn the paper in two classes late.

3) You can use one on any assignment given in the class, meaning the assignment can be turned in one class period later. Any assignment turned in later, or if you have used all of your extensions, will not be accepted.

4) Any paper that is submitted later than two classes after it is due (regardless of your extension situation), or is turned in late after you have used all of your extensions will be penalized two full grades.

5) Any assignments submitted after one class period (regardless of extension situation), or after you have used all of your extensions, the assignment will not be accepted.

6) No extension can be used for posting assignments. If you fail to post before the end of the allotted time, then you lose those points.

All papers must be typed and stapled and not placed in any covers, folders or any other such contraption. A title page is expected, which will contain the following information: Title of the paper, your name, and the name of the class (Sociology 166 for those of you not paying attention). Thank you.

Use of WebCT: While there are times when the site will be down, this is not an excuse for a missed assignment or late paper. The material will be up with sufficient time to copy it before it comes due. Ultimately it is your responsibility to either obtain it, or let me know of any problems you are having with it. Most problems are related to the computer department, so contact the help desk. If they are unable/unwilling to help you let me know, and I will attempt to correct any problems, but on occasion they are not my fault (I know, that is hard to imagine, but it is true).

CSUS complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability that may necessitate accommodations being made in

the classroom, please contact SSD, (916) 278-6955. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Turn off all pagers and cell phones before entering class. I accept the right to answer any that ring (and make up any wild stories about you to the person who has called).

Finally, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The policy can be accessed here:

<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/Uma00150.htm>. If you are caught engaging in such activities, you will receive an F, and will be reported to the campus Judicial Affairs Officer.

Online Component:

The class is located on the WebCT campus server. Accessing this site requires a login and password, which are the following: Login: your campus id (the same one used on your saclink account); Password: same as your saclink password. You will be able to access the outlines for the course, any overheads used in class, any material that was handed out, a glossary of terms (if there is one not listed that you can not locate elsewhere, please let me know so I can include it), all of the assignments, as well as the posting questions and syllabus. You will also be able to locate your grade on-line if you desire.

POSTINGS: The last day of class for each week, I will be putting up posting questions/assignments on-line. I will attempt to let you know that day in class, but ultimately it is your responsibility to check. As for the postings, they will be questions that you will be required to answer that engage the ideas in the class, the readings and possibly current events. Beyond responding to the question itself, you are also required to respond to at least **two** other students' comments, preferably on a different day than you originally posted. If you are not talking in class, this is a good place to get participation points by responding in greater detail and more often. This is to help in the comprehension of the material, ideas and readings from the class, as well as to generate topics of discussion within the classroom. (Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

Exams:

There will be four exams administered throughout the quarter, but only three will count. Each will consist of short answer questions, and matching, True/False, and/or multiple-choice questions. Each will be worth 15% of your total grade (for a total of 45% of your total grade). Each test will, for the most part, focus only on the information that has been presented in either lecture, videos, or in the readings since the last exam. If there are any ideas that are raised on the final that occurred earlier in the semester, I will give you an idea of what you need to study. You will need to bring blue books and scantrons for the exams. As they are short answer, each answer needs to be written in complete sentences. (Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Assignments:

Topic Choice and Interview Guide: You need to identify what the specific topic is you are going to be interviewing people about and going to be focusing on in the presentation at the end of the class. These need to be explicit, and the questions need to be focused on the topic so it is not too general. This will be worth 5% of your total grade.

Interviews: You need to show me you conducted all ten interviews. A brief, typed summary of each interview (2-3 sentences), and demographics for the individuals involved will be turned in, half of these will be turned in one and a-half weeks before the presentation, and the other half the day the presentation. The total of all of them, including correct format will determine your grade, worth 5% of your total grade.

Contemporary issues presentation: You and a partner will need to take a position about a specific topic that is related to the class. Using information from the class, the readings, 3 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) journals and academic resources outside of the class and 20 interviews, you and your partner will present an argument about the topic. The presentation will only be 5-6 minutes total, and will make a specific argument about the topic. It will be worth 20% of your total grade. (For the Entire Project: Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 6).

Reading Assignments: Throughout the semester, you will be required to complete reading questions that are located online in the course content section of WebCT. You will be turning in six reading question sets throughout the semester. The first will be assigned to you from the first four readings. The five remaining, you choose which readings you will be turning in, but you can only turn in one for each set of readings that are due during the week, and the assignments are due on the day of class the reading is due. Further explanation is in the reading assignment and due dates. No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions. Reading assignments will be worth 15% of your total grade.

Class Assignments: Throughout the semester, a series of short assignments will be given that incorporate the concepts of the class into your own lives. They will be both given out during class and on the web, so you will need to periodically check the web for new assignments. An assignment is due the class following when the assignment was given, as we will discuss them in class (due dates are usually given on-line). No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions, and that is only available to be used on assignments.

Some of these will be 1 minute writing assignments to engage the class ideas and concepts that are being discussed. The assignment will be given in class and due that same day, unless otherwise specified. No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions. If you use an extension, the assignment will be a one page, typed paper due the next class period.

Postings: Postings occur over the weekend. No make-ups for these are possible.

Assignments and postings will be worth 10% of your total grade. (Learning Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Calendar:

TOPIC:

August 30: Introduction and Overview

September 1-13: What is Family?
September 6: Labor Day: No Class

September 15-24: History and Variations
September 20: Topic Choice

September 27: **Exam 1**

September 29-October 6: Dating and Love

October 11-22: Family forms
October 11: Interview Guide Due

October 25: **Exam 2**

October 27- November 3: Family Violence

November 8- 10: Family and Work
November 10: First 5 Interviews due

November 15- 19: Caretaking: Parents and Children
November 17: Last 5 interviews due

November 22: **Exam 3**

November 24- December 3: PRESENTATIONS

November 25 & 26: Thanksgiving

December 6-10: Divorce

December 17, Friday 10:15-12:15: **Exam 4**

READING DUE ON FIRST DAY:

Gittens (Reading 1)
Leeder, Chapter 1 and 2

Baca Zinn (Reading 2); Dill (Rd 6);
Coontz (Rd 5)
Leeder, Chapter 4 and 5

Whyte (Rd 10); Hamilton & Armstrong (Rd 11)
Leeder, Chapter 8

Edin & Kefalas (53); Mason (39); Stiers (20)
Cherlin (14); Seltzer (18)

Yllo (41); Krishnan, Baig-Amin, et al. (42)
Leeder, Chapter 10

Gerson & Jacobs (45); Stone & Lovejoy (46)

Casper & Bianchi (33); Margolies (35); Coltrane
(24); Leeder: Chapter 9 (p.229-235)

Yodanis (37); Walzer & Oles (38)