

Family Problems & Social Change—SYO 3100

Fall 2007

T R 3:35-4:50

Room: BEL 0023

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(please write 3100 in the subject line when contacting me via email)

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3, or by appointment. My office is 516 Bellamy (on the 5th floor).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course uses a sociological perspective to examine the family in the United States as a public and private institution. Family takes different forms depending on the ethnicity, race, economic circumstances, and sexual orientation of those who perceive themselves as "family." Therefore, it is more accurate to speak of families, as we will in this course.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Employ the sociological perspective to analyze and interpret families' lives and experiences
- Describe the historical context of the family
- Identify functions of families
- Critically analyze contemporary issues facing families

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Detailed descriptions of the assignments will be given out in class and posted on blackboard. Your final course grade will be comprised of the following:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>	<u>Tentative Due Date</u>
1) In-class Quizzes	20%	n/a
2) Families Problem Paper 1	20%	Oct. 2nd
3) Midterm (Exam 1)	20%	Oct. 23rd
4) Families Problem Paper 2	20%	Nov. 20th
5) Final Exam	20%	Dec. 10th

**Due dates are subject to change

GRADING SCALE

A =93-100	A- =90-92	B+ =87-89	B=83-86	B- =80-82	C+ = 77-79
C=73-76	C- =70-72	D+=67-69	D=63-66	D- =60-62	F=<59

1. In-Class Quizzes - Unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover assigned readings and any class material. At the end of the semester, quiz grades will be averaged together to create one score accounting for 20% of the final course grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be no make-ups for missed in-class exercises or quizzes. If you have a university excused absence (see absences in syllabus) you will be given an “NA” for that quiz, which means that quiz will not be factored into your grade, thus not helping or hurting you. If you come to class after the quiz has been given out, you will not be allowed to take the quiz for that day.
2. Reaction Papers– These will approximately 4-6 pages each. You will respond to a set of questions/statement posed to you using all course materials to support your position. Details of these assignments will be made available in class.
3. Exams - Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The midterm will cover all course materials (including videos, web materials, assigned readings, and lecture materials) up to the day of the exam. The final exam will be over material covered after the midterm until the last day of classes.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance** is required in order to succeed in this course. Changes in assignments, tests dates, etc. will be announced in class. Additionally, material is presented in lecture which is not found in the text; students are responsible for all course material whether present or absent. If you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate. Quizzes are given in class and there are NO make up quizzes allowed. If you miss a quiz you will receive a “zero” for that quiz.
2. **Excused absences** are as follows: Religious holidays; absences due to representing TCC at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or sports events; military duty; jury duty; and verified (must provide documentation) emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Additionally, if there is a death in the family, up to three missed classes will be excused.

Colds, the flu, fatigue, and stress do not qualify as medical illnesses. If you have a chronic illness that could affect your attendance, it is imperative that you alert me to this at the beginning of class. Documentation for an absence to be excused is required. Documentation must be provided upon your return to class. If documentation is not provided on the first day back from the absence, the absence will NOT be excused. Please provide a copy of the documentation to me and keep a copy for your own records. While one is not penalized for an excused absence, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class(es).

3. Late work will receive a 5 points/24 hour period penalty. This includes weekends. Late assignments may be emailed to the instructor. Additionally, assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com. The same late penalty applies to assignments not posted to Turnitin.com. Remember, if you are turning in your work late, you must still submit an electronic copy to Turnitin.com to avoid further penalties.

4. Tardiness is disruptive to other students and the instructor. If a student arrives after a quiz has been given out, that student will not be allowed to take the quiz or and will receive a grade of "zero" for that quiz.

5. Make-up mid-term exams will only be given to those students who have an excused absence with documentation provided to the instructor.

6. Electronic Devices are not permitted in the classroom. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and ipods. Laptops are not permitted in the classroom. Failure to abide by this policy will result in dismissal from class.

7. Classroom Conduct:

Courtesy in the Classroom. Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones or texting, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader), reading newspapers, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please make sure the door does not 'bang' as you enter or leave. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below). Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly.

(1) Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

(2) Unacceptable behaviors in the classroom are:

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem. (c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above). (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive. (e) Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines

will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.

8. Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

Students in the course will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or possibly an "F" for the course and may be reported to the University Judicial Office. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

9. Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

*This is a VERY tentative outline and subject to change ... and likely will!

COURSE CALENDAR

INTRODUCTION

28-Aug	Syllabus and Introduction; Sociological Perspective
30-Aug	What are Families; History of Families
4-Sep	History of Families; Changing Demographics
6-Sep	What we miss about the 1950's; Decline of the family
11-Sep	Love and Dating; Sex and the Hook Up Culture
13-Sep	Marriage
18-Sep	Marriage
20-Sep	Cohabitation
25-Sep	Divorce and Remarriage
27-Sep	Divorce and Remarriage
2-Oct	Fatherlessness PAPER 1 DUE
4-Oct	Gay Marriage

9-Oct	Gay Marriage
11-Oct	Gay Marriage
16-Oct	Single Parent Families
18-Oct	Catch Up
23-Oct	MIDTERM EXAM
25-Oct	Mommy wars
30-Oct	Second Shift; Work Home Crunch
1-Nov	Fatherhood
6-Nov	Why the Middle Class is Going Broke
8-Nov	The Economy that Never Sleeps
13-Nov	Working Poor Video
15-Nov	Globalization Class Exercise
20-Nov	PAPER 2 DUE
22-Nov	Thanksgiving - No Class

PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

27-Nov	Domestic Violence
29-Nov	Domestic Violence
4-Dec	Elder Care
6-Dec	Elder Care
10-Dec	FINAL EXAM 5:30-7:30