

**FAMILY PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL CHANGE**  
**SYO 3100 Section 3**  
**Fall 2008**



**Instructor: DeAnna Gore**  
**Classroom: Bellamy 023**  
**Office: Bellamy 423**  
**Date/Time: TR 11:00am – 12:15pm**  
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**Office Hours: TR 1:30pm -2:15pm**  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores families in the United States from a sociological perspective. We will examine the family as an institution rooted in historical and social context, focusing on the ways in which society shapes family norms, opportunities, and behaviors. It explores the American family as a diverse, ever changing unit, with multiple challenges and choices shaping its twenty-first century composition and dynamics.

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- ★ Identify, define, and illustrate basic concepts, theories and findings about the family.
- ★ Compare and contrast the different theories used to examine and explain family members' roles and interaction patterns as they affect intimate, courtship, marital, and familial relationship.
- ★ Critically examine the American family and the role it plays in reproducing, maintaining, and changing the structural factors of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and class.
- ★ Acquire an increased awareness of the substantive issues confronting American society and their influence on American marriages and families.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### ***Required:***

Cherlin, Andrew J. 2006. *Public & Private Families: A Reader, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-352809-0

All other required readings will be available on Blackboard under their respective topic. It is your responsibility to access and have all readings completed before class. They will be in PDF format. It is up to you on whether you print each reading out, but I recommend saving a few trees and just taking notes as you read them on the computer.

### ***Optional:***

Benokraitis, N.V. (2008). *Marriages & Families: Changes, Choice, and Constraints*. Sixth edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.  
ISBN: 0-13-243173-4

While you will not be required to purchase the textbook, I highly recommend buying it.

### **Blackboard**

Course materials will be available online using Blackboard (<http://campus.fsu.edu>). I encourage you to use the discussion board to communicate with your fellow classmates on questions and comments concerning the course. This can also be used as a forum for you to post comments and opinions on class discussions. Grades and additional readings will be posted through Blackboard as well.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Participation:** Student participation is highly valued and encouraged in this class. The more participation we have the more we will all learn. Good, high quality participation will be rewarded in this class. If your final grade is borderline, you will receive the higher of the two grades if you have consistently participated in class discussions and activities.

**Response Questions:** On randomly assigned days, there will be a question that you will have to write a 5-6 sentence answer to. These questions may be over a previous day's lecture or discussion material or about a reading for that day's specific topic. These will be unannounced! If you are not in class on a day that a response question is given, you will NOT be allowed to make it up unless your absence is excused. There will be 10 questions throughout the entire semester.

**Article Papers:** The idea of what constitutes a family is continually being changed. Even now, the changing family and other family issues are hot topics in the media and politics. For the article papers, you are to find a news article relating to the family. You will then write a 2-3 page paper relating that article to what you have learned through the lecture, readings, and other outside sources. More details will be provided on Blackboard. You will have to write two papers during the semester.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is a requirement and attendance will be taken at every class session. Attendance is worth 100 points. You will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences without any grade penalty. Five points will be deducted from your attendance grade starting with your third unexcused absence. For example, if you have five unexcused absences, your attendance grade will be 85 points. There will be no grade penalty for excused absences. The following and only the following absences are eligible to be excused: Religious holidays, as specified in FSU policy; absences due to representing FSU at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or varsity sports events; verified emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. *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. Please provide a copy of the documentation to the instructor and keep a copy for your own records. While one is not penalized for the absence of excused absences, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class(es). An attendance sheet will be passed around the beginning of each class period.

***Please note that signing someone's name other than your own and/or having someone else sign your name is cheating and will be punished.*** You will receive a zero (0) for your attendance grade and be reported to the administration.

**Quizzes:** There will be four short quizzes throughout the semester over the assigned class readings, lectures, and movies. They are not meant to trick you, but rather to help you keep caught up on the course readings and ideas discussed in class. The quizzes should not be very difficult if you have done the assigned readings on time and pay attention in class. The quizzes will be completed on Blackboard. You will have 20 minutes to complete 10 multiple choice and True/False questions (2 points each).

**Exams:** There are three exams for this course. They are not cumulative. The format of the exam will include fill-in-the-blanks, matching, and short answer. The content will come from lectures, readings, exercises, videos, and discussion. Not everything in the readings will be covered during the lectures, but may appear on the exams. It is your responsibility to complete the readings. Exams are to be taken when scheduled. Requests for make-ups will be granted only for cases described as an excused absence. If you cannot take an exam, I'll arrange for you to take a make-up exam after I see documentation explaining why you were unable to take the exam. Failure to show up for an exam without proper documentation will result in a "0" for that exam and computed as such into your final grade.

## **GRADING**

Exams:	100 pts X 3 exams	300	44.1%
Response Questions:	10 pts X 10 responses	100	14.7%
Quizzes:	20 pts X 4 quizzes	80	11.8%
Attendance:		100	14.7%
Article Papers:	50 pts X 2 articles=	100	14.7%
		680 points	100%

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

## **ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

Plagiarism – The Provost and legal counsel of Florida State University warn us that any uses of others' copyrighted materials without proper acknowledgement is unlawful and may lead to criminal prosecution. To this end, please be scrupulous in using the work of others by giving full and appropriate credit to the sources and materials that you use. Please use care when taking words and phrases from others. It is plagiarism when you: use another's work from print, web, or other source without acknowledging the source; quote from a source without citation; use facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source.

Cheating – Copying from another student's paper or receiving unauthorized assistance during a quiz, test or examination; using books, notes or other devices (e.g., calculators, cell phones, or computers) when these are not authorized; procuring without authorization a copy of or information about an examination before the scheduled exercise; unauthorized collaboration on exams.

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.

### **CLASSROOM COURTESY**

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, 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. You must raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem.

(c) Using a 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.

## **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 the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.
- This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center  
97 Woodward Avenue, South  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
sdr@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

## **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for a grade of Incomplete. An Incomplete grade will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an "I" must be passing the course.

## **SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## COURSE OUTLINE

*Note: There will be readings for each topic that are to be completed. It is your responsibility to complete each reading before class.*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1	8/26	Introduction	
	8/28	The Changing Family	
2	9/2	The Changing Family	
	9/4	History of the Family	
3	9/9	History of the Family	
	9/11	Race, Class and the Family	Quiz 1 – complete by 9/11
4	9/16	Race, Class and the Family	
	9/18	Gender and the Family	
5	9/23	Gender and the Family	
	9/25	<b>Exam 1</b>	
6	9/30	Dating and Mating	
	10/2	Dating and Mating	
7	10/7	Marriage	
	10/9	Love and Sex in Relationships	Quiz 2 – complete by 10/9
8	10/14	Love and Sex in Relationships	
	10/16	Alternatives to Marriage	Article 1 due in class
9	10/21	Childbearing	
	10/23	Childrearing	Quiz 3 – complete by 10/23
10	10/28	Childrearing	
	10/30	<b>Exam 2</b>	
11	11/4	Separation and Divorce	
	11/6	Remarriage and Stepfamilies	
12	11/11	VETERAN'S DAY – NO CLASS	
	11/13	Work and the Family	
13	11/18	Domestic Violence	Quiz 4 – complete by 11/18
	11/20	Domestic Violence	Article 2 due in class
14	11/25	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS	
	11/27	NO CLASS	
15	12/2	Family Policy	
	12/4	Family Policy	
16	12/12	<b>Final Exam 3:00pm-5:00pm</b>	

## **SYO 3100 – Family Problems and Social Change Fall 2008 Reading List**

**PPF** – reading from *Public and Private Families: A Reader*

**BB** – reading found on Blackboard in the corresponding folder of Course Library

### **The Changing Family**

Casper & Bianchi. (2002) “A Quieting of Family Change” from *Continuity & Change in the American Family*. **PPF – pgs. 5-13**

Skolnick. (2006). “Beyond the ‘M’ Word: The Tangled Web of Politics and Marriage” from the magazine *Dissent*. **BB**

Trimberger. (2007). “Further Beyond the ‘M’ Word: A Response to Arlene Skolnick” from the magazine *Dissent*. **BB**

Katz & Stern. (2007) “American Families: Changes in the Twentieth Century” from the magazine *Dissent*. **BB**

### **History of the Family**

Coontz. (2005) “What’s Love Got to Do With It? A Brief History of Marriage” from *Marriage, A History: From Obedience to Intimacy or How Love Conquered Marriage*. **PPF pgs. 30 – 35**

Coles. (2006) “A Brief History of the American Family” from *Race and Family: A Structural Approach*. **BB**

### **Race, Class and the Family**

Lareau. (2002). “Invisible inequality: Social class and childrearing in Black families and white families” **PPF pgs. 82-102**

Inniss & Feagin. (1995) “The Cosby Show: The View from the Black Middle Class” *Journal of Black Studies*. **BB**

Lareau. (2003) “The Power and Limits of Social Class” from *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. **BB**

## **Gender and the Family**

DeVault. (1991) "Feeding as 'Women's Work.'" from *Feeding the Family: The Social Organization of Caring as Gendered Work*. **PPF pgs. 57-66**

Adler, Kless, & Adler. (1992) "Socialization to Gender Roles: Popularity among Elementary School Boys and Girls" from *Sociology of Education*. **BB**

Orecklin. (2004) "Stress and the Superdad" from the magazine *TIME* **BB**

## **Dating and Mating**

Couch and Liamputtong. (2008) "Online Dating and Mating: The Use of the Internet to Meet Sexual Partners" from *Qualitative Health Research*. **BB**

Fisman, et al. (2006) "Gender Differences in Mate Selection: Evidence from a Speed Dating Experiment" from *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. **BB**

Illouz. (1997) "An All Consuming Love" from *Consuming the Romantic Utopia*. **BB**

## **Marriage**

Amato. (2004) "Tension between Institutional and Individual Views of Marriage." from *Journal of Family and Marriage*. **BB**

Coontz. (2004) "The World Historical Transformation of Marriage" from *The Journal of Marriage and Family*. **BB**

## **Sexuality and Love in Relationships**

Schwartz and Rutter. (1998) "Sexual Desire and Gender" from *The Gender of Sexuality*. **PPF pgs. 132-140**

Sternberg. (1997) "Construct validation of a triangular love scale" from *European Journal of Social Psychology*. **BB only pages 313-317.**

Shackelford, Buss, and Bennett. (2002) "Forgiveness or Breakup: Sex Differences in Responses to a Partner's Infidelity" from *Cognition and Emotion*. **BB**

### Alternatives to Marriage

Levin. (2004) "Living Apart Together: A new family Form" from *Current Sociology*. **PPF pgs. 140-152.**

Smock. (2000) "Cohabitation in the United States" from *Annual Review of Sociology*. **BB**

Edin and Kefalas. (2006) "Unmarried with Children" from *Contexts*. **PPF pgs 167-173.**

### Childbearing

Weil. (2005) "Breeder Reaction" from *Mother Jones*. **BB**

Chamberlin. (2005) "Adopting a New American Family" from *Monitor on Psychology*. **BB**

Abma and Martinez. (2006) "Childlessness Among Older Women in the US: Trends and Profiles" from *Journal of Marriage and Family*. **BB**

### Childrearing

Brandth and Kvande. (1998) "Masculinity and Child Care: The Reconstruction of Fathering" from *The Sociological Review*. **BB**

Picker. (2005). "And Now, the Hard Part" from *Newsweek*. **BB**

Kazdin and Benjet. (2003) "Spanking Children: Evidence and Issues" from *Current Directions in Psychological Science*. **BB**

### Separation and Divorce

McLanahan. "Life without Father: What Happens to the Children?" **PPF pgs 288-291**

Hetherington. (2002) "Marriage and Divorce American Style" from *The American Prospect*. **BB**

Kurz. (1995) "How Marriages End" from *For Richer, For Poorer: Mothers Confront Divorce*. **BB**

### **Remarriage and Stepfamilies**

Mason. "The Modern American Stepfamily: Problems and Possibilities" **PPF pgs. 307-318**

Marsiglio. "Overlooked Aspects of Stepfathering" **PPF pgs. 318-333**

### **Work and the Family**

Hochschild. "Joey's Problem: Nancy and Evan Holt" from *The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home*. **PPF**

Hochschild. "The Emotional Geography of Work and Family Life" from *The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*. **BB**

Coltrane. (2004) "Elite Careers and Family Commitment: It's (Still) about Gender" from *The ANNALS of American Academy of Political and Social Science*. **BB**

### **Domestic Violence**

Cherlin, et al. "The Influence of Physical and Sexual Abuse on Marriage and Cohabitation." **PPF pgs. 259-276**

Johnson. "Domestic Violence: The Intersection of Gender and Control." **PPF pgs. 277-286**

### **Family Policy**

DeParle. (2004) "American Dream" from *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare*. **PPF pgs. 337-345**

Hooyman & Gonyea. (1985) "Defining Family Policy" **BB**