



## **SYO 3100-05: Family Problems and Social Change**

**Fall 2008**

**HCB 0210**

**T, R 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Ursula Keller, Instructor

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Office Hours: T, R 12:45-1:45 p.m.

and/or by appointment

Course website: <http://campus.fsu.edu>

### **Course Syllabus**

#### **Overview of Course**

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 influences family norms, opportunities, and behaviors. Accordingly, we will explore the connection between social change (major historical transformations in society) and consequent family changes. We will also learn about individuals within families, and how family relationships have changed over time.

Since SYO 3100 also fulfills the University's "diversity in Western experience – Y" multicultural requirement and is a Women's Studies course, issues of race/ethnicity and gender will be highlighted throughout.

#### **Course Objectives**

In order to meet the goals above, the course has been designed to achieve several specific objectives:

- 1) to provide information about historical and contemporary families in the United States;
- 2) to explore the relationships between individuals, families, and other social institutions (such as the economy and the government);
- 3) to develop analytical and communication skills that will enable you to examine and assess divergent ideas/ perspectives on contemporary family issues.

#### **Required Text and Readings**

The reading assignments are taken from two books, which are available for purchase at the FSU bookstore and Bill's Bookstore. Additional required articles will be accessible through the Blackboard course website (find them in the "Readings" folder). *All of the readings will be utilized throughout the course. In order to participate in class effectively you will **NEED** to have read the required readings prior to attending class. Unannounced quizzes (e.g. to confirm that students are reading and understanding the readings or to confirm that students did another assignment) will be given on occasion.*

The required books are:

1. Cherlin, Andrew J. 2006. *Public & Private Families: An Introduction, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-352808-3
2. Cherlin, Andrew J. 2006. *Public & Private Families: A Reader, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-352809-0

### **Class Policies**

#### Class Communication – Email and Blackboard course website

The official method of communication at FSU is your ACNS garnet email account. I will send class emails to **ONLY** the garnet accounts enrolled in the blackboard website system. I require that you check the *Announcements* page of our course website at least three times per week to ensure you are current on course topics/assignments and unexpected changes.

#### Class Attendance

University policy requires that I take attendance during every class session. Thus, class attendance is required. We will be having random pop quizzes that you will miss *and not be allowed to make up if you are not in class*. **Five or more unexcused absences will result in an F grade for the course.**

The following and only the following absences are eligible to be excused: Religious holidays, as specified in FSU policy. *Students who miss class due to observance of religious holidays must speak with me in advance*; 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 treatment. *Colds and fatigue 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 is required for an absence to be excused.** Please provide a copy of the documentation to me and keep a copy for your own records. While I will not penalize you for excused absences, you remain responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class(es).

#### Courtesy in the Classroom

Professional classroom courtesy/behavior is necessary to make certain that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones or texting, talking out of turn or during lectures, reading newspapers, surfing the web, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to me 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 be as quiet 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 discussion must be scholarly and respectful of all members of the class (including me). Students who are repeatedly disrespectful may be removed from class and may receive an F for the course.

- (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 only 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. (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.*

**Grading Scheme:**

A = 94.0 – 100	B+ = 87.0 – 89.9	C+ = 77.0 – 79.9	D+ = 67.0 – 69.9	F < 60.0
A- = 90.0 – 93.9	B = 84.0 – 86.9	C = 74.0 – 76.9	D = 64.0 – 66.9	
	B- = 80.0 – 83.9	C- = 70.0 – 73.9	D- = 60.0 – 63.9	

**Course Requirements:**

Online Bio .....	5%
In-class Quizzes .....	10%
2 Reaction Papers (2-3 pages).....	15%
Midterm Exam .....	20%
Final Exam .....	25%
Term Paper (7-9 pages).....	25%

**Any assignment submitted to Turnitin.com past the due date and time as well as in class assignments handed in more than 10 minutes past the start of the class period will be considered late** and will incur a penalty. The penalty for late work is the deduction of one-third of a letter grade per day. This includes weekends.

**Missing work is not sufficient reason for grade of Incomplete (I).** I’s will not be given except under extreme circumstances, at the instructor’s discretion. College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking and an “I” must be passing the course at the time the incomplete is given.

*Online Bio:*

You will receive credit for completing an assessment during the first week of class (due **Saturday Aug. 30 at midnight**). In this exercise, you will write a “Family Autobiography” by responding in narrative form to a list of questions posted under “Assignments” on Blackboard. Once you have written your autobiography, you will post it on your personal homepage on the course web site. To do so, go to the Blackboard site, click on “Student tools”. Then click on “Edit your homepage”, and follow the instructions.

### *Exams:*

There are two exams: a mid-term exam during class on **Thursday Oct. 16** and a final exam on **Friday Dec. 12** at 3:00-5:00pm. The mid-term exam covers the assigned material listed in the Course Outline and consists of a combination of multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer questions. The final exam has the same format but covers some specific issues of earlier themes previously seen in the course plus the last topics not yet evaluated. Please schedule your travel plans accordingly. The exam dates cannot be changed except for extreme circumstances.

**\*\*All assigned readings and lectures are potential exam materials.**

### *In-class Quizzes:*

There will be unannounced quizzes and short take-home written assignments given throughout the semester. The quizzes will cover material for the day's assigned readings and any class material, and may be in the form of multiple-choice or short answer questions. The take-home assignments are intended to assess or supplement your understandings of the day's readings. These assignments will be given to you during the class period prior to the one in which they are due and will be kept short (usually 1 or 2 paragraphs). **You must be present during both the class period in which the take-home assignment is passed out and the class period in which it is taken up in order to receive credit for the work.** At the end of the semester, quiz grades will be averaged together to create one score accounting for 10% of the final grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be no make-ups for missed in-class quizzes. If you come to class after the quiz has been handed out, you will not be allowed to take the quiz for that day. However, *please let me know if you miss a quiz assignment due to a legitimate, excused absence.*

### *Reaction Papers:*

You will be expected to write two 2-3 page reaction papers (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins) to the material we have covered in class. I will provide you with questions to address. These assignments are due **Wednesday Sep. 10 at midnight** and **Monday Oct. 6 at midnight**. **You will submit them electronically though the turnitin icon on the Blackboard website.** Details of these assignments will be made available in class and posted on Blackboard for reference. One-third of a letter grade will be deducted each day for late papers.

### *Term Paper:*

You will write one 7-9 page paper on a topic of your choice that relates to this course. **The final paper must be submitted electronically though the turnitin icon on the Blackboard course website by the beginning of class (11am) on Thursday Dec. 4.** Additional guidelines regarding the paper assignment will be provided to you. Please note that a 1-2 page overview of what you would like to cover in your term paper will be **due in class on Tuesday Sep. 23**. This will give me a sense of what you are interested in, and will also allow me to give you each, individually, suggestions for how to develop your paper topic. Please type your overview and term papers in standard font size (such as size 12 Times New Roman font), using double spaces and one-inch margins. In your term paper, I expect you to explicitly support your ideas with information that we have covered in class as well as supplementing with outside scholarly sources (at least 5 citations). I also expect your term paper to be well-written and grammatically correct. *Poorly written papers or papers with multiple spelling and grammar errors will receive grade reductions.* One-third of a letter grade will be deducted each day for late papers.

### **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. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation:

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>.

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "F" for the course. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may also be reported to the University Judicial Office for official adjudication. I reserve the right to use all means at my disposal to screen for plagiarism, including electronic citation checkers (e.g., Turnitin.com). For more information on plagiarism, see

<http://online.fsu.edu/learningresources/plagiarism>.

Procedures for dealing with alleged academic dishonesty are described at:

[http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/acad\\_regs.htm#AcademicHonor](http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/acad_regs.htm#AcademicHonor)

### **Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring me a letter 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:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

### **Other On-Campus Resources:**

Please be aware that the following resources are available to you on campus to help you improve your learning and writing skills.

1. The Reading and Writing Center – located in 222C Williams Building, 644-6495.  
<http://writing.fsu.edu/rwc/index.htm>
2. Adult Learning Evaluation Center (ALEC), Provides evaluation and support for students with leaning disabilities and attention deficit disorders – located in 214 Stone Building, 644-3611. <http://www.coe.fsu.edu/departments/hss/alec/>

### **Syllabus Change Policy.**

*This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.*

### **Course Outline and Assignments Schedule:**

You are expected to complete the reading assignments in advance of the class for which they are assigned. You are responsible for all of the material covered in the reading assignments, whether it is discussed in class or not.

Please read the discussion question(s) for each class period. These are questions that you should be able to answer after doing the reading. They are also fair game for in-class pop quizzes.

[BB = article found on Blackboard course page under the "Readings" link]

- Tuesday Aug. 26 Introduction to the Course/Syllabus
- Thursday Aug. 28 Definitions of the Family  
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 1 (p. 4-32)
- Saturday Aug. 30 \*\*\*Online Bio Due at Midnight\*\*\***
- Tuesday Sep. 2 Origins of the Family, part 1  
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 2 (p.36-46)  
2. **BB**, Mintz and Kellog, “Native American Families” from *Domestic Revolutions*, p. 26-31.
- Thursday Sep. 4 Origins of the Family, part 2  
1. BB, Humphrey, “Domestic Education,” (p. 15-20)  
2. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 2 (p. 46-52)  
3. Cherlin reader, p. 30-35 – Coonz (2005), “What’s Love Got To Do With It?”
- Tuesday Sep. 9 Origins of the Family, part 3  
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 2 (p. 52-64)
- Wednesday Sep. 10 \*\*\*Reaction Paper #1 Due (2-3 pages) at Midnight\*\*\***
- Thursday Sep. 11 The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Nuclear Family in America  
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 2 (p.64-72)  
2. **BB**, Coontz, “What We Really Miss About the 1950s,” p.31-39
- Tuesday Sep. 16 Contemporary (Post-Nuclear) American Families  
1. Cherlin reader, p. 5-13 – Casper & Bianchi (2002), “A ‘Quieting’ of Family Change.”  
2. Cherlin reader, p. 36-42 – Furstenberg et al. (2004), “Growing Up Is Hard To Do.”  
3. BB, Giele (1996), “Decline of the Family: Conservative, Liberal, and Feminist Views”, p. 378-390.
- Thursday Sep. 18 Gender and the Family  
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 3 (p. 80-106; insert on pages 104-105)
- Tuesday Sep. 23 Changing Gender Roles in the Family  
1. Cherlin reader, p. 57-66 – Devault (1991), “Feeding As ‘Women’s Work’”  
2. **BB**, Coltrane & Adams, “Men’s Family Work: Child-Centered Fathering and the Sharing of Domestic Labor”, p. 101-112.  
3. **BB**, Orecklin (2004), “Stress and the Superdad.” Pp. 110-111 in Annual Editions: The Family 07/08.

**\*\*\*Term Paper Topic Overview Due (1-2 pages) In Class\*\*\***

- Thursday Sep. 25 Religion, Gender, and the Family/ Catch Up Day  
 1. Cherlin reader p. 201-204 – Wilcox & Bartkowski (1999), “The Evangelical Family Paradox: Conservative Rhetoric, Progressive Practice.”
- Tuesday Sep. 30 Social Class and the Family  
 1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 4 (p. 112-123)  
 2. Cherlin reader, p. 69-81 – Sheehan (1995), “Ain’t No Middle Class.”
- Thursday Oct. 2 Class Differences in Family Life and Childrearing  
 1. Cherlin reader, p. 82-102 – Lareau (2002), “Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families.”
- Monday Oct. 6 \*\*\*Reaction Paper #2 Due (2-3 pages) at Midnight\*\*\***
- Tuesday Oct. 7 Race, Ethnicity, and the Family – African Americans  
 1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 5 (p. 144-163)  
 2. **BB**, Patillo-McCoy (1999), “The Black Middle Class”, p. 94-101.
- Thursday Oct. 9 Hispanic & Asian Americans  
 1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 5 (p. 163-179)  
 2. Cherlin reader, p. 108-121 – Hondagneu-Sotelo & Avila (1997), “I’m Here, but I’m There”: The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood.
- Tuesday Oct. 14 *Catch-Up Day / Midterm Review*  
 No Readings for today – catch up and prepare for midterm
- Thursday Oct. 16 MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
- Tuesday Oct. 21 Courtship and Union Formation  
 1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 7 (p. 217-222)  
 2. Cherlin reader, p. 122-127 – Qian (2005), “Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America.”
- Thursday Oct. 23 Cohabitation and LAT Relationships  
 1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 7 (p. 238-249)  
 2. Cherlin Reader, p. 140-152 – Levin (2004), “Living Apart Together.”
- Tuesday Oct. 28 Marriage  
 1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 7 (p. 223-238)  
 2. Cherlin reader, p. 167-173 – Edin & Kefalas (2005), Unmarried with Children.”
- Thursday Oct. 30 Childbearing  
 1. **BB**, Gibbs (2002). “Making Time for Baby.” Pp. 51-56. In Annual Editions: The Family 02/03.  
 2. **BB**, Picker (2005). “And Now, The Hard Part.” Pp. 83-84. In Annual Editions: The Family 07/08.

- Tuesday Nov. 4 Families and Divorce
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 12 (p.402-424)
  2. **BB**, Shulman (2004). "Great Expectations." Pp. 37-39. In Annual Editions: The Family 07/08.
  3. **BB**, Carey (2001). "is divorce too easy?" Pp. 158-161. In Annual Editions: The Family 01/02
- Thursday Nov. 6 Consequences of Divorce
1. Cherlin reader, p 287-292 – Divorce intro and McLanahan (2002), "Life Without Father: What Happens to the Children."
  2. **BB**, Arendell (2001). "Downward Mobility" p. 303-313.
- Tuesday Nov. 11 NO CLASS – Veteran's Day*
- Thursday Nov. 13 The State and Family Social Policy
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 14 (p. 470-485)
- Tuesday Nov. 18 Welfare and the Family
1. **BB**, Hofferth, Sandra (2002). "Did Welfare Reform Work? Implications for 2002 and Beyond." Pp. 45-51.
  2. **BB**, Scott, London, & Myers (2002). "Dangerous Dependencies: The Intersection of Welfare Reform and Domestic Violence." Pp. 273-282.
- Thursday Nov. 20 Same-Sex Marriage and Families
1. Cherlin reader, p. 345-356 – Meezan & Rauch (2005). "Gay Marriage, Same-sex Parenting, and America's Children."
- Tuesday Nov. 25 Work and Families
1. Cherlin textbook, Chapter 8 (p. 258-275)
  2. Cherlin reader, p. 183-196 – Hochschild (2003). "Joey's Problem: Nancy and Evan Holt."
- Thursday Nov. 27 NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving!*
- Tuesday Dec. 2 Children and Work
1. **BB**, Monica & Droegge (1998). "Day Care Harms/Can Benefit Children." Pp. 114-132. The The Family: Opposing Viewpoints.
- Thursday Dec. 4 LAST CLASS! Course Wrap-up and Review for Final*
- \*\*\*Family Term Paper Due by 11am\*\*\***
- Friday Dec. 12 FINAL EXAM, 3:00- 5:00 p.m.*