

Sociology of Families (SOC 2100-001)
Department of Sociology
Wayne State University
Winter 2018
ONLINE

Instructor: Allison Jendry James
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm and by appointment

Required Textbook:

The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change by Phillip N. Cohen (2015), ISBN: 978-0-393-93395-6

Course Description:

The family is one piece of a complex puzzle in thinking about societies and their functioning from a sociological standpoint. This course is designed to introduce you to the family as a social institution. We will be looking at historical changes in families; paid and unpaid work; marriage and partnering; divorce, remarriage and blended families; parenting; violence; economic issues; law and social policy; race/ethnicity; sexuality; and age. Throughout the course, you will be applying what we have learned about the family to the social interactions and relationships around you. This will enable you to see how your life and the lives of others are greatly influenced by the social interactions and relationships that occur within the social institution that is the family. Taking this course will give you the opportunity to cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills, in addition to improving your reading and writing skills, while also having fun in a judgement-free online classroom environment.

Learning Outcomes:

After taking this course, you will be able to:

- 1) Acknowledge and discuss the diversity of families in the United States.
- 2) Describe how families are socially constructed.
- 3) Put families into perspective in terms of centuries (time), countries (space), and other spectrums.
- 4) Describe how the family intersects with other social institutions (e.g. religion, government, education).
- 5) Apply course content to your everyday experiences in the social world.

- 6) Cultivate abstract and critical thinking skills.
- 7) Work on your reading and writing skills (DUH!)

Communication:

Email: You are encouraged to email me at any time with questions, problems, concerns, suggestions, or just general conversation. I will respond as soon as possible. Please put your course number in the subject line (i.e. SOC 2100) and use correct English & grammar. This is the quickest way to reach me. **NOTE: I will not answer questions that can be found in your syllabus.**

Telephone: If I am not available when you call, please feel free to leave me a message. Leave your name, a brief message, and a phone number where I can reach you. If you have a question, please ask it so I can have an answer when I return your call. I will return your call as soon as possible.

Course Policies:

Canvas/Email: Canvas and your Wayne State University (WSU) email will be used extensively in this course. **Please check your WSU email every day for important information regarding class.** I will post all assignments, quizzes, readings, videos, links, and important handouts as well as information on Canvas. Everything will also be turned in on Canvas unless I specify otherwise. **Please let me know ASAP if you need assistance in navigating Canvas.**

Late Work Policy: Late work is not accepted unless you have a **VERIFIABLE** excuse (e.g. a note from your physician documenting your illness, including a date of return) or we work something out prior to your absence.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be given sparingly throughout the semester and will be posted on Canvas along with a course announcement. **Only students who have turned in all assignments are eligible to participate in extra credit.**

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected through being “present” on Canvas via discussion board assignments and other means. I expect you to be “present” 2-3 days per week. More information about the expectations for the discussion board and other assignments are in a separate handout on Canvas.

Judgement Free Classroom: Due to the nature of the topic of this course, some points discussed in our environment may be controversial, uncomfortable, and/or lead to heated debates. Learning something new isn't always comfortable and, often, our personal judgments cloud our ability to learn to the fullest. Please try to keep those judgments outside of the ‘classroom’ and focus on gaining new knowledge while engaging in discussion or reading the assigned texts. **I expect that you will respect other students. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action through the university. If you have strong feelings about anything**

brought up in discussion by either your fellow classmates or me, please feel free to make an appointment to come speak with me. I am more than willing to listen to your concerns.

Course Requirements:

Quizzes: There will be weekly quizzes under each week's lesson on Canvas. The purpose of these quizzes is to help you in solidifying your understanding of the material from each week. You can find the weekly quizzes in a separate folder within each lesson. Quizzes will be based on information from the textbook as well as any assigned supplementary reading. You will have unlimited attempts for each quiz so that you can take as much time as you need to study the material. The latest attempt that you submit will be graded. **Quizzes will be available on Monday of each week at 12 AM (Midnight) and will be open until 11:59pm each Sunday.** See the course schedule for specific due dates for each quiz. **Quizzes are worth 10 points each for a total of 120 points (12 quizzes for the semester).**

SYLLABUS QUIZ: There will be one quiz during the first week of class over the syllabus. It is important for you to know the details of what is expected of you in this course. **Just like the other quizzes, this quiz will be open during the first week of class starting on Wednesday at 12 am and will close at 11:59pm on Sunday. This quiz will be worth 20 points and you will have unlimited attempts to take it.**

Reflection Assignments: There will be 10 short reflection assignments in this course. **Each paper will be worth 10 points for a total of 100 points collectively.** For a majority of the weeks you will **write a 1-2-page paper and turn it in via Canvas by midnight on Thursday, as indicated in the course schedule.** The purpose of these papers is to get you writing and thinking about the text and discussions that we have in class. In other words, you will reflect on the assigned course text each week and the discussion from class and write a 1-2-page paper. You can specifically write about the course reading for that week or you can reflect on a personal experience or even write about any thoughts about the week's topic as a whole (what surprised you, what didn't surprise you, has anything we've talked about or read changed your perspective on a certain topic, are there any ideas that you are struggling with, etc.). More information about the Reflection Assignments can be found in the "Reflection Assignments" folder within the "Modules" tab in Canvas. These papers will be turned in using the "Reflection Assignments Submission" link in the "Modules" tab.

Writing Assignments: There will be a couple of papers that you will write in this course. Papers will be approximately **5 pages**, double-spaced and will be analysis based. **Each paper will be worth a total of 65 points each, or a total of 130 points for the semester.** More information about the papers are on Canvas under the "Modules" link on the left side of the screen. Writing assignments are always turned in under the "Writing Assignments Submission" link on Canvas.

Discussion Board:

DISCUSSION BOARD REPLY POSTS: Each student in the class will respond to the discussion leader's questions each week. **I expect you to reply to all discussion questions on at least 2 different days of the week, around 250 words. For example, if there are two questions, reply to each question at least once during the week and respond to each question on a different day. Each weekly discussion board will be worth 10 points for a total of 130 points over the course of 13 weeks. Discussion board replies are due by Friday evenings at 11:59 pm. If you are a discussion leader, you will be exempt from the discussion board grade for that week and will be given a discussion leader grade instead, which has its own column.** More information about replying to discussion board posts can be found on Canvas under the "Course Information" tab on the left side of the screen.

A Few Tidbits of Vital Information: The classroom is a learning environment that we should all feel comfortable in. **Please let me know if there is anything that would be helpful in making the classroom environment more comfortable for you to engage in class discussion.** I expect that everyone will engage in the process of learning through discussion and participating through Canvas via other course assignments. I will try my best to make sure that ALL assignments that are turned in are graded within one week of submission of the assignment. Providing timely feedback is important for your learning process and understanding of the course material. Of course, if something unexpected comes up and I am not able to provide feedback within one week, I will let you know.

All assignments will be turned in on Canvas. If you experience any technical issues with canvas, please let me know so that I can get the issue resolved as soon as possible. You can also contact the I.T. department at WSU if you need technical assistance ASAP. On a final note, **please do not hesitate to contact me in some way (e.g., email, phone, office hours) if you are having any difficulties with the course. I am here to guide you in your learning process, and am more than happy to speak with you at any time.**

Overview of Point Distribution:

Quizzes (12 quizzes @ 10 points each)	= 120 points
Syllabus Quiz (1 @ 20 points)	= 20 points
Reflection Assignments (10 @ 10 points each)	= 100 points
Writing Assignments (2 @ 65 points each)	= 130 points
Discussion Board Reply (13 @ 10 points each)	= 130 points
	Total =500 points

Grading Scale:

100% - 90% =A	72% - 70% =C
89% - 86%= A-	69% - 66% =C-
85% - 83% =B+	65% - 63%= D+
82% - 80%= B	62% - 60% =D
79% - 76% =B-	59% - 51% =D-
75% - 73%= C+	

** Note: anything below this threshold will receive a failure for the course. Final grades are determined by adding up your total points and dividing by the total number of points possible.

Plagiarism:

Assignments that have been copied from another student or another source will not be scored. All papers will be run through the SafeAssign plagiarism system which detects attempts at copying text. “Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.” (WSU Dean of Students Office Statement, 2014). The following website gives the university’s full policy on academic integrity: <http://doso.wayne.edu/academic-integrity.html> I understand there are many gray areas when it comes to plagiarism. Don’t hesitate to contact me or stop by during office hours if you have questions or need guidance.

Drop/Withdrawal:

If you wish to drop this class, you must do so by March 25. After this point, you will be issued a withdrawal grade (WP, WF, or WN). If you fail to withdraw by March 25, and stop attending class, you will receive an “F”. If you wish to challenge your final grade, you must do so through the proper university procedure; <http://www.cfpca.wayne.edu/files/FinalGradeAppeal.pdf>

Religious Observances:

It is Wayne State’s policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of students, faculty and staff. Students with exams or classes that conflict with their religious observances should notify me well in advance (at least 2 weeks), so we can work out a mutually agreeable alternative.

Students with Disabilities

Wayne State University is working to build a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all people, including those with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 5155

Gullen Mall in the Undergraduate Library. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851. Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Please do not request accommodations directly from me without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services; <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>. You must arrange for accommodation with me within the first couple weeks of the course.

Student Support Services:

- Academic Success Center; <http://success.wayne.edu/>
- Academic Advisor for Sociology; Stacie Moser, #2245 FAB, (313) 577-2355
Stacie.moser@wayne.edu
- Wayne State Writing Center, located in the UGL, #2310;
<http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing>
- Counseling and Psychological Services, located in the Student Center Building, #552;
<http://caps.wayne.edu>

Course Timeline

**** Please note, this schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.**

**** Please note, abbreviated schedule the week of April 22!**

**** Always check the weekly folders on Canvas (under the "Modules" tab on the left side) for the most updated assignment list for each week.**

Date	Topic(s) for Class	Assignment
Week 1: January 8, 2018	Welcome to Sociology of Families!! ☺	Read Syllabus Introduce self on discussion board (post initially plus respond to 2 other people on 2 different days) by 11:59 pm on Friday, January 12 Familiarize self with Canvas and the course set-up Sign up for a week to lead discussion by 11:59pm on Friday, January 12 Take Syllabus Quiz by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 14

<p>Week 2: January 15, 2018</p>	<p>An Introduction to the Sociology of the Family</p>	<p>Read chapter 1 and other materials posted under week 2</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, January 19</p> <p>Take quiz 1 by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 21</p>
<p>Week 3: January 22, 2018</p>	<p>History</p>	<p>Read chapter 2 and other materials posted under week 3</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, January 26</p> <p>Take quiz 2 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, January 28</p>
<p>Week 4: January 29, 2018</p>	<p>Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration</p>	<p>Read chapter 3 and other materials posted under week 4</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, February 1</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, February 2</p> <p>Take quiz 3 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, February 4</p>

<p>Week 5: February 5, 2018</p>	<p>Gender</p>	<p>Read chapter 5 and other materials posted under week 5</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, February 8</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, February 9</p> <p>Take quiz 4 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, February 11</p>
<p>Week 6: February 12, 2018</p>	<p>Sexuality</p>	<p>Read chapter 6 and other materials posted under week 6</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, February 15</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, February 16</p> <p>Take quiz 5 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, February 18</p>
<p>Week 7: February 19, 2018</p>	<p>Families and Social Class</p>	<p>Read chapter 4 and other materials posted under week 7</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, February 22</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in</p>

		<p>each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, February 23</p> <p>Take quiz 6 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, February 25</p>
Week 8: February 26, 2018	Reflecting on what we've learned so far about families...	Paper # 1 due via Canvas by 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 4 ☺
Week 9: March 5, 2018	Marriage and Cohabitation	<p>Read chapter 8 and other materials posted under week 9</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, March 8</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 9</p> <p>Take quiz 7 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 11</p>
Spring Break Week: March 12, 2018	Spring Break!! ☺	
Week 10: March 19, 2018	Families and Children	<p>Read chapter 9 and other materials posted under week 10</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, March 22</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 23</p> <p>Take quiz 8 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 25</p>

<p>Week 11: March 26, 2017</p>	<p>Love and Romantic Relationships</p>	<p>Read chapter 7 and other materials posted under week 11</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, March 29</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 30</p> <p>Take quiz 9 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 1</p>
<p>Week 12: April 2, 2018</p>	<p>Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families</p>	<p>Read chapter 10 and other materials posted under week 12</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 5</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, April 6</p> <p>Take quiz 10 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 8</p>
<p>Week 13: April 9, 2018</p>	<p>Work and Families</p>	<p>Read chapter 11 and other materials posted under week 13</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 12</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in</p>

		<p>each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, April 13</p> <p>Take quiz 11 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 15</p>
Week 14: April 16, 2018	Family Violence and Abuse	<p>Read chapter 12 and other materials posted under week 14</p> <p>Submit reflection assignment by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 19</p> <p>Post to discussion board (answer each question at least once, answering each question on a different day) and respond to at least one other person in each question thread by 11:59 pm on Friday, April 20</p> <p>Take quiz 12 by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 22</p>
<p>**Week 15: Week of April 22, 2018</p> <p>**Please note abbreviated schedule...</p>	The Future of the Family	<p>Read chapter 13</p> <p>Post to discussion board at least once and respond to at least one other person by 11:59 pm on Monday, April 23 (Please note change in DB schedule due to classes ending)</p>
Week 16: April 30, 2018	Wrapping up the course...	Paper # 2 due via Canvas on April 30 by 11:59pm ☺