SOC 3723 - Sociology of Family

Course Description:

This course will focus on the family as a social institution. It will provide a historical and multi-cultural overview of the family, as well as address the many issues facing and redefining the modern family. We will begin by looking at family variability both culturally and historically. We will explore the relationship between social inequality and the family with a particular focus on gender inequality. We will also examine the current parameters of family roles: mother, father, child, grandparent, and the impact of social class, race, and ethnicity. In order to increase our understanding of contemporary family issues, we will look at work-family balance, parenting, marriage, divorce, and abuse.

Course Objectives:

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

- Define family and analyze the family from each of the major sociological theoretical orientations.
- Identify and describe the major historical and cross-cultural variations in family structure, and explain why these are found.
- Describe the interplay between the individual, family and cultural values.
- Analyze marriage and family variations in American based upon subculture, social class, and ethnicity, and explain why these differences are found.
- Identify societal conditions or influences that impact families and analyze some of the changes in the American family.
- Provide a sociological critique of the notion of “traditional family values” and discuss some of the alternatives to traditional marriage.

Required Text and Resources:


Course Requirements:

Readings: Because this course is offered in an online format, assigned readings are vital to your educational success in this course. ALL readings are to be completed in a timely manner, in the order they are assigned in, and should be completed before you attempt to answer ANY assignment related to the readings. Students should be prepared to discuss the readings in-depth and in a meaningful manner.

Email: Email will be an important tool in this course, as it is our main form of communication. I will try to respond to emails as quickly as possible. This being said, I have email hours from 9am-5pm. You can email me at other times (i.e. 3am), but do not expect a response until the next morning. Once again, my email address is tarakay@ou.edu

Web Resource: https://canvas.ou.edu, Canvas will be used as the platform for this course. Regular access is imperative for this class as well as reliable access to the internet. Before you begin the course, you need to logon to Canvas. To access the site, you will need to know your username and password. Your password is the same one you use for all other online procedures using your NetID.

Once you’ve logged in, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the various pages on the site. Additional readings and/or internet links can be downloaded and accessed from Learn. You’ll need to have Acrobat Reader installed on the computer you’re using to access these files.

Final Grades:

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Assignment</td>
<td>5 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Responses (11@5 pts.)</td>
<td>55 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Lessons (14@10 pts.)</td>
<td>140 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Assignment</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>90 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>90 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 pts.</strong></td>
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Grading Scale
A = 360 points and above
B = 320-359 points
C = 280-319 points
D = 240-279 points
F = 239 points or less

Your grades are based on total points, not percentages.
Assignments:

Syllabus Assignment:
- This is a short assignment worth 5 points towards your final grade. For this assignment all you need to do is print a hard copy of the syllabus, read over it carefully, then write a short summary (1/2 to 1 page) describing what is expected of you in this course and what your responsibilities as a student are. More detailed instructions can be found in the Assignments in Canvas.
- Please place this assignment in the Canvas assignment titled “Syllabus Assignment” before you attempt to complete any course material.

Discussion Responses:
- The discussion topics will be based on the readings and specific questions and/or issues will be posted for each assigned chapter.
- Students are required to respond to the questions and/or issues posted online and carry out a dialogue with the instructor or other students. Because students are able to enroll in this course at different times, you will often find that there are not other students in the same place in their coursework as you are. However, I will leave previous students post on the boards and you can always respond to what they have said. This is to facilitate a class discussion, much like an on campus in-class setup.
- It is acceptable for you to either post an original response OR respond to another’s post. If your posts contribute to the conversation you will receive points for either. I am only concerned that you post meaningful and insightful responses.
- Unacceptable responses include malicious critiques of other students’ responses or a simple “good job.” If you pose to agree or disagree with the statements, you must provide a thoughtful reasoning to your position. This is to engage you to critically think about the subject matter at hand. More information as to what is considered acceptable/unacceptable responses can be found on Canvas under the “Modules” button.
- Students are required to post responses to a total of 11 online discussion topics and each is worth 5 points towards your final grade. (Class Introductions and Class/Assignment questions do NOT count towards this total).

Chapter Lessons:
- Throughout the course, you will be assigned homework assignments over the assigned reading material. In total you will be assigned 14 chapter lessons worth 10 points each (totaling 140 points).
- All assignments are posted on the “Content” page of Canvas under the heading “Chapter Lessons”. Questions in short answer format and you should be prepared to discuss ALL assigned readings. Questions could come from the material in the Cherlin textbook or the Cherlin reader. Specific instructions will be listed on each assignment sheet (font size, format, etc).
• After your lesson is complete, you will need to submit your lesson in the Canvas assignment page. There is an appropriately labeled assignment for each project. (Ex. Chapter 4 lesson should be placed in the “Chapter 4 Lesson” assignment). You will not be able to access a chapter lesson until you have submitted a file for the previous chapter lesson.
• Once you receive feedback from me, take the feedback into consideration and keep these materials as a study guide for the exams in this course.

**Paper Assignments:**
• For this course you will be required to write one paper summarizing and critiquing an academic journal article.
• This paper will be worth 20 points towards your final grade.
• Detailed instructions for this assignment can be found on the “Modules” page of Canvas under the heading “Paper Assignment”.
• There is a assignment on Canvas titled “Paper Assignment.” Please submit your paper by uploading it into that drop-box.
• There is no due date for this paper, but it must be completed and submitted BEFORE you arrange to take the Final Exam.

**Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam:**
• There are two exams in this course, the Mid-Term and the Final. Each is worth 90 points towards your final grade.
• Both exams follows will have the same format: 15 multiple choice questions (worth 1 point each), 15 fill-in the blank questions (worth 1 point each), and 3 short answer question (worth 20 points each).
• The Mid-Term Exam will contain material covered in chapters 1-7. The Final Exam will contain material covered in chapters 8-14.
• To study for the exams, students should refer to the suggestions outlined in the “Studying Suggestions” document. This document can be accessed on the “Modules” page of Canvas under the heading of “General Course Information”.

**Academic Integrity:**

As a student taking a course at the University of Oklahoma you are expected to uphold the academic integrity code. Please visit [http://integrity.ou.edu](http://integrity.ou.edu) and familiarize yourself with the standards you will be held to while taking your course.

**Religious Observance:**

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.
**Reasonable Accommodation Policy:**

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on call 24/7. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405-325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or OU Advocates at 405-615-0013 (24/7). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. For more information, please see http://www.ou.edu/eoo.

**Final Note:** This course will cover material that is considered controversial by some. Additionally, thinking from a sociological perspective may, at times, make you feel uncomfortable because of the methodical way it forces one to question some long standing beliefs and values. The goal of the course is not to change or threaten anyone’s ideology, nor is it to present any one ideology as superior to others. The goal, rather, is to present a sociological body of knowledge. You will be responsible for learning and knowing the material presented in class. How you choose to incorporate the material into your worldview is up to you.
Course Plan SOC 3723

Getting Started:

1. Complete Syllabus Assignment
2. Submit Syllabus Assignment to Dropbox in Canvas
3. Introduce yourself on Discussion Board (Who are you?)

Unit 1: Introduction

1. Read Chapter 1 in Textbook & Reader
2. Complete Lesson 1 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 1 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 1 Discussion Board (Chapter 1: Public and Private Families)

5. Read Chapter 2 in Textbook & Reader
6. Complete Lesson 2 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 2 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 2 Discussion Board (Chapter 2: The History of the Family)

Unit 2: Gender, Class, and Race-Ethnicity

1. Read Chapter 3 in Textbook & Reader
2. Complete Lesson 3 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 3 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 3 Discussion Board (Chapter 3: Gender and Families)

5. Read Chapter 4 in Textbook & Reader
6. Complete Lesson 4 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 4 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 4 Discussion Board (Chapter 4: Social Class and Families)

9. Read Chapter 5 in Textbook & Reader
10. Complete Lesson 5 Homework
11. Submit completed Lesson 5 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
12. Complete Lesson 5 Discussion Board (Chapter 5: Race, Ethnicity, and Families)

Unit 3: Sexuality, Partnership, and Marriage

1. Read Chapter 6 in Textbook & Reader
2. Complete Lesson 6 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 6 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 6 Discussion Board (Chapter 6: Sexuality, Partnership, and Marriage)
5. Read Chapter 7 in Textbook & Reader
6. Complete Lesson 7 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 7 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 7 Discussion Board (Chapter 7: Cohabitation and Marriage)

9. Schedule Midterm Exam
10. Take Midterm Exam

11. Read Chapter 8 in Textbook & Reader
12. Complete Lesson 8 Homework
13. Submit completed Lesson 8 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
14. Complete Lesson 8 Discussion Board (Chapter 8: Work and Families)

Unit 4: Links Across Generations

1. Read Chapter 9 in Textbook & Reader
2. Complete Lesson 9 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 9 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 9 Discussion Board (Chapter 9: Children and Parents)

5. Read Chapter 10 in Textbook & Reader
6. Complete Lesson 10 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 10 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 10 Discussion Board (Chapter 10: Older People and Their Families)

Unit 5: Conflict, Disruption, and Reconstitution

1. Read Chapter 11 in Textbook & Reader
2. Complete Lesson 11 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 11 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 11 Discussion Board (Chapter 11: Domestic Violence)

5. Read Chapter 12 in Textbook & Reader
6. Complete Lesson 12 Homework
7. Submit completed Lesson 12 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
8. Complete Lesson 12 Discussion Board (Chapter 12: Divorce)

9. Read Chapter 13 in Textbook & Reader
10. Complete Lesson 13 Homework
11. Submit completed Lesson 13 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
12. Complete Lesson 13 Discussion Board (Chapter 13: Stepfamilies)

Unit 6: The Criminal Justice System

1. Read Chapter 14 in Textbook & Reader
2. Complete Lesson 14 Homework
3. Submit completed Lesson 14 Homework to Dropbox in Canvas
4. Complete Lesson 14 Discussion Board (Chapter 14: Family, State, and Social Policy)
5. Complete Paper Assignment
6. Submit Paper to Paper Assignment Dropbox in Canvas
7. Schedule Final Exam
8. Take Final Exam