

Sociology of the Family

Soc 300UG -- Spring 2009

MWF 10:10-11

Journalism 304

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Office hours: MWF 11:10-noon and by appt

Purpose of Course: Introduce students to the sociological study of families, situated within social, economic, political, and historical contexts. "Family" is a term of many meanings. In U.S. society, there is a *hegemonic* conception of the family that may differ substantially from lived realities based on class, race, gender, and age. The actual form and content of families are affected by social structures and beliefs. In addition, the extent to which actual family forms differ from this hegemonic conception can have a profound impact on social relations.

Course Objectives:

- Identify and understand the significance of key concepts in the sociology of the family.
- Introduce some of the key theoretical concepts in the sociology of the family.
- Identify and analyze the social institutions that organize individual and collective life into structures that are called "family" and the roles men, women, and children play in those structures.
- Begin to identify the space occupied by concepts of family in struggles over economic and political power.
- Begin to understand the relationship among ideology, social structures, and agency.
- Make connections among the readings, current events, and your own experience.

Reading: You MUST do the reading and attend the lectures. The purpose of the lectures is to supplement and explain some of the reading, not to duplicate it.

Required Texts:

Maxine Baca Zinn and D. Stanley Eitzen, *Diversity in Families*, 7th edition (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002).
Previous editions are acceptable.

Readings on ERES, password: soc300

Assignments and Evaluation:

Two midterm examinations: The examinations are intended to ensure a mastery of concepts integral to the study of families in society, multiple choice, t/f, short answer. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Only ONE make-up will be scheduled for each exam.

Final examination: The final exam is comprehensive, with a short ten point essay added to the previous exam format, and worth a total of 100 points. You will be given the essay question ahead of time so that you have time to think about it.

Reading summaries: You will be expected to submit five summaries of the articles assigned and available on ERES. Each summary will be graded on a ten point scale, for a total of fifty points. We will go over the format in Week 3. Time is of the essence; I will not accept late summaries.

Attendance and participation: Failure to attend class regularly will result in a point reduction, while engaged participation can raise your grade. I will take roll periodically throughout the course. On particularly low attendance days, you may get a few extra credit points just for being there. On guest lecture days, you lose five points for failure to attend.

	Points
Exam1	50
Exam 2	50
Final Exam	100
Reading Summaries	50
TOTAL	250

The following statement is required to be printed on every syllabus by the Academic Officers of The University of Montana:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>

Sociology of the Family
Calendar Spring 2009 🌀 Subject to Change

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	1/26	Introductions		
Unit 1 -- Diversity in Families: History, Class, Race, Gender				
	1/28	Diversity in Families		
	1/30	Images, Ideals, Myths	BZ&E Ch 1	
2	2/2	History and Diversity of Families	BZ&E Ch 2,3	
	2/4	...cont.		
	2/6	...cont.		
3	2/9	...cont. Reading summaries	Van Leeuwen & Maas, ERES	
	2/11	Economy and Demography	BZ&E Ch 4	
	2/13	...cont.		
4	2/16	Presidents' Day—No Class		
	2/18	Econ/demography, cont.	Dalla & Gamble, ERES	Summary 1
	2/20	Class, Race, Gender	BZ&E Ch 5	
5	2/23	...cont.		
	2/25	Review		
	2/27	Exam 1		
Unit 2 – In the Family: Work, Intimacy, Marriage, Children				
6	3/1	Work and Family	BZ&E Ch 6	
	3/4	...cont.	Jacobs & Gerson, ERES	Summary 2
	3/6	...cont.		
7	3/9	Marriage	BZ&E Ch 8	
	3/11	...cont.		
	3/13	...cont.		

8	3/16	Parents & Children	BZ&E Ch 9	
	3/18	...cont.	Stacey & Biblarz, ERES	Summary 3
	3/20	Intimacy	BZ&E Ch 7	
9	3/23	...cont.		
	3/25	Review		
	3/27	Exam 2		
10	3/30-4/3	Spring break		
Unit 3 – Issues and Social Change				
11	4/6	Violence	BZ&E Ch 10	
	4/8	...cont.	Atkinson, et al., ERES	Summary 4
	4/10	...cont.		
12	4/13	Divorce & remarriage	BZ&E Ch 11	
	4/15	...cont.		
	4/17	...cont.	Ruger, et al., ERES	Summary 5
13	4/20	Emergent Families: Same Sex	BZ&E Ch 12, 448-483 check	
	4/22	Emergent Families: Lone parents		
	4/24	Emergent Families: Aging		
14	4/27	Emergent Families: Comparative		Optional summaries: See list (4/6)
	4/29	Family Policies–Welfare and Welfare States	BZ&E, 483-end	
	5/1	Labor policies and families		
15	5/4	Children and Elders		
	5/6	Comparative policies		
	5/8	Mothers’ Day; Review		
16		Final Exam, Wednesday, 5/13, 10:10-12:10, Journalism 304,		