

**Sociology 4401: The Family
Fall 2018 Syllabus**

Course Location: 211 Tureaud Hall

Course Time/Day: 9:00-10:20am/Tuesday, Thursday

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Rhiannon Kroeger

Office: 108 Stubbs Hall

Office Hours: 10:30am to 12:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays

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Graduate Assistant Information

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SOCL 4401 The Family (3)

Prereq: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. The family as a social institution.

Course Objectives:

This course will focus on the family as a social institution and will address the ways in which family life is shaped by social norms and social inequalities. We will focus on how the family as a social institution has changed over time, with attention to trends in marrying, cohabitation, and parenting over the last fifty years. We will examine diverse families across social class, race/ethnicity, nativity, sexuality, and gender statuses. We'll also look at how family roles can influence wellbeing in various domains across the life course.

Course Goals:

1. To expand your definition of what constitutes a family and your understanding of how the family as a social institution has evolved over time.
2. To encourage you to critically examine both the social inequalities that affect American families AND the ways that social inequalities are perpetuated across generations through families.
3. To recognize and describe the ways in which family trends, norms, and patterns of change described in the course text and lectures can be observed in media such as television, movies, and commercials—to recognize these media as cultural artifacts of the time frame in which they were produced that can be examined.

Course Text:

Cohen, Philip N. 2018. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. Second Ed. W.W. Norton & Company: New York. ISBN: 978-0393639322.

Course Policies:**Changes in the syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester, if necessary. Changes will be announced in class, via email, and on Moodle. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that the most recent version of the syllabus is being used.

Attendance and participation policy

Attendance is REQUIRED. I will take attendance each time we meet. Each student can miss TWO class sessions without consequence. Each absence beyond these two "freebees" will result in a 5% deduction from your overall attendance/participation grade. More specifically, your attendance/participation grade will be determined in two stages: (1) You cannot participate without attending class. Therefore, your attendance record will determine how many overall points you can possibly get. If you miss less than two classes, your participation grade may be as high as 100%. If you miss three classes, your grade can be no higher than 95%, since you will have had 5 percent deducted due to your third absence. If you miss four classes, your grade can be no higher than 90%, etc. (2) Merely attending each class will not award you full points. Class participation is central to the course and requires you to be an active participant rather than a spectator. If you attend class, I will assume you have done the readings and may call on you. I will expect you to contribute to class discussion. We may also have in-class assignments that count toward class participation, including group work and individual work that cannot be made up at a later date. If it becomes apparent that students are not completing required readings, I will begin classes with pop quizzes that will count toward your participation grade.

NOTE: If you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate, as you remain responsible for all class materials. I suggest you arrange a "buddy system" for this purpose (i.e. get names and contact information for three colleagues).

Late assignments

All assignments will be submitted on Moodle. Paper grades are deducted by 5% for each day they are late. Papers turned in late on the due date are penalized as one day late.

Missed quizzes/exams

There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of medical or family emergencies, which must be documented. NOTE: Each student taking a make-up exam will receive a unique exam that differs from the exam taken by the rest of the class.

In the classroom

Please make sure that your cell phone will not ring during class time, and please do not text, Twitter, Reddit, etc. during class. Laptops are allowed in class for note taking purposes only. Participation points may be subtracted for disrupting class.

Use of technology policy

To participate in this course, you must be able to upload and download items from Moodle. You must be able to access TV shows, commercials and/or movies to complete the required project. Lastly, as my course power points and assignments are my intellectual property, I request that you do not repost any class materials on web sites (e.g. coursehero).

Cheating and plagiarism policy

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated! Please see the student code of conduct if you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism:

<http://www.law.lsu.edu/academics/codeofstudentconduct/>

Statement on Disability

Any student with a documented disability (via LSU disability services) needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

Important Dates:	
Sep-13	Submit Idea for Family Change Paper
Sep-20	Choose classmate to peer review paper
Oct-02	Midterm Exam
Oct-25	Bring outline to class for peer review
Nov-20	Bring paper to class for peer review
Nov-29	Family Change Paper Due
Dec-06	Final Exam: 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Grading Policies and Assignments:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>% of your Grade</u>
Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Family Change Paper	30%
-Submit Idea (5%)	
-Peer Review of Outline (2.5%)	
-Peer Review of Paper (2.5%)	
-Paper (20%)	
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Total:	100%

Grading Scale:

97-100	A+
93-96.99	A
90-92.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
83-86.99	B
80-82.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
73-76.99	C
70-72.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
63-66.99	D
60-62.99	D-
59.99 & below	F

Assignment Descriptions:

Midterm and Final Exam (30%): The midterm will focus on Chapters 1 to 6; the final exam will focus on Chapters 7 to 13. Both exams may consist of a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. For short essay questions, you will be graded on how well you incorporate elements of the course material into your answers. Exam questions will require you to synthesize and analyze the course readings and information covered in lectures.

Family Change Paper (5% for Submitting Idea; 5% for Peer Review Work; 20% for Written Paper): For this paper, you will analyze media sources from two different time points (20 years or more apart) to document how the trends in family life we discuss in the course are reflected in media content. For your media sources, you may use movies, television shows, or commercials. To ensure you stay on track with this assignment, you will submit a description of your idea to me on Sep 13th. The final paper is due on Nov 29th. See specific guidelines for the paper on Moodle, which will be posted during the first week of class.

Course Schedule			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Due</u>
21-Aug 23-Aug	Defining Families, Studying Families	Chapter 1	
28-Aug 30-Aug	The Family in History	Chapter 2	
4-Sep 6-Sep	Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration	Chapter 3	
11-Sep 13-Sep	Families and Social Class	Chapter 4	Paper Idea Due Sep 13
18-Sep 20-Sep	Gender and the Family	Chapter 5	Choose classmate to peer review paper Sep 20
25-Sep 27-Sep	Sexuality; Review for Midterm	Chapter 6	
2-Oct	Midterm		
4-Oct	No Class- Fall Holiday		
9-Oct 11-Oct	Love and Romantic Relationships	Chapter 7	
16-Oct 18-Oct	Marriage and Cohabitation	Chapter 8	
23-Oct 25-Oct	Families and Children Peer Review of Outlines	Chapter 9	Bring outline to class and switch with classmate Oct 25
30-Oct 1-Nov	Divorce, Remarriage, Blended Families	Chapter 10	
6-Nov 8-Nov	Work and Families	Chapter 11	
13-Nov 15-Nov	Family Violence and Abuse	Chapter 12	
20-Nov	Peer Review of Papers		Bring paper to class and switch with classmate Nov 20
22-Nov	No Class-Thanksgiving	Chapter 12	
27-Nov	The Future of the Family	Chapter 13	
29-Nov	Review for Final Exam		Final Paper Due Nov 29

Note: paper idea and final paper are due via Moodle by 11:59pm on the day they are due
Final Exam: Thursday Dec 6, 12:30pm to 2:30pm