

Marriage and Family
Spring 2016
SOC1225X: Sections 700, 800, and 900
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Office Hours: Tues 4:00 – 5:30
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GRADER

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of Sociology, as a social science, is to better understand social institutions through the use of empirical research. Because the nature of this course is sociological, marriage and the family will be examined primarily as social institutions that are intricately connected to the rest of society. Other social institutions, such as the economy, religious organizations, and political systems influence family life heavily. The family has significant influence in society as well. As the primary agent of socialization, the family is the dominant influence on most people's lives and worldviews.

Ultimately, the family holds an integral place in American society, both in the public and private spheres. This course explores issues concerning family life at the beginning of the twenty-first century. A note of caution is necessary before moving forward. Although the course covers a great deal of valuable material about family life, it is not a self-help course or an instruction manual for mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, and stepparents. Rather, the course is an introduction into the sociological study of marriage and the family. It explores historical and current trends in marriage and family life and should be treated as such.

ACHIEVEMENT-CENTERED EDUCATION (ACE) & STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln seeks to provide quality education to all of its students and has certified that certain classes assess specific learning objectives. SOCI225X will facilitate Learning Outcomes No. 6 (using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior) and No. 9 (exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue). Upon completion of this course, students should be able to execute the following:

- Comprehend the sociological terminology used when studying marriage and the family and use this terminology appropriately in their everyday life.
- Become familiar with the research methods used by sociologists when studying marriage and the family, and be able to identify reliable research and findings about the family.

- Be able to discuss the macro-level phenomena that influence rates, trends, and decisions made by individuals about marriage and the family with the realization that many of the individual choices people make are constrained by macro-level constraints.
- Recognize the inaccuracy of many of the myths about marriage and the family in the United States and be able to present research findings to the contrary.
- Understand that many of the topics studied under the general heading “marriage and the family” are marked by great diversity based on age, race, socioeconomic status, religion, and many other factors.

ACE learning objectives in this course will be assessed through examinations, written assignments, and online course participation through BlackBoard.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

Cherlin, Andrew J. *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*, 7th Edition. New York: NY: McGraw-Hill, 2013.

ISBN-10: 0078026676

ISBN-13: 9780078026672

Cherlin, Andrew J. *Public and Private Families: A Reader*, 7th Edition. New York: NY: McGraw-Hill, 2013.

COMMUNICATION

The best way to contact me is via email. I check my email regularly and I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours.

To reach you, I will use Blackboard. Please take a few minutes to review your contact information in both Blackboard and MyRed. It is your responsibility to make sure your contact information is current.

MISSED AND LATE WORK

All assignments are to be uploaded to Blackboard no later than 5:00 pm on the day in which they are due. Assignments uploaded at 5:01 are considered late. Emailed assignments will **NOT** be accepted. I will not accept assignments/exams that are late or missed unless you provide a compelling reason with **official documentation** (such as a doctor’s note or a documented athletic/academic event) before the assignment/exam deadline.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Course Participation in an Online Environment: Since this is an online class, participation will be graded instead of attendance. This will be demonstrated primarily through the online discussion board. This is crucial to your success in this course. Regular participation is the best way to pass the course, get the most of your money, and learn as much as you can. People that actively participate will be noted and will be considered in determining final grades.

- Non-Threatening Environment: Harassment of any kind is against university and classroom policy. I expect you to show respect for others. This means thoughtfully listening to others, without judging them. Keeping an open mind is the key! This creates a positive learning environment for everyone. Thoughtful debate is welcomed and encouraged. However, harassment and disrespectful behavior **will not** be tolerated. The online environment does not excuse you from following these guidelines as you write and respond to discussion board posts. All faculty, staff and students are responsible for understanding and complying with harassment policies. For more information, visit <http://www.unl.edu/equity>.
- Academic Integrity: When you place your name on an assignment or exam, I interpret this to mean that you have received no unauthorized assistance on an assignment or test. Unauthorized assistance includes but is not limited to: cheating on an exam, turning in assignments/exams as your own work when it is not, and plagiarism (presenting someone else's published ideas as your own). These acts **will not** be tolerated and will be handled according to university policy. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or if you just want a refresher, please take advantage of this resource (see under 4.2 Academic Dishonesty): <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml>
- Students with Disabilities: UNL encourages all students to participate fully in the academic opportunities, cultural enrichment, and the wide array of social activities offered. A student desiring reasonable accommodations for his/her documented disability should visit <http://www.unl.edu/ssd> for more information. Please notify me as soon as possible of any accommodations you may need for the course.
- Technology Issues: If you are experiencing a problem with Blackboard (e.g., accessing materials, uploading information), please let me know as soon as possible. Don't wait until 30 minutes before something is due: I won't be able to help you then. For any technical or computing questions, you can contact UNL Help Desk (<http://www.unl.edu/helpdesk>).
- Course Pace: Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. In order to maximize your success in this course, keep up with the readings each week and consider answering the discussion questions at the end of each module. Keeping up with the work at the beginning of the class will help you in not being overwhelmed with the work later on.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A total of 510 points are available to earn during the course of the semester.

- ✓ Assignments (papers): 100 points (50 each) You will submit two written assignments. These projects will allow you to apply what you have learned in the course to the analysis of marriage and family structure. These papers will require a significant amount of time to complete. It is suggested you plan several weeks in advance of the due date for the written assignments.
 - Papers should be typewritten with Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, 12 point font, and double spaced. Be sure to save a copy of your assignment.

- Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are essential. Proofread each paper before submitting.
- All papers need to be submitted as .doc, .docx, or .rtf files.
- ✓ **Weekly quizzes:** 60 points (5 each) It takes 2 weeks to cover each module. During each week of the module, you will complete a short quiz on Blackboard to demonstrate that you are keeping up with the material. These quizzes will be multiple-choice and timed. While there is nothing preventing you from using your book and notes during the quiz, it is expected that you will have acquired the knowledge to complete the quiz without such references and doing so will waste valuable time.
- ✓ **Discussion Board Posts:** 50 points (12.5 each) You are required to post (by creating a new thread) in response to provided prompts for **4 out of 6** of our modules. You are also required to post **8 replies** to your fellow students throughout the semester. For each module, you will only be graded for 2 replies (so you can't reply to 8 classmates in Module 1 and call it done for the semester). Given this, the discussion portion of your grade will be broken down as follows:
 - Each prompt post is worth 7.5 points ($7.5 \times 4 = 30$)
 - Each classmate reply is worth 2.5 points ($2.5 \times 8 = 20$)
 - Please make sure to review the information on creating a non-threatening environment in the Course Expectations section above. Having mutually respectful dialogue will be critical in this portion of the course. Points will be awarded for your discussion board participation based on the following rubric:

	Excellent	Average	Poor
Analysis/Interpretation	The message does analysis and/or interpretation of the readings, including outside as well as required readings. In addition, it demonstrates that the student has gained new understanding of the topic.	Message is sufficient in its analysis or interpretation. It is clear the student has done the required reading and is familiar with the material, though it does not go beyond it nor does it indicate an advanced understanding of the subject.	Messages generally show little evidence the learner has done the required reading and analysis, consisting instead of opinion and feelings and impressions.
Scholarly Dialogue	All sources are cited. Argumentation is from the evidence and/or experience.	Citations are sometimes missing, are incorrect.	Messages regularly lack any sort of citation. Arguments are from opinion, not from evidence.
Writing Skill	Sentences are clear and wording is unambiguous. Correct word choice, correct spelling, correct grammar. Writing style can still be conversational rather than formal.	Ordinary, good writing. Lapses are regular and patterned, but do not undermine the communication or the persuasiveness of the argument.	Grammar, spelling, and/or word choice errors are frequent enough that the sense of the message is lost or muddled.

- ✓ Exams: 300 points (100 each) You will complete three exams/tests. Each test will include multiple-choice, true-false, and essay questions. The Study Questions at the end of each chapter should help you prepare for the exams.
- ✓ Extra credit: There are 6 module discussion boards throughout the semester. You are only required to post to 4 of them. If you respond to prompts for more than 4 modules, you will earn 5 extra credit points per extra post. This could give you a total of 10 extra credit points at the end of the semester. Extra replies to your classmates will garner my goodwill but will not earn any extra credit.

Changsoo and I will do our best to grade materials in a timely manner. Please keep in mind that this is a large class and grading takes time. Also, you may only receive feedback on your assignments if there are specific points or issues we feel need to be addressed with you.

GRADING POINTS

Students need at least the following percentage of total points to earn each grade.

<u>%</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
97%	A+
93%	A
90%	A-
87%	B+
83%	B
80%	B-
77%	C+
73%	C
70%	C-
67%	D+
63%	D
60%	D-
below 60%	F

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR SUCCESS

The weekly quizzes require you to keep up with the material as they assume that at the halfway point between modules, you will be through the first half of the material. Create a schedule for each module to make sure you will be prepared for the quizzes. This will help you retain the information for the exams.

Either before or after watching the power point lecture and reading the assigned chapters, I strongly encourage you to review the Study Questions and Key Terms at the end of each chapter. Reviewing this content will help you to prepare for your exams.

After completing the reading in each assigned chapter and viewing any additional materials online, there will be a discussion board with several questions posted from

which you can choose one to discuss online with other students in the class and to post your reactions to the chapter. These questions will be directly related to the readings in each chapter.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- ❖ Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. In order to maximize your success in this course, keep up with the readings each week and consider answering the discussion questions at the end of each module. Keeping up with the work at the beginning of the class will help you in not being overwhelmed with the work later on.
- ❖ Be honest in your work. Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize. Plagiarism will be taken seriously and your grade will be affected in a serious fashion.
- ❖ Respect your classmates' contributions on the discussion board. This is especially important in this class where information is about people's personal experiences. You can disagree with a perspective that I or another student may present, but you should treat the material, idea, and person with respect.
- ❖ Take responsibility for your own learning. If you have a question regarding an assignment or any course material, ask it! Students that alert me to any questions or issues tend to improve their work in the class. I know what it's like being a student. Keeping on top of your work and communicating with me when questions or issues arise will be to your benefit.
- ❖ **A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY:** The use of Blackboard is a central part of this class. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the functions of Blackboard, especially for the purposes of viewing assignment directions and uploading assignments. It is up to you to make sure the appropriate document is uploaded to Blackboard when an assignment is due. **Uploading a wrong or blank document will result in the loss of points per the late policy (see p.2).**

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Module	Dates / Topic	Readings	Graded Work Due
1 Introduction	Jan. 17-31	Chapter 1. Public and Private Families Chapter 2. The History of the Family	Discussion Board Post #1 DUE: Jan. 29 by 5 pm Discussion Board Response #1 DUE: Feb. 1 by 5 pm
2 Gender, Class, and Race- Ethnicity	Feb. 1-14	Chapter 3. Gender and Families Chapter 4. Social Class and Families Chapter 5. Race, Ethnicity, and Families	Discussion Board Post #2 DUE: Feb. 12 by 5 pm Discussion Board Response #2 DUE: Feb. 15 by 5 pm
	Feb. 15 – 20	Exam 1	
3 Sexuality, Partnership, and Marriage	Feb. 22 – Mar. 6	Chapter 6. Sexualities Chapter 7. Cohabitation and Marriage	Discussion Board Post #3 DUE: Mar. 4 by 5 pm Discussion Board Response #3 DUE: Mar. 7 by 5 pm Assignment 1 DUE: Mar. 7 by 5 pm
4 Links Across the Generations	Mar. 7 - 20	Chapter 9. Children and Parents Chapter 10. The Elderly and their Families	Discussion Board Post #4 DUE: Mar. 18 by 5 pm Discussion Board Response #4 DUE: Mar. 20 by 5 pm
	Mar. 28 – Apr. 2	Exam 2	
5 Conflict, Disruption, and Reconstitution	Apr. 4 - 17	Chapter 11. Domestic Violence Chapter 12. Divorce Chapter 13. Remarriage and Stepfamilies	Discussion Board Post #5 DUE: Apr. 15 by 5 pm Discussion Board Response #5 DUE: Apr. 18 by 5 pm
6 Family and Society	Apr. 18 – May 1	Chapter 8. Work and Families Chapter 14. The Family, State, and Social Policy	Discussion Board Post #6 DUE: Apr. 26 by 5 pm Discussion Board Response #6 DUE: Apr. 29 by 5 pm Assignment 2 DUE: Apr. 29 by 5 pm
	May 2 - 7	Exam 3	