FAMILIES AND SOCIETY

Spring 2018

COURSE INFORMATION:
Course Number: SOCI 226 (Sects. .700, .900)  Course Dates: January 8 – May 4, 2018
Credits: 3 Hours  Course Format: Online
Attributes: ACE 6; ACE 9

Contact Information
Instructor: Professor David Warner  TA: Alexis Swendener
Office: Oldfather Hall 726  Office: Oldfather Hall 408
E-mail: via Canvas  E-Mail via Canvas
Office Hours: T 2:00-3:30pm, Th 9:30-10:30am, Office Hours: By appointment only
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The family has long been considered the primary and enduring social institution. Yet some argue individualism is undermining the stability of this core component of society. Others counter that the family is not in decline, but that it is in transition—with families taking multiple forms to meet changing social and economic circumstances. In this course, we will learn about the functions of families and the diverse forms they have taken over time and across different groups. As early socialization and caregiving usually take place within this institution, many of our ideas about the world are closely tied to our families. By examining families from a sociological perspective, however, we will challenge our preconceived notions and come to understand: (1) how family forms differ by gender, sexuality, social class, and race/ethnicity; and (2) how diverse families function in terms of companionship, parenting, and economic cooperation. At the end of the course, students will be equipped to discuss how the forms families take and the ways in which they achieve these functions relate to broad social changes in the U.S.

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. SOCI 226 will facilitate Learning Outcomes No. 6 and No. 9. Students successfully completing this course will:

► Describe the role of the family institution in society currently and in the past;
► Recognize how diversity—including, gender, sexuality, social class, and race/ethnicity—influence the structure and functioning of families;
► Understand that families operate as a vehicle of socialization, economic exchange, social norms and social support and thus affect our attitudes, values, and life choices;
► Describe how social trends and forces—such as population composition, economic restructuring, political change and public policy—affect families, both historically and contemporarily;
► Be familiar with the empirical methods of family sociologists, including how data are gathered and interpreted.

ACE learning objectives in this course will be assessed through written assignments, discussion boards, and quizzes/examinations.
COURSE FORMAT & TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

This is a semester-based online course and all instruction—including lectures, discussion, written assignments, and quizzes/examinations—is designed to be completed with limited instructor interaction. This means that this is a reading intensive course. This course is conducted through the Canvas Learning Management System. Canvas is required and you must have access to a desktop/laptop computer with a reliable internet connection. Each student is responsible for familiarizing themselves with the functions of Canvas, especially the calendar, discussion board, quizzes, and assignments; Module 0 will help you get started with Canvas if you are new to it.

Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. Self-direction and internal motivation are required. In order to maximize your success in this course, you need to stay on task with the reading, lectures, and assignments each week. Make sure to become familiar with all course requirements and the due dates provided in the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus.

If you need technical help, please see the Help menu in Canvas. If you have issues logging in to Canvas, you can contact the help desk: (402) 472-3970 or toll free (866) 472-3970 (Monday-Friday, 7:30am-7:30pm), or email mysupport@unl.edu.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS:

There is one required textbook for this course (available as a traditional hardcover book, a loose leaf book, or an e-book):


Additional required readings, videos, and activities are posted in each module on Canvas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATION:

Important information for the class will be distributed via Canvas Announcements. Be sure that you regularly check Canvas and adjust your notifications so that you are immediately notified of new announcements.

To send individual messages, we will use Canvas’s built in Conversations/Inbox function. If you have a question, you should “Send a Message” to “All Instructors” through Canvas Conversations/Inbox. This will make sure that your message is distributed to both the instructor and the teaching assistant. Do not send messages to the instructor or TA via their UNL email accounts. All messages should conform to proper email etiquette. Messages will be answered within 24 hours during the week.

You should not have the need to contact privately other students in this course. Messages sent to other students via Conversations/Inbox are monitored and inappropriate contact (in violation of the UNL Student Code of Conduct) will be reported.

Please take a few minutes to review your contact information in both Canvas and MyRed. It is your responsibility to make sure your contact information is current.

Email Etiquette: When contacting the instructor, use proper e-mail etiquette. Your e-mail should include an informative subject line (e.g., Module 3 quiz); proper greeting (e.g., “hello,” “hi,” etc.) and title (e.g., “Professor Warner”); correct spelling and grammar; and be signed with your name. Learning professional email practices will benefit and help you to reach broader and course specific goals particularly as they pertain to the workplace and developing communication skills.
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

All assignments must be completed through the designated links on Canvas—e-mailed assignments will not be accepted. Note that there is a Canvas App available for your mobile device, but do not use this for submitting assignments. The course is organized into modules that must be completed in order by the dates listed in the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus and posted on Canvas.

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm Central Time on the date specified. If an assignment (quiz, discussion board posting, paper, or exam) is not submitted properly or late—for any reason—the assignment will be considered incomplete and a zero will be entered in the gradebook. Each student is responsible for verifying that each assignment has been submitted/uploaded correctly before the due date.

All activity in the course is monitored and recorded by our online campus administrator and can be retrieved in the event there is discrepancy between what a student says they have submitted and what has been registered in Canvas. Again, late assignments are not accepted.

1) **Canvas Orientation/ “About Me” Discussion Board Post**

To be successful in this course, students will need to use the Canvas LMS. During the first week of class students who are not familiar with Canvas should complete the “Canvas Student Orientation” in Module 0: Getting Started.

All students are required to complete the “About Me” discussion board post in the Getting Started Module. This will help each student “introduce” themselves to their classmates and to the instructors. This post should include your name (and preferred name if different than Canvas name), major, why you are interested in this class, what you hope to learn, and anything else that you want to talk about. Feel free to get creative by including pictures, any personal information (like where you are from and any other details you are comfortable sharing with your peers and the instructors), etc. You are also encouraged to reply to your peers’ posts in this introductory process as well. This assignment is due by the Wednesday of the first week (see Course Schedule) and is worth 10 points.

2) **Discussion Board Posts & Replies:**

Discussion board posts and replies provide the opportunity for participation and engagement with the course material in the online forum. Students are required to post (by creating a new post) of at least 5 sentences (a paragraph) in response to provided prompts for each of our 6 modules. Prompts for discussion will correspond with that module’s topics and require students to have completed the module readings. Students are then required to make at least 2 substantive replies to your fellow students for each module. Discussion board posts should show that the student is engaging critically with the information instead of posts like “me too” or “I agree.” Posts must conform to the guidelines on Respectful Conduct in the Online Classroom described below.

Detailed instructions and a grading rubric are provided in the directions on each Discussion Board prompt. Due dates for the post and replies for each module are listed in the Course Schedule. The Discussion Board component of each module is worth 15 points (9 points for the post and 3 points for each of the required replies). **Note that Canvas will only display the final due date for the Discussion Board replies—each student is responsible for keeping track of the due dates for the original posts.**

3) **Module Quizzes**

At the end of each module, students will complete a short quiz on all the material in that module—textbook chapters, additional readings, lectures, etc. (see Course Schedule). Each quiz will be a mix of multiple choice
and True/False questions. These will be taken within Canvas, timed, and must be completed in a single session. Modules 1, 3-6 cover two textbook chapters and those module quizzes are worth 15 points each; Model 2 covers 3 textbook chapters so that module quiz is worth 25 points.

4) **Midterm Examination**

The Midterm Examination will cover material from Modules 1-3 and will contain a mix of multiple choice and True/False questions. The exam will be administered through Canvas, timed, and must be completed in a single session during the exam window (see Course Schedule). **No make-up exam** will be administered. The midterm examination is worth 100 points.

5) **Application Project**

In order to make connections between everyday life and the material we are learning in class, students will complete an Application Project over the course of the semester. The completed project will have 5 entries that include real world samples of concepts discussed in 5 different modules. The entries can range from newspaper articles, magazine articles, song lyrics, music videos, TV shows, movies, etc. The connections made through each entry will help facilitate comprehension of the material and encourage critical analysis of everyday events. Detailed instructions, a grading rubric, and examples are available on Canvas. The project is due on the last Wednesday of the semester (see Course Schedule), but you should begin working on it early. The Application Project is worth 100 points.

6) **Final Examination**

The Final Examination will be similar in format to the midterm exam and will cover material from Modules 4-6. The exam will be administered through Canvas, timed, and must be completed in a single session during the exam window (see Course Schedule). **No make-up exam** will be administered. Given the exam window, exam conflicts as defined by the University are not possible. The final examination is worth 100 points.

**Respectful Conduct in the Online Classroom:**

We will cover issues involving families and family policy that some students may find controversial. We all have experiences and opinions about the family as a social institution. Our goal is to facilitate an environment of intellectual exchange and through this exchange we will acknowledge, value, and accept differences. Differing viewpoints are welcomed and students are encouraged to share their opinions in a respectful manner.

Discrimination and/or harassment of any kind is against university policy. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln not to discriminate upon age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender identity, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran’s status, marital status, religion, or political affiliation. All faculty, staff and students are responsible for understanding and complying with discrimination and harassment policies.

Harassment, discrimination, or otherwise disrespectful behavior **will not** be tolerated in this course. The online environment does not excuse students from following these guidelines as students write and respond to discussion board posts. In fact, the discussion board format heightens the need to be aware of how our written words may be interpreted. The instructor reserves the right to penalize assignments that violate these policies and students who engage in harassing or discriminatory conduct will be referred to the University Judicial Officer and/or the University Police.
**EXTRA CREDIT:**

In the interest of fairness to all students, *No Extra Credit* will be awarded in this course; students are advised to put in the amount of preparation necessary to successfully complete the course requirements as outlined in this syllabus. Requests for exceptions will not receive a response.

**ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT MASTERY (GRADES):**

You will earn your final grade in this course based on your mastery of the material as indicated by your performance on each of the course requirements described above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight of the Course Requirements:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“About Me” Discussion Board</td>
<td>10 points (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards (6 @ 15 points each)</td>
<td>90 points (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes (5 @ 15 points each, 1 @ 25 points)</td>
<td>100 points (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>100 points (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Project</td>
<td>100 points (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>100 points (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Possible:</strong></td>
<td>500 points (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will be determined based on the total number of points you have earned in the course. The minimum total point percentages for final course grades are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
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These percentage cut-offs are absolute and final grades will not be “rounded-up.” Students taking the course “Pass/No Pass” must earn at least a “C” as per University policy.

Note that any “Grade Check” forms will only be signed during Professor Warner’s Office Hours. Please plan accordingly.

**SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) works with students to develop academic accommodations to meet their needs, including for mental health disabilities such as depression and anxiety. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide individualized accommodations to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with SSD, which is located in 232 Canfield Administration (402-472-3787 voice/TTY or [https://www.unl.edu/ssd/home](https://www.unl.edu/ssd/home)).

**RESOURCES FOR TRANS* AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING STUDENTS:**

UNL is committed to ensuring that all students of all gender identities and expression have a productive experience on campus. You can find a full list of resources at: [https://involved.unl.edu/resources#transguide](https://involved.unl.edu/resources#transguide).
Directly relevant to this course is your personal identity. Not all students go by their legal name or find that the set information in Canvas does not accurately portray who they are. Any student who goes by a chosen or preferred name (other than their legal name) is able to fill out a preferred name form at the Registrar’s Office in Canfield 107, show their legal ID, and their preferred/chosen name will show up on class and grade rosters, in the UNL Directory, and on Canvas (such as Discussion Board posts). If you simply edit your information in Canvas, the change will be temporary as the system resets periodically.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Please familiarize yourself with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy in the UNL Student Code of Conduct ([http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code](http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code)). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: Cheating; Fabrication or Falsification; Plagiarism; Abuse of Academic Materials; Complicity in Academic Dishonesty; Falsifying Grade Reports; and Misrepresentation to Avoid Academic Work.

Consistent with the Disciplinary Procedures described in the Student Code of Conduct, any student found committing acts of academic dishonesty will receive a zero on that assignment, and will be reported to the both the Department Chair and the University Judicial Officer.

All written assignments submitted through Canvas will be checked for plagiarism using the built-in App.

**Keys to Success**

► Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. To maximize your success in this course, keep up with the readings each week.

► Keep up with the work from the beginning of the class to avoid being overwhelmed with the work later on.

► Be honest in your work. Do not cheat on quizzes/exams or plagiarize written assignments. Academic Dishonesty is a serious violation of the student code and will negatively affect your grade.

► Respect your classmates’ contributions on the discussion board. You can disagree with a perspective that another student or I 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 materials, ask it!

**CONFIDENTIALITY:**

In compliance with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), all identifying course materials, including all assignment grades, will be provided directly to each student via Canvas and will not be posted or otherwise made available in a public forum. Although students may sign a FERPA Waiver consenting to the release of such records to a parent, guardian, counselor, athletic coach, etc., the grades or progress of any student in this course will **NOT** be provided to or discussed with anyone but that student— except as necessary with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) or the Judicial Officer.