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Sociology of the Family (Asynchronous)

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CUNY City College

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DEPARTMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS AND SCIENCES

Sociology of the Family

Spring 2023, Online Asynchronous
Instructor: Francine Almash
Contact: falmash@ccny.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, by appointment via Zoom

Course Description: Sociologists consider the family a window between our most personal lives and larger political and social forces. In this course, we will consider how our personal identities, as well as love, gender and sexuality, and race shape, and are shaped by, the form and experience of the family. We will examine the social, historical origins of the family and explore how the contemporary experience of family life has developed and been shaped by the economy, work life and labor relations, politics, as well as the media and culture. One of the biggest challenges to studying the family is moving beyond our own “common sense” understanding of the topic and to begin to analyze it. In addition to our course readings, which will help you think through the family as a complex and often contradictory social institution, this class will also ask you to engage with the material in a critical, creative, and thoughtful manner.

Learning Outcomes:

- Describe some of the vocabularies used to analyze families in a sociological context.
- Describe and discuss some of the key sociological perspectives on how to define and think about families.
- Describe how social class and gender, in conjunction with race affect family structures and organization.
- Describe and identify some of the major social forces that shape families.
- Use data to understand and write about families in the US.

Pre-requisite knowledge: No prior knowledge is required, but Internet access is required. A desire to write often, read on one’s own, and comfort with self-directed learning is also a plus.

Required Books: There is nothing for you to purchase for this course. Will read chapters from two Open Educational Resource (OER) textbooks that will be linked on Blackboard in the Weekly Content folders:

Traver, A. (2022). *Sociology of the Family Textbook*. Open Educational Resource.
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/qb_oers/181

Ballard J., Wieling, E., Solheim, C., & Dwanyen, L. (2019). *Immigrant and Refugee Families, 2nd Ed.* University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.24926/8668.2901>

Additional course materials will include PDFs of articles, films, and podcasts, all of which will also be in the Weekly Content folders on our class Blackboard site.

Assessment: Online Discussion Boards: 35 points
Assignment 1: Ethnographic Observation: 15 points
Assignment 2: Media Representation: 15 points
Assignment 3: Policy Analysis: 15 points
Final: 20 points

Course Requirements: This is an online, asynchronous class. That means you can complete the work each week on your own schedule. Generally, each new topic opens each Monday, and all assignments should be completed by 11:59pm the following Sunday unless otherwise noted in the schedule.

Course materials will be posted in the Weekly Content folders. Most weeks, after you read/watch/listen to the materials in the Weekly Content Folder you will post a reflection on the Discussion Board that is approximately 200 words.) b Reflections can be written or recorded.)

In addition to Discussion Boards, there are three graded assignments worth 15 points each, and a final that will be worth 20 points. Descriptions of these assignments and the final will be posted on Blackboard under Assignments on the main menu.

Grading Scale:

A = 100 - 93
A- = 92 - 90
B+ = 89 - 88
B = 87 - 83
B- = 82 - 80
C+ = 79 - 78
C = 77 - 73
C- = 72 - 70
D+ = 69 - 68
D = 67 - 63
D- = 62 - 60
F = 59 - 0

Participation and Attendance Policy: Your participation and attendance in this course is measured by logging on to Blackboard and completing assignments by the deadline each week. If an assignment asks you to respond to your classmates, you must post responses (that are substantial) in order to receive full credit.

I generally do not take points off for late work as long as you contact me to let me know you are going to miss a deadline. While you can always make up late work, missing three or more assignments may result in a conference to discuss your progress in the class. Students missing multiple assignments at the mid-point of the semester may be recommended to consider dropping the course.

Academic Integrity Policy: According to the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source;
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source;
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source;
- **Internet plagiarism** includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution, and AI-generated work.

Instructors are required to report all academic integrity violations. A student who plagiarizes may incur academic and disciplinary penalties, including failing grades, suspensions, and expulsion. A complete copy of the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity may be downloaded here: <http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/about/integrity.cfm>

Services for Students with Disabilities: In compliance with CCNY policy and equal access laws, appropriate and reasonable accommodations are administered by the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (AAC/SDS). Students who register with AAC/SDS, and are entitled to appropriate and reasonable accommodations, must obtain an accommodation letter from AAC/SDS to present to the Professor that states what their accommodations are.

It is highly recommended that the registered student provide their instructor with the accommodation letter as early as possible in order to facilitate the implementation of their granted accommodations. If the student receives exam accommodations, it is strongly encouraged that they send a reminder email to the professor of the course and cc Debbie Edwards-Anderson, CWE's AAC/SDS liaison, at least one week prior to the exam date, so specific arrangements can be made.

For more information, contact CWE's AAC/SDS liaison, Debbie Edwards-Anderson: 212-925-6625, ext. 235 or edwa@ccny.cuny.edu. To contact AAC/SDS directly: 212-650-5913 (TTY/TTD: 212-650-8441) or email: disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu.

Everyone learns differently. All students in my class are welcome to discuss learning accommodations and/or preferences whether you are registered with AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services or not.

Class Schedule:

WEEK & DATES	STUDY MATERIALS	ASSIGNMENTS & DUE DATES
Week 1: Introductions Wed., Jan. 25 – Sun., Jan. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review Blackboard and the assignment in the Weekly Content Folder for Unit 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Post your Introduction on Blackboard and respond to your classmates. – Due Sun., Jan. 29
Week 2: Sociology of the Family Mon., Jan. 30 – Sun., Feb. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – READ: "Sociology of the Family," Ch. 1 of Traver, A. <i>Sociology of the Family Textbook</i> – Read: "What is a Family" from Nutter-Pridgen, K. <i>Introduction to the Sociology of Family</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Respond to the prompt on the Discussion Board and respond to at least two classmates. – Due Sun., Feb. 5
Week 3: What Is a Family? Mon., Feb. 6 – Sun., Feb. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Watch: "Defining the Family," Ch. 8 of <i>A Sociology Experiment</i> – Watch: <i>Asante Market Women</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Respond to the prompt on the Discussion Board and respond to at least two classmates. – Due Sun., Feb. 12
Week 4: Marriage and Cohabitation Mon., Feb. 13 – Sun., Feb. 19 *Mon., Feb. 13 – No classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – READ: "Cohabitation and Marriage," Ch. 5 of Traver, A. <i>Sociology of the Family Textbook</i> <p>READ: "Marriage Will Never Set Us Free," Spade & Wilse</p> <p>REVIEW UPCOMING ASSIGNMENT 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Respond to the prompt on the Discussion Board and respond to at least two classmates. – Due Sun., Feb. 19

<p>Week 5: Ethnography of the Family Mon., Feb. 20 – Sun., Feb. 26</p> <p>*Mon., Feb. 20 – College Closed, Monday classes run on a Tuesday Schedule.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assignment 1: Ethnography of a Family <p>No readings this week.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Feb. 26
<p>Week 6: Parenting Mon., Feb. 27 – Sun., Mar. 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – READ: "Parenting," Ch. 6 of Traver, A. <i>Sociology of the Family Textbook</i> – READ: Edin & Kefalas, "How Motherhood Changed My Life" – Watch: "The Myth of the Absent Black Father," <i>AJ+ TV</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Mar. 5
<p>Week 7: LGBTQ+ Families Mon., Mar. 6 – Sun., Mar. 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – READ: Navas, Francisco: "The New American Family: Trans, Gender Queer, Nonbinary, Two-spirit" – WATCH: <i>Promised Land</i> LGBTQ Children's Book Read Aloud – LISTEN: <i>How to Be A Girl</i> Podcast Episode XXXII: The Medical Stuff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Mar. 12
<p>Week 8: Disability in Families Mon., Mar. 13 – Sun., Mar. 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – REVIEW: The Models of Disability (excerpt from Demystifying Disability by E. Ladau) on Blackboard – READ: Lalvani, P. "Historical Perspectives on Studying Families of Children with Disabilities" – READ: Starke, M. "Parents with Intellectual Disability and Their Reflections About Relationships and Support" – READ: Ayers, K. "ChatGPT for Parents with Disabilities" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Mar. 19

<p>Week 9: Media Representation Mon., Mar. 20 – Sun., Mar. 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assignment 2: Families in Media – READ: Traver, A. "Sociological Theories Paradigms and the Study of the Family" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete Assignment 2 – Due Sun., Mar. 26
<p>Week 10: Family Separation Mon., Mar. 27 – Sun., Apr. 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WATCH: The Stages of Family Life – READ: "Divorce and Remarriage," Ch. 7 of Traver, A. <i>Sociology of the Family Textbook</i> – WATCH: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Apr. 2
<p>Week 11 Immigration and Forced Migration Mon., Apr. 3 – Apr. 16</p> <p>*SPRING BREAK College Closed Wednesday, April 5, thru Thursday, April 13.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – READ: Ballard, J., Wieling, E., Solheim, C., & Dwanyen, L. "Immigration and Immigrant Policy," Ch. 1 of <i>Immigrant and Refugee Families</i>, 2nd Ed. – READ: Ballard, J., Wieling, E., Solheim, C., & Dwanyen, L. "From There to Here: The Journey of Refugee Families to the United States," Ch. 2 of <i>Immigrant and Refugee Families</i>, 2nd Ed. – Watch: Family Reunited after Four Years Separated by Trump-era Immigration Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Apr. 16
<p>Week 12: Mon., Apr. 17 – Sun., Apr. 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assignment 3: Relocation and Dislocation – No readings this week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete Assignment 3. – Due Sun., Apr. 23
<p>Week 13: Incarcerated Families Mon., Apr. 24 – Sun., Apr. 30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – READ: Moser R. "Between Addiction and Prison, I Left My Boy to Grow Up Without a Dad" – READ: Warner, K. "Pregnancy, Motherhood, and Loss in Prison: A Personal Story" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. – Due Sun., Apr. 30

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SELECT A STORY FROM: “Stories from Mothers of Incarcerated Youth” - WATCH: “In Their Words: 4 Young People Share Experiences with Having and Incarcerated Parent” 	
<p>Week 14: The End of the Nuclear Family Mon., May 1 – Sun., May 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - READ or LISTEN TO: Brooks, D. “The Nuclear Family Was A Mistake.” <i>The Atlantic</i>, March 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the assignment posted on Blackboard. - Due Sun., May 7
<p>Week 15 Mon., May 8 – Wed., May 17 Extended week. Last day of classes, May 17.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Assignment: Policy Brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete your final assignment. - Due Wed., May 17
<p>End of Semester May 17 Final Day of Classes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Final Work Due 	