

## **SOCI 3341-01: Marriage & The Family**

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2017

### *Basic Information*

Class Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-9:50am in CHSS 206

Instructor: J. Bart Stykes, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: [jstykes@shsu.edu](mailto:jstykes@shsu.edu)

Instructor Office: CHSS, Sociology Dept., 270B1

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday: 10 am-12 pm, 3:30-4:30pm, and by appointment

Campus Phone: (936) 294-4122

*Required Readings:* Cherlin, Andrew J. 2013. *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, New York, NY: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.\*

\*Students may purchase previous editions of the textbook. However, the professor is not responsible for differences in material from previous versus newer editions of the text.

**Additional Readings will be required to successfully complete the required reflection papers. These readings will be available to students on Blackboard under the corresponding Critical Response Paper folder.**

*Course Description:* This course is designed to introduce you to the study of the family as a social institution, while being mindful of how structural inequalities interact with the family. We will be examining both the impact families have on individual's lives as well as the impact of the family on contemporary US society.

*Course Goals:* After taking this course, I hope that you are able to intelligently grapple with some of the challenges related to studying contemporary US families today and be able to "step outside" of your personal experiences within your own family to discuss the US family as a social institution.

*Course Objectives:* Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Gain a basic understanding of the US family as a social institution,
2. Learn how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view, and
3. Develop skills in expressing oneself more eloquently in writing.

*Attendance:* As I do not draw heavily on traditional teaching methods and **will not be posting PowerPoint slides**, regular attendance is crucial to success in this class. Since this is an upper-level course, attendance does not directly count as part of your final grade. **However**, excessive absences will result in a deduction from your final score at the end of the semester (see below):

0-3 Absences – 0 points deducted from final average

4-5 Absences – 2 points deducted from final average

5-7 Absences – 5 points deducted from final average

More than 7 Absences – 10 points deducted from final average

**Grading Criteria:** You will be evaluated on three criteria in this class: *examinations* – that are designed to assess your basic understanding of course content and *critical response papers* – which require you to critically engage with scholarly works, evaluate their merit, and “weigh in” on various “social problems” related to contemporary US families, and *peer-led application of course content*.

1. Exams (40% of final grade) – I administer two exams (20% each). Exams are a combination of true/false and multiple choice and students are required to complete the exams using scantron sheets.
2. Critical Response Papers (45% of final grade) – Over the course of the semester, you will have 5 opportunities to submit a critical response paper. Of these 5 options, you **must** submit *any* 3. Each paper requires you to read two pieces, critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of each piece, and answer the posed questions in 3-5 typed, double-spaced pages. Detailed instructions for each reflection paper are available on Blackboard. The papers are weighted such that later papers count more toward your final average as your ability to critically read and analyze the papers should improve with frequent, detailed feedback (i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> submission is 10%, 2<sup>nd</sup> is 15%, and 3<sup>rd</sup> is 20%).

***I will not accept late reflection papers. ALL reflection papers are due at the beginning of class on the day specified in the schedule and must be submitted as a hard copy.***

3. Peer-led Application of Course Content (15% of final grade) – Most Friday classes will be focused on application-based learning. Each student must work with a group to facilitate an interactive learning activity for that week’s designated topic. This activity should take approximately 20 minutes *and* require active participation from the class in some form or fashion. If multimedia is used, the video should not exceed 7 minutes.

***All groups are required to meet with the professor at least once by Wednesday of the week they are responsible for facilitating the learning activity.***

<b>A:</b>	90-100
<b>B:</b>	80-89
<b>C:</b>	70-79
<b>D:</b>	60-69
<b>F:</b>	59 or lower

**Make-up Exams:** Students must notify me *via email at least 24 hours* prior to an exam to schedule a make-up examination. Make-up exams will be different from the exam administered to the class. Should a student notify me 24 hours prior to the exam, I will meet with the student to schedule the make-up exam *if it is warranted*. I reserve the right to edit this policy under special circumstances.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Students caught cheating will receive an F for that assignment with more severe sanctions as appropriate. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. *Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations.*

**Religious Holidays:** The Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious Holy Day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding any missed classes or exams due to Religious Holy Days. <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>.

**University Code of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class. <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>.

**Evaluation:** Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the professor during the semester.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students shall arrive to class on time and be respectful to their other students. If a student needs to arrive to class late or leave class early the student will make the professor aware of these needs prior to class time. All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and stowed away while in the classroom. If a cell phone is out during an exam, the student will receive an F for that exam. Students who disrupt the class will be contacted by the professor to adjust their behaviors. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

### Tentative Schedule and Required Readings<sup>†</sup>

Week/Date	Topic and Required Readings	Important Deadlines
1: Aug. 23, 25	Course Introductions and Defining the Family	
2: Aug. 28, 30, and Sept. 1	Public and Private Families: pg. 4-38	
3. Sept. 6, 8	The History of the Family: pg. 40-78	
4. Sept. 11, 13, and 15*	Gender and Families: pg. 81-108	<b>9/15 – Critical Response 1 Due</b>
5. Sept. 18, 20, and 22*	Social Class and Family Inequality: pg. 110-138	
6. Sept. 25, 27, and 29*	Race, Ethnicity, and Families: pg. 140-175	
7. Oct. 2, 4, and 6*	Sexualities: pg. 178-206	<b>10/06 – Critical Response 2 Due</b>
8. Oct. 9, 11, and 13*	Cohabitation and Marriage: pg. 208-248	
9. Oct. 16, 18, and 20	Exam Review, Midterm Exam on <b>Oct. 18</b> , and Reviewing Midterm Exam	
10. Oct. 23, 25, and 27*	Work and Families: pg. 250-270	<b>10/27– Critical Response 3 Due</b>
11. Oct. 3, Nov. 1, and 3*	Children and Parents: pg. 274-304	
12. Nov. 6, 8, and 10*	Older People and Their Families: pg. 306-338	
13. Nov. 13, 15, 17*	Divorce and Stepfamilies: pg. 374-430	<b>11/17 – Critical Response 4 Due</b>
14. Nov. 20	Writing Consultations	
15. Nov. 27, 29, and Dec. 1	Family, the State, and Social Policy: pg. 434-463 Final Exam Review – on Nov. 29	<b>12/01 – Critical Response 5 Due</b>

**Final Exam Wednesday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am.**

\*Denotes a scheduled student-led application for Friday – for the Topic listed on that week.

<sup>†</sup>Please note that this schedule is tentative and subject to change.