



**Marriage and The Family**  
**3341.01 (3 Credit Hours); Spring 2018**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50 PM at CHSS 206**  
**Course website: <http://shsu.blackboard.com>**  
**Instructor: Tze-Li Hsu, Ph.D.**

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Sociology Department, CHSS, 2<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 270B2  
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Email: [thsu@shsu.edu](mailto:thsu@shsu.edu)  
Office Hours: TR 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST (or by appointment).

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Marriage and The Family class! We tend to think of marriages and families as private entities composed of close and personal relationships. But, they are not just collections of individual experiences and sites of private decisions. They are institutions performing socially valuable activities that are shaped by social, cultural, political, and economic forces. A sociological perspective will help us place our private, individual experiences in families within this broader context. The course focuses on marriage and family issues over the life course, including topics like dating and love, the formation of partnerships and marriages, choices about parenting, divorce and remarriage, the balance of work and family, and intergenerational relationships. Issues relating to diversity, including race, gender, social class, and sexual orientation, will be emphasized throughout the semester.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

By the end of the course, you should be 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:

- Gain **factual knowledge** related to the US family;
- Develop an understanding of **fundamental principles**, generalizations, and theories that are used to better understand US families; and,
- Learn how to **analyze and critically evaluate** ideas, arguments, and points of view.

### SKILL OBJECTIVES

- Describe the socio-historical development of the family as a social institution, including the changing roles of women, men, children, and elderly family members;
- Analyze social, cultural, economic, and political forces that shape the institution of marriage;
- Explain basic concepts, theories, and research methods used in the sociological study of marriage and family
- Identify and examine sociologically relevant issues within the contemporary family; and,
- Develop an appreciation and understanding for the diversity of family patterns that exist and an understanding of how family experience is shaped by gender, race and ethnicity, social class, and sexual orientation.

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS



Cohen, Philip, N. 2015. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. W.W. Norton & Company, *First edition*. ISBN – 978-0-393-93395-6 (paperback). \*The loose-leaf version is fine if you can find it. **\*This is the only book required for this course; you will need to purchase this book.** The Bookstore on campus has made

special arrangements with the publishing company to offer the book at a discounted price. There is also an e-book version of the text available through the publisher's website:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad-detail-editions.aspx?id=4294987970>

## **ATTENTANCE**

I will take roll according to university policy. Tardiness will NOT be accepted. Students who are NOT present in 15 minutes after the start of class will be counted absent. Students who miss three or more classes will be penalized 5 points off of their total accumulated points for each class missed starting with their fourth absence. Students who do not miss any class days and are not late to any classes will earn an additional 5 points toward their accumulated points. EX: 455+5= A.

## **SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS**

You must be able to access the Internet, read PDF documents, view streaming audio and video, as well as use a basic word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word). If you do not have a high-speed Internet connection at home, you need to set aside time in your schedule to access the online material from a computer with a sufficient connection speed. *Slow connection speeds at home are not a valid excuse for failing to complete a course requirement on time. It is your responsibility to keep up with the information posted to the course website, including announcements, readings, handouts, grades, and assignment guidelines.*

## **REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

You must have access to Blackboard for this course. The syllabus, class notes, assignments and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check Blackboard and your SHSU email address for course materials and announcements. It is your responsibility to keep up with the course website. As soon as possible, log into the course site and familiarize yourself with the content. This also includes keeping track of the gradebook and any missing grades. If you have trouble with the site, let me or SHSU Online support know as soon as possible and we can help out. \*\*Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard and denoted on the syllabus as "BB."

### **SHSU Online Support:**

Email: [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu) Phone: 936.294.2780 Toll-free: 877.759.2232

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA**

**Reading Assignments:** Readings come from the assigned textbook and additional readings posted on Blackboard. Lectures will highlight and/or build on the readings so I suggest you complete the readings BEFORE reviewing class materials. I also STRONGLY recommend you break up the reading throughout the week (e.g., read 15 pages per day) so you do not end up needing to read a week's worth of readings in one night. You will need to complete the readings in order to be successful on quizzes and in discussion boards so remember to give yourself plenty of time to read them thoroughly.

To help improve your understanding of the readings, try to answer these questions as you read and review the material:

- ☐ What is the point of this chapter or article?
- ☐ What are the main concepts this author is using?
- ☐ What are some of the explanations for the findings?
- ☐ How convincing is the argument?
- ☐ How does this reading relate to the others we have covered?

**First two weeks during class add/drop:**

Online Bio (10 points; 2% of grade): So that we can get to know a bit about one another, you will need to create a short bio to post on the course site. This assignment will count as your first-day attendance. If you do not complete it by **Thursday, January 25th BEFORE 10 PM CST**, you will not get points.

Syllabus Quiz (15 points; 3% of grade): You will be required to complete a quiz based on information from the syllabus. It is meant to ensure that you have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of you in this course. You will have unlimited attempts to complete this particular quiz. Note: As the SHSU Academic Honor Policy is part of this syllabus and an important component of this course, you'll also need to review that document, found under "Resources." This quiz is due by **Sunday, January 28th BEFORE 10 PM.**

**Exams:**

There will be THREE exams (75 points each; 15% of grade\*3 = 45% totally) offered during the semester. They will cover the chapters assigned during the days preceding the exam. These are NOT comprehensive exams. Make sure to attend class on exam days. Scheduling of academic or non-academic activities during any of the exam periods will not be considered a sufficient reason for granting a makeup exam. There will be no cell phones or headphones allowed on exam days. Exams are a combination of true/false and multiple choice and students are required to complete the exams using scantron sheets. All exam questions are from textbook and materials in Blackboard. Quizzes are helpful to study for each exam. A total of 225 possible points will be available. Grades will be assigned according to the following chart on Page 4.

**Make-up Exams:**

Make-up exams will be allowed **ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CASES**. In the event that a student could not attend one of the regularly scheduled exams, s/he must notify Dr. Hsu prior to the exam. Additionally, s/he must justify his/her absence through **verifiable documentation**.

Remember that make up exams are usually more difficult than regularly scheduled exams. It is in the student's interest to take regularly scheduled tests. The last make-up exam day will be **May 8th, 2018**. \*\*Points with decimals will be rounded to the nearest whole number. For example, an 89.5 will be rounded to a 90 while an 89.4 will be rounded to an 89 points.

**In-class Quizzes/Activities:**

There will occasionally be short quizzes and in-class assignments on the assigned class readings, lectures, movies, and guest speakers (100 points; 20% of grade). The quizzes are not meant to trick you, but rather to help you keep caught up on the course reading and ideas discussed in class. The quizzes should not be very difficult if you have done the assigned readings on time and pay attention in class, and if you do not fall behind in your reading, they should be a good way to bump up your grade. In-class assignments will be small exercises that will vary across the course of the semester. These may include short group work projects, minute papers, or worksheets in class.

**\*\*\*You will NOT be able to make up quizzes or in class assignments.**

Excused absences will get the average grade of the other assignments you complete. Please note that the majority of quizzes and in-class activities are NOT announced. ***Those who come late after the quiz/assignment was taken or miss the day will not be able to make up.*** There will be a total of 23 in-class activities/quizzes (3 lowest grades will be dropped), each worth five points. The quizzes and assignments will also be part of the attendance check. The grading for these will occur in the following fashion:

<b>In-Class</b>	<b>5 pts</b>	<b>4-3 pts</b>	<b>2-0 pts</b>
Quizzes	Correctly and thoughtfully answered the question(s). Demonstrates full attention to lecture and course readings.	Adequately answered the question(s). However, missing a few key points and/or has some (not total) incorrect answer(s).	Incorrectly answered the question(s) with little or no explanation. Also counts for missing the quiz.
Guest speakers	Attended the <i>whole</i> class period and remained engaged.	N/A	Did not attend, left early, or acted disrespectfully (automatic zero).
Activities	Creative and thoughtful answers. This also requires active (and civil) participation of discussions and group work.	Adequately completed the activity, but did not remain actively engaged or vice versa.	Did not attend, did not adequately complete the activity, and remained either disengaged or disrespectful during the activity.

### **Papers:**

There will be THREE papers (150 points; 30% totally) offered during the semester. You will be required to write three papers. The first paper is worth 25 points, the second is worth 50 points, and the third is worth 75 points. The papers are graded in this way because as the course progresses and with guidance from my feedback, your writing and understanding of sociological content will develop. Therefore, we expect improvements on each paper. I will discuss the details of these papers well before they are due and will post instructions on the Blackboard website for this course (under "Assignments"). Grading rubrics will be made available prior to the due date.

You must submit papers in Word (.doc) format via the Turnitin link on our Blackboard course site by 10 PM CST on the day they are due. Please ask me in advance if you are not sure how to submit a paper via the Turnitin link.

<b>Paper 1: February 18th</b>	<b>25 points/ 5%</b>
<b>Paper 2: March 18th</b>	<b>50 points/10%</b>
<b>Paper 3: May 7th</b>	<b>75 points/15%</b>

### **Evaluation/Grading Details:**

<i>Items</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>	<i>Percent of Total Score</i>
Online Bio (1)	10 points	2%
Syllabus Quiz (1)	15 points	3%
Exams (2)	225 points	45%
In-class Quizzes/Activities	100 points	20%
No Class- Spring Break		
Papers (3)	150 points	30%
Last Day to check your grades	<b>Dec. 5th before 3PM CST</b>	

### **TOTAL**

<b>Grade Chart:</b> 500-450 – A
449-400 – B
399-350 – C
349-300 – D
299 and below – F

**Your final grade will be based on the number of points you earn out of 500 possible points.**

## **Important Dates**

<i>Assignments and Exams</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Online Bio</b>	<b>Jan 25th (Thursday)</b>
<b>Syllabus Quiz</b>	<b>Jan 28th (Sunday)</b>
Exam One	Feb 13th (Tuesday)
<b>Paper One</b>	<b>Feb 18th (Sunday)</b>
<i>Spring Recess for Students and Faculty</i>	<i>Mar 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup></i>
<b>Paper Two</b>	<b>Mar 18th (Sunday)</b>
Exam Two	Mar 29th (Thursday)
Exam Three	May 03rd (Thursday)
<b>Paper Three</b>	<b>May 07th (Monday)</b>
<b>Last Day to discuss grades</b>	<b>May 08th (Tuesday)</b>

## **COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Late Work:**

I do NOT accept late work. Assignments will be listed at the scheduled time. **In-class activities and quizzes cannot be made up.** My late work policy is driven more by practicality than any sort of principle on tardiness. The reason why I do not accept late work, is that it is often difficult to stay organized with grading assignments when they trickle in days and weeks after the due date. If you know that you will not make a class during which there is an assignment due or a test to be given, please let me know ahead of time. You may contact me by email.

### **A Note on Blackboard:**

Sometimes Blackboard works in mysterious ways. If Blackboard (or Turnitin) are not working before a deadline, it is your responsibility to email me ASAP with a photo of your screenshot of wrong message and contact SHSU Online Help Desk. If you are not able to submit your paper to Turnitin, you should email me your paper – this will count as your submission and I will be able to see that you have completed it prior to the deadline. Therefore, if you email us after the deadline and explain you couldn't complete your work because of Blackboard, there is little I will be able to do and your assignment will either result in a zero or, in the case of a paper, will receive a late penalty.

Also, please double- and triple-check that your work has been submitted. When you submit a (non-multiple choice) paper, you'll be able to see a gold/yellow "!" in your grade center. This symbol indicates that your work has been successfully submitted and needs to be graded. If this symbol does not show up in the grade center, it means your submission did not go through. You can submit multiple times before the deadline on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to ensure your work has been successfully submitted with correct format and versions.

### **Participation/Dialogue in Class:**

This class will require you to interact and participate in class discussion. Though these discussions are often informal, I still expect you to draw on material and information from class materials using textbook and extra materials on Blackboard. In sociology classes, I often find that students like to share anecdotes and personal experiences. This is great! However, sociology is also about structural influences and larger trends. I expect you to use your sociological imagination and incorporate the "bigger picture" into discussions using class materials.

### **Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

**First class day is January 25th, 2018.**

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. Here are the details:

1. Students are to treat other students, guest speakers and faculty with respect.
2. Please do not talk while the professor, guest lecturer, or another classmate is speaking or during films. Points will be deducted from your grade if the professor has to repeatedly remind you not to talk during class as this is disruptive and disrespectful.
3. Students are to turn off cell phones while in the classroom. **Note: If your phone is visible during class you will be docked two (2) points from your overall grades. Points will be deducted each time your phone is visible in the classroom.** This is to avoid the temptation to read or send text messages during class. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.
4. I-Pods and MP3 players should be turned off and ear buds should be removed during class.
5. Computers may be used to take notes only. You must sit in the first two rows of the classroom to use a computer.
6. Please no tobacco products in the classroom.
7. Students may record lectures with the professor's approval provided they do not disturb other students in the process. See Student Syllabus Guidelines:

<http://www.shsu.edu/sacs/compliancereport/narratives/documents/3.4.5-SHSU-Syllabus-Guidelines.pdf>

*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.*

#### **University Code of Conduct:**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In extreme cases students who cannot comply with these requirements can be removed and resigned from the class. See the University Code at <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>.

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

#### **Academic Dishonesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>

For a detailed description of this policy, please visit the following link:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

#### **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. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

### **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:**

Section 51.911(b) of 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](http://dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf)

### **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, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

### **Study Tips:**

Read chapters **prior to class thoroughly** so that you understand it and it is meaningful to you. Make a list of questions from the written material. Later, ask yourself to see if you can answer your questions, if not go back and reread the material. Sociology has its own language, check to be sure you understand key terms of each chapter, listed in the glossary. Complete study materials prior to tests. The SAM Center is available for students with academic difficulty. If you fail the first test, I recommended that you contact the SAM center at 294-4444 for assistance.

## **Tentative Course Schedule<sup>1</sup>**

**TB** = *The Family textbook*; **BB** = reading posted to BlackBoard

Date	Readings	Quizzes	Activities	Other Assignments
Unit 1 : Brief Introduction to Sociology and this class				
1/18	Get your textbook!	Syllabus (1/28)	Activity 1	
Unit 2: A Sociology of Family				
1/23	TB: Chapter 1 BB: Bates & DeMaio (2013) “Measuring Same-Sex Relationships”		Activity 2	
1/25		Quiz 1		Online Bio 1/25 Thursday Before 10 PM
Unit 3: The Family in History				
1/30	TB: Chapter 2 BB: Coontz (2011) “When We Hated Mom”		Activity 3	Syllabus Quiz 1/28 Sunday Before 10 PM
2/1		Quiz 2		
Unit 4: Families & Social Class				
2/6	TB: Chapter 4		Activity 4	
2/8		Quiz 3		
2/13	Exam 1 (CH01-CH02, CH04)			
Unit 5: Race, Ethnicity, & Immigration				
2/15	TB: Chapter 3		Activity 5	
2/20		Quiz 4		Paper 1 due 2/18 Sunday Before 10 PM
Unit 6: Gender & the Family				
2/22	TB: Chapter 5 BB: Marsiglio (2009) “Healthy Dads, Healthy Kids”		Activity 6	
2/27		Quiz 5		
Unit 7: Sexuality				
3/1	TB: Chapter 6 BB: Cohen (2015) “Gay Marriage Addendum to The Family”		Activity 7	
3/6	BB: Cherlin (2015) “The Triumph of Family Diversity”	Quiz 6		
Unit 8: An Intersectional Approach to Family				
3/8	BB: Acosta (2014) “We Are Family”		Activity 8	
3/20				Paper 2 due 3/18 Sunday Before 10 PM

<sup>1</sup> Please keep in mind that the schedule and syllabus is subject to change



**Tentative Course Schedule (Continued)**

**TB** = *The Family textbook*; **BB** = reading posted to Blackboard

Date	Readings	Quizzes	Activities	Other Assignments
Unit 9: Love & Romantic Relationships				
3/22	TB: Chapter 7 BB: Steinbugler (2014) “Loving Across Racial Lines”		Activity 9	
3/27		Quiz 7		
3/29	Exam 2 (CH03, CH05-CH07)			
Unit 10: Marriage & Cohabitation				
4/3	TB: Chapter 8 BB: Gerstel & Sarkisian (2006) “Marriage: The Good, the Bad, and the Greedy”		Activity 10	
4/5		Quiz 8		
Unit 11: Families & Children				
4/10	TB: Chapter 9 BB: Umberson (2006) “Parents, Adult Children, and Immortality”		Activity 11	
4/12		Quiz 9		
Unit 12: Divorce, Remarriage, & Blended Families				
4/17	TB: Chapter 10 BB: Rutter (2010) “The Case for Divorce”		Activity 12	
4/19		Quiz 10	Review	
Unit 13: Family Violence & Abuse and Future of the Family				
4/24	TB: Chapter 12 & 13		Activity 13	
4/26		Quiz 11		
5/1	Class Review & Presentation			
5/3	Exam 3 (CH08-CH09, CH10, CH12, and CH13)			
5/7	Paper 3 due Monday, May 7th BEFORE 10 PM CST Please submit your paper via Turnitin on Blackboard Congratulations! You’re done with the course.			

**\*\* Syllabus Change Policy:**

*“Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.”*