

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SOCI 3341  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
SPRING ONLINE 2018**

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**Office Hours:** *Face-to-face and Virtual Office Hours:* Monday & Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and by appointment.  
**Text Reminders:** Text the message @3341sp2018 to the number 81010.

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**Required Textbooks/ Readings:**

*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 (as older editions are often quite similar in terms of content). However, the professor is not responsible for differences in material from previous versus newer editions of the text.

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**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:** In addition to these broad, global goals for our course. I have also structured this class so that you will:

1. *gain factual knowledge* related to the US family,
  2. *develop an understanding of fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories* that are used to better understand US families, and
  3. learn how to *analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view*.
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**Course Participation Policy:**

You are required to login to the class several times per week. I would suggest that you maintain a schedule of logging in routinely every week. For example, our assignments will be due on Saturdays for the most part, so you may want to check the site each Sunday, Wednesday and Friday to make sure that you do not miss any new material.

An online class differs from a face-to-face course in that you must pace yourself and complete your work independently. This is not as easy as it sounds. You must be organized and conscientious to complete the course successfully. We also do not have the flexibility to adjust the course during the semester. Therefore, course work including discussions and exams is RARELY accepted late. You will not be able to go back and complete missed work once a session concludes. Please keep this in mind as I only grant extensions in unusual circumstances (e.g., health emergencies, religious holidays, family emergencies, etc.).

If an emergency arises during the course, you should contact the Dean of Students' Office and complete the "Absence Notification Request Form" (available in person or online at <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/absence.html> ). The Dean of Students' Office will contact your instructors and confirm the cause of the absence. If you are physically unable to contact the office, a family member may submit the notification request.

For more information on absences due to religious holidays please refer to the universities policy on the observance of religious/holy days: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

### **Course Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** *Students found cheating on ANY ASSIGNMENT (even extra credit or a discussion post) in the course will receive an "F" for the entire course. Cheating includes:*

- *allowing/hiring someone to complete any part of this course for you. This includes a discussion post, a paper, and extra credit assignment, or an exam, etc.*
- *asking for help during an exam*
- *forming exam taking groups. **Study groups that meet prior to the exam's opening online are fine. Groups that meet after an exam opens are prohibited.***
- *passing your work off as someone else's (taking a test or quiz for someone)*
- *copying answers from someone else's exam or quiz*
- *letting someone copy your answers from an exam or quiz*
- *turning in written work OR ANY PART OF WRITTEN WORK that has been copied from another source*
- *working with another student on a written paper and using his or her words or ideas in your paper without credit.*
- *turning in any writing that is not IN YOUR OWN WORDS or correctly cited!*

**This means if you copy someone else's work, an online article (Wikipedia) or fail correctly cite someone else's writing – you will fail. If you have questions about how to reference a source in your essay, please consult with the Writing Center (free at Farrington 111) or your professor.**

The University's policy toward cheating and plagiarism can be found at the following website.

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of not properly crediting your sources of information through the proper utilization of textual citations and a source list. If it is not a product of your own, original research, your own original idea, thought, or words, you must cite your source in your text. You must also include a works cited list. Failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty and will be dealt with as such.

### **Disabled Student Policies and Service Information:**

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/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

### **Spam Mail & Netiquette**

Please do not use the course email for general mail messages. Feel free though to use the email to ask questions related to the course schedule and content. Remember everyone in the class including the instructor and teaching assistants can and will read your posts. Please keep sensitive information private.

Students are expected to engage others in a respectful manner in all course communications. If a student engages in inappropriate conversation within the class environment, becomes hostile toward others students or instructors, or threatens the healthy dynamic of the online course in any way, the course instructor will pursue disciplinary action.

The University has a specific policy pertaining to classroom misconduct. The student guidelines can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2013-2016.pdf#page=34>

In this class conduct problems will be confronted in the following manner:

- An egregious offense will result in contact from the professor and a grade penalty.
- Repeated offenses will result in a meeting with the chair of the department
- Unresolved behavior problems will result in a grievance referral to the Dean of Students Office. Any penalties resulting from the referral will be noted on the student's permanent transcript.

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### **Other Course Requirements:**

#### **Computer & Internet**

Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the World Wide Web. You will be completing the class in a fully "on-line" format through the class's Blackboard portal. All students must be able to read and produce PDF and Word documents. **Please be sure to contact the SHSU 24x7 helpdesk if you have any problems connecting or access materials or tools in this course ([helpdesk@shsuonline.net](mailto:helpdesk@shsuonline.net) or 1-877-870-9214)**

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**Grading Policy:** Your performance in the class will be evaluated by two online multiple-choice exams, quizzes and discussions. Each exam is worth 100 points, and each discussion/quiz is worth 10 points. The exam dates are announced in the course outline.

The **multiple-choice exams** will be available online and open for three days. You may take the exam **once**. You will have 4 hours to complete the exam once you open it to begin. I will provide study guides for the exams. Multiple-choice exams, including the final, **are not cumulative**.

The **quizzes** will be worth 10 points and will have 5-10 questions each. The questions will be multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer. They will cover the material assigned for the given week.

The **group discussions** are also worth 10 points. Each student is assigned a group for the semester. As a group you will discuss the prompt offered for that week. The discussion will relate to the week's content. You are required to post one substantive initial post and a response to another student's post. See more on discussions below.

**Remember:** You CAN NOT collaborate with other students on exams. You may use all of the material provided in the course. Study groups must occur **PRIOR** to the opening of the exam.

The breakdown of exam weights and the final grading scale follows:

Exam One	100 pts	A	270-300 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts	B	240-269 pts.
Online Introduction	10 pts	C	210-239 pts.
Group Discussions (3)	30 pts	D	180-209 pts.
Quizzes (6)	60 pts	F	Fewer than 180 pts.
	300 pts		

Students are responsible for the assigned readings, all lecture material, and films covered in the class. All material will be included in the exams and quizzes. Exams will be in a multiple-choice format and will be available online.

**DISCUSSIONS:** Many students consider the discussions the most interesting part of the course. Just like ideas would be discussed in a face-to-face class, I want the discussion to help us remember and learn the material. Hopefully we can have some fun in the process.

I will offer a "prompt" to begin the discussion. Sometimes the prompt will ask you to read a news article online, or remember a movie that you have seen. Other may require a brief reading in addition to the reading assignments for that week. Every prompt **will require you to think about the material** we have covered during that week. **I expect every student to participate in the discussion.** By this I mean that I expect you to post an initial comment that addresses the prompt. Then I want you to read the responses of other students and respond to their ideas. This will require you to post early in the week (I suggest Sunday) and then check at least once or twice to participate in the discussion. Set up a schedule (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) if that helps.

Your discussion grades will depend on:

- The degree to which your responses address the ideas presented in the prompt
- The degree to which you pull in ideas from the readings and lectures
- The degree to which you respond to other students and actively participate in the discussion

- The insightfulness/quality of your posts (Do you post responses such as “It’s important because....” or simply “I agree”. Post something of substance.)
- The timeliness of your post

Here is my rule thumb:

- Students who do not post to a discussion earn a 0.
- I deduct points for not responding to the prompt in a substantive way – meaning you show me no evidence that you have read or thought about the material (about 2-3 points)
- I deduct points if you are not actively involved in the discussion – you have not responded to the posts of other students at least once (about 2 points)
- I reserve the right to use discretion when I grade. If a comment is excellent (it uses the material and shows a lot of thought) but you posted at 11:30 pm on Thursday and failed to respond to other students, I may adjust my grading rubric in your favor.
- I expect you to write something, anything. Some points are better than no points.
- Posts that simply restate the ideas of another student (copied posts) will receive a 0.

**Note: Posts that are especially good will earn an extra point at my discretion.**

#### **Extra Credit:**

Extra credit assignments will be posted on Blackboard. The same extra credit opportunities are available to the class. I do not tailor extra credit to individual students. However, I do offer several opportunities from which to choose. So everyone has the opportunity to earn points.