

Soc 351: Sociology of the Family, Fall 2016

3 Credits, Social Science GER & UCORE Diversity

Prereq: Soc 101 recommended (not required)

Meets: T & Th 10:35-11:50, Sloan 175

Instructor: Dr. Johnson
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and by appointment
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Course Description:

We will examine American families from a sociological perspective, focusing on how individuals and families are connected to larger, macro social phenomena. In addition to exploring American families as changing and diverse structures throughout U.S. history, and the forces that drive such structures, we will pay particular attention to the diversity of family experiences across subgroups of the population, including gay men and lesbians, different racial and ethnic groups, and different economic classes. Throughout the course, we will consider both immediate and extended family relationships. Although we will focus mainly on American families, some attention will be given to cross-national differences and similarities in families.

We will use a variety of teaching methods in this course, including lectures, films, class discussions, and active learning exercises. These exercises are designed to “engage” you in the course material, encouraging you to reflect on the issues raised in class, critically analyze readings and empirical evidence, and relate your own experiences to course materials. These activities will take a variety of forms, including classroom discussion, small discussion groups, case studies, and short in-class writing exercises. Please note: Students are expected to read all assigned material prior to class. You are expected to participate in class discussions and small group exercises. Part of your grade in this course will be on participation in these discussions and exercises.

Top Hat:

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or via text message (SMS).

You can visit <http://tinyurl.com/THStudentRegistration> for the Student Quick Start Guide which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. An email invitation will also be sent to your email account (if you don't receive this email, you can register by visiting our direct Top Hat course URL <https://app.tophat.com/e/678302>

Top Hat will require a subscription. There are three options to choose from:

- \$24 for 4 months of unlimited access
- \$72 for lifetime* access
- \$36 for 12 months of unlimited access

Required Books (Available at the “Bookie”):

Cohen, Philip N. 2015. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. New York: WW Norton & Co.

Risman, Barbara J., & Virginia E. Rutter. 2015. *Families As They Really Are*, second edition. New York: WW Norton & Co.

Course Requirements:

Three Exams each worth **100 points each**. **Make-up exams are for emergencies only so do not miss class on exam days**. If you encounter a major emergency, contact me as soon as possible. Students with a university sanctioned reason to miss class on an exam day should make arrangements with me ahead of time to take the exam.

Attendance and In-Class Exercises worth **100 points**. Attendance will be taken every day. In addition, at various times during the semester (unannounced) your in-class work will be graded. I will drop your lowest score. If you have a university sanctioned reason to miss class, make sure to provide me the documentation.

Written Assignment worth **100 points**. Details of the assignment will be provided separately. **Assignments not turned in by the due date will be given a grade of “0” unless there are exceptional circumstances (serious illness or death in the family, etc.) and you have informed me about this.**

Course Grading Scale:

93-100%	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	60-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	0-59	F
83-86	B	70-72	C-		

Course Policies:

- A key to a positive learning experience is respect for others, the instructor, and the academic process. What does respect mean in practical terms?
 - Arrive and leave on time. If for some reason you must leave early, please notify me before class begins. If you have a job or child care conflicts and expect that getting to class on time or staying for the entire session is going to be a problem, please talk with me.
 - Do not have conversations with other students during class, and please turn the volume off your cell phones.
 - In the event that you should miss a class, you are still responsible for obtaining the class notes for that day. Your TA and I are more than willing to go over notes with you or help you take better notes but we are NOT in the business of providing notes for people who miss class.

- At one time or another, you may disagree with how we graded your exam or assignment. **Unless the disagreement is about a mistake in our adding of points, grade disagreements must be submitted to us in writing within one week of receiving your graded exam/paper, but after a 24-hour “waiting period.”** We require you to wait one day before contesting a grade so you have time to consult the text/notes and re-read the question and answer. Your request should specifically outline why you think your answer is correct and which course material you are basing this claim upon.
- **Academic Integrity:** If you violate standards of conduct set forth by the university, I will assign you an “F” for the course (a sanction allowed by WAC 504-26-405). I will report all instances of violations of academic integrity, no matter how minor, to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability. Violations of standards of conduct include, but are not limited to: use of unauthorized materials in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations, or giving or receiving unauthorized assistance by any means, including talking, copying information from another student, using electronic devices, or taking an examination for another student.; use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; acquisition or possession of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the university faculty when acquired without their permission; unauthorized collaboration on assignments; intentionally obtaining unauthorized knowledge of examination materials; unauthorized multiple submission of the same work; Fabrication, which includes, but is not limited to: Submitting a false excuse for absence or tardiness or a false explanation for failing to complete a class requirement or scheduled examination at the appointed date and time, engaging in any behavior for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion, and Plagiarism which refers to presenting the information, ideas, or phrasing of another person as the student's own work without proper acknowledgment of the source. This includes submitting a commercially prepared paper or research project or submitting for academic credit any work done by someone else. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (see WAC 504-26-010 for additional violations, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=504-26-010>).
- **Students with Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center.
- **Safety:** Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is highly recommended that you review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will better understand the relationship between families and the societies in which they are located. Students will be able to a) identify structural and cultural forces shaping family behavior, and b) determine how family behavior shapes aspects of social structure and culture in society. (Diversity; Critical & Creative Thinking)
2. Students will understand the range of methods and data family sociologists rely on and be able to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and be able to locate relevant scientific research on families published in academic journals. (Information Literacy; Critical & Creative Thinking)
3. Students will demonstrate fluency in the language of social science, including the vocabulary of science (e.g., hypothesis, selection effect, association) and proper use and understanding of basic social science concepts (e.g., stratification, culture, norm, institution). (Communication)

Link between Assignments and Student Learning Outcomes

	At the end of this course, students should be able to:	Course topics (& dates) that advance those learning goals	This objective will be evaluated primarily by:
1	Students will better understand the relationship between families and the societies in which they are located. Students will be able to a) identify structural and cultural forces shaping family behavior, and b) determine how family behavior shapes aspects of social structure and culture in society. (Diversity; Critical & Creative Thinking)	Weeks 3-15	Exam 1, 2, & 3 In-class writing
2	Students will understand the range of methods and data family sociologists rely on and be able to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and be able to locate relevant scientific research on families published in academic journals. (Information Literacy; Critical & Creative Thinking)	Primary topic of The Sociological Approach (weeks 1-2) and then supported throughout—usually, though not exclusively, by first day of each unit	Exam 1; Written Assignment
3	Students will demonstrate fluency in the language of social science (Communication)	Sociological Approach; Social & Legal Construction; Sexuality; Union Formation; Parents & Children; Economics, Social Class & Families; Work & Family; Divorce, Remarriage, & Step-families; Parents, Adult Children & Grandchildren	Exam 1, 2, & 3 In-class writing Written Assignment

Course schedule: *This schedule is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Aug 23	The Sociological Approach to Families	
Aug 25	The Sociological Approach to Families	Risman & Rutter pp. 12-21
Sept 1	The Sociological Approach to Families	Cohen Ch 1; Risman & Rutter pp.84-95.
Aug 30	The Sociological Approach to Families	Cohen Ch 3
Sept 6	Historical Overview	Cohen Ch 2
Sept 8	Historical Overview	Risman & Rutter pp.36-55
Sept 13	The Social & Legal Construction of the Family	Risman & Rutter pp.56-67 & 116-136
Sept 15	The Social & Legal Construction of the Family	Risman & Rutter pp. 324-326
Sept 20	The Social & Legal Construction of the Family	Risman & Rutter pp. 380-387
Sept 22	The Social & Legal Construction of the Family	
Sept 27	EXAM 1	
Sept 29	Economics, Social Class, and Families	
Oct 4	Economics, Social Class, and Families	Cohen Ch 4
Oct 6	Economics, Social Class, and Families	Risman & Rutter pp.539-541 & 551-566.
	ASSIGNMENT PART A DUE 10/6	
Oct 11	Work and Family	Cohen Ch 11 & 5 (pp. 177-184 only)
Oct 13	Work and Family	Risman & Rutter pp.593-608 & 632-647.
Oct 18	Work and Family	
Oct 20	Sexuality	Risman & Rutter pp.252-263; Cohen Ch 6
Oct 25	Sexuality	Risman & Rutter pp. 280-296
Oct 27	EXAM 2	
Nov 1	Union Formation	Cohen Ch 7; Risman & Rutter 149-158
Nov 3	Union Formation	Cohen Ch 8;
Nov 8	Parents and Children	Cohen Ch 9
Nov 10	Parents and Children	
Nov 15	Parents and Children	
Nov 17	Parents and Children	
	ASSIGNMENT PART B DUE 11/12	
Nov 29	Divorce, Remarriage, and Step-families	Cohen Ch 10
Dec 1	Divorce, Remarriage, and Step-families	Risman & Rutter pp.343-357
Dec 6	Domestic Violence	Cohen Ch 12
Dec 8	Parents, Adult Children, and Grandchildren	Risman & Rutter pp. 676-683

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday December 14, 10:10-12:10 (Sloan 175, regular classroom)