Florida State University
SYG 2430-04 Marriage and Family
TR 2:00 –3:15 PM
2401HWC
Spring 2017

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Associate Teaching Professor
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Office Hours: T Th 11-noon or by appt.
Dept.)
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(850) 644-6416 (Sociology

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Office Hours: MW 11-12 or by appt
You can communicate with the TA from the course Blackboard
E-mail: bmk12@my.fsu.edu

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduate to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies offers a transformative educational experience; this course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of social science theories and the facts that support them. This course also has been approved as meeting the requirements for the “Y” designation of (“Diversity in Western Cultures”) for the Multicultural Understanding credit at FSU

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course entails a sociological approach (covering theory and research findings) to premarital, marital, and post-marital familial relationships. It deals with the variety of ideas and practices people have about dating, living arrangements, marriage, family communication, parenting, divorce, remarriage and social change. It explores the American family as a diverse, ever changing unit, with challenges and choices shaping its twenty-first century composition and dynamics.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND GOALS
At the end of the course you will be able to:
1. Identify, define, and illustrate basic concepts, theories, research techniques and findings about marriage and the family.
2. Compare and contrast the different theories and methods used to examine and explain marriage and family members’ roles and interaction patterns as they affect intimate, courtship, marital and familial relationships.
3. Critically examine the American family and the role it plays in reproducing, maintaining, and changing the structural factors of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and class.

4. Acquire an increased awareness of the substantive issues confronting American society and their influence on American marriages and families.

5. Write and express referenced opinions via class discussions, term paper, and exams about the concepts, theories and research techniques in the field.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

2) Risman, Barbara. 2015. Families as They Really Are. W. W. Norton. This textbook is identified as Ris in the Course Outline. This text is available at Bill’s and FSU Bookstores.

3) Additional readings and Lecture Notes are listed as *Bb in the Course Outline below and are posted on Blackboard/Course Library

All readings are organized by topics and their respective dates.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Attendance
Lectures are organized and presented around the required readings for a specific topic. You are responsible for completing the scheduled readings prior to coming to class. Attendance will be recorded for every meeting.
All absences require proper documentation to be deemed legitimate and to be recorded as attendance. Perfect attendance will earn you 10% of the grade. FIVE unexcused absences earns zero for attendance!

To reward your attendance, on the other hand, you will earn extra-credit points

Study-Guide Questions
All assigned readings and lectures are potential exam materials. To facilitate the learning process you will be given a set of study-guide questions to work on before each test. There are four study guide questions (one for each exam). Answer these questions in your own words, cover all parts of each question, and submit the answers on SafeAssign on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule below. Doing so will help you understand the material and thus, meet the course objectives.
The questions are in essay format, cover the materials from different angles, relate issues in a way that complement the texts, and hopefully, enable you to develop a sociological imagination. Use the class time and office hours to talk to me and the TA about your progress in answering the questions and preparing for the upcoming test. The study guide is NOT a contract that defines the exam!
As stated above, the answers to each study-guide will be submitted on SafeAssign by the due dates/times indicated in the Course Schedule below. The SafeAssign site for the specific study guide will be posted in Bb/Assignments for the corresponding exam period in the semester. Do not wait until the eve of the due date to answer the study-guide questions and to submit the work.

The study guides #1 and #2 are worth 7% each and the study guide #3 is worth 6%; the total contribution of all three study guides to the final grade is 20%.

The grade for the study guide will be based on:

1. Timely submittal, and complete, and correct* answers stated in your own words for each and all questions (100%);
2. Correct, complete, and original (in your own words) answer of each and all questions BUT one day delay (90%);
3. Meets timely submittal BUT work has 1-3 incorrect answers, minor spelling/grammar problems, and/or misses fewer than 10% of answers (80%)
4. Timely upload, correct original answers BUT is 10% Incomplete (70%).
5. Meets criterion 1 BUT it is 2-3 day delay (60%)
6. Meets criterion 1 BUT is 4-5 days late (40%)
7. Meets criterion 1 BUT is one week late (20%)
8. Failure to submit (0%)

*One in every four students will have their work checked for correct answers due to the large class size. By the end of the semester, however all students will have one study-guide checked for correctness. See policy on late work below.*

**Term Paper:** The class will be randomly divided into two subgroups (Group 1 and Group 2) for submittal of a term paper at two different deadlines. Each group’s paper will deal with the material covered in the first or second half of the semester, respectively. The paper contributes with 25% of the final grade.

There is no advantage of one group over the other in terms of time, since each will have one month to work on the paper from the date of the posting of the instructions till the due date to submit it. The paper will be turned in on class as a hard copy and submitted on Turnitin at a specified due date. The roster for each group, instructions for the paper, and grading rubric will be posted on Bb as soon as the class roster is finalized (after the add/drop date). The instructions cover required content questions to be answered, page length, number of references, citation format, presentation and grammar standards, and organization.

Abide by the rules of honesty when doing your paper. Plagiarism will not be tolerated (see below for policy on academic honor and honesty).

**Exams:** There are three exams in the semester; two “midterm” and the final. Each midterm exam covers the assigned material listed in the Course Outline below. All exams are a combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions. The final exam has
the same format but covers some specific issues of earlier themes previously seen in the course plus the last topics not yet evaluated by any previous exam.
Makeups are given only to students who demonstrate legitimacy for missing the work. Please see FSU policies for attendance below.

Each exam is worth 15% of the final grade or a total of 45% for all four exams. The term paper is 25% each; all three study guides are 20% and attendance is 10%
Regardless of content and format, all work is graded on a scale of 0-100.

The equivalent letter grade and parameters to grade your written work are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent, creative and superb command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Creative and outstanding command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Above average level but not outstanding grasp of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above average but thin understanding of some readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Above average but misses some parts of the readings and thus unable to apply subject matter at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Average level of achievement with some mastering yet narrow application of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average level of achievement; it refers to the readings in a way suggesting spotty understanding of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Close to average due to spotty understanding of the material and inability to apply readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Below average understanding, showing little knowledge of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below average level with multiple contradictory arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>Below average understanding thus failure to apply readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fails to understand and address the readings on the subject matter</td>
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At the end of the semester grades will be rounded up when decimals are 0.45 and above or rounded down when decimals are 0.44 and below.

All tests, paper grades and announcements will be posted on SYG3100-01 Blackboard. Notify your TA of any problems regarding your grades as early as possible. Make a habit of checking Bb and webmail daily to keep you informed about the class in addition to your class attendance.

*Talk to me or the TA when you need help as soon as the problem arises. Do not wait until the third month in the semester to request assistance.*
## COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/Activities</th>
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| 1-2  | Theory and Research on Marriage and Families. Families in History  
      Jan 10-17 | Cohen, Ch. 1, 2; R pp: 14-31, 36-55, 84-97,116-136; See  
      Bb/Course Library/Introduction to Sociology of Marriage and the  
      Family, Theories and Research. |
| 2-4  | Family Socialization: Race, Gender  
      Jan 19-31 | Cohen, Ch. 3, 5; R. pp: 98-113, 458-473, 570-592; Bb/Course  
      Library/Socialization |
| 4    | Submit answers to Study Guide #1 on SafeAssign by 11:59 PM  
      Feb 1    | Exam #1  
      Feb 2    | |
| 5    | Courtship and Dating -> Romance and Love Relationship?  
      Feb 7-9  | Cohen, Ch.6,7; R. pp: 149-163,187-191,196-197, 252-302,456-  
      457; Bb/Course Library/Courtship and Dating, Love Relationships |
| 6    | Singlehood, Cohabitation, and Marriage: Pros and Cons  
      Feb 14-16 | Cohen, Ch. 8; R. pp: 116-144, 149-160, 304-328,609-616;  
      Bb/Course Library/Marital Status |
| 7-8  | Children = Joy + Liability  
      Feb 17-Mar 2 | Cohen, Ch. 9; R. pp: 68-71, 137-144, 402-408, 426,550;  
      Bb/Course Library/Parenting |
| 9    | Submit answers to Study guide #2 on SafeAssign, by 11:59 PM  
      Mar 6    |  
      Mar 7    | Exam #2  
      Mar 9    | Submit Paper Group #1 on Turnitin by 11:59 PM  
      Mar 9    | Turn in a hard copy of Paper Group#1 in the classroom |
| 10   | Spring Break! |
| 11-12| Work and Families  
      Mar 21-30 | Cohen, Ch. 4, 11; R. pp: 518-549, 617- 647; Bb/Course  
      Library/Families at Work. |
| 13-15| Divorce and Remarriage  
      Apr 4-18 | Cohen, Ch. 10; R. pp: 232-235, 329- 357; Bb/Course  
      Library/Family Breakup, Blended families |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr 20</td>
<td>Submit Paper Group#2 on Turnitin by 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr 20</td>
<td>Turn in a hard copy Paper Group #2 in the classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>Family Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr 20-25</td>
<td>Cohen, Ch. 12; Bb/Course Library/Bb/Course Library/Family violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Apr 25-27</td>
<td>The Future of Marriage and the Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Apr 25-27</td>
<td>Cohen, Ch. 13; R. pp: 676-683; Bb/Course Library/Families in the Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Apr 27</td>
<td>Submit answers to Study Guide #3 on SafeAssign, by 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May 1</td>
<td>Exam #3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “…be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.”
(Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

ADA STATEMENT
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center 874 Traditions Way 108 Student Services Building
Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD) sdrc@admin.fsu.edu http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

FREE TUTORING from FSU
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

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.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES*
Missed assignments will be accepted IF and ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason (appropriate documentation is required as indicated below) for missing to turn in the assignment on the due date. It is your responsibility to turn in the assignment on the due date you resume class attendance along with the proper documentation; failure to turn in appropriate documentation incurs in non-acceptance of your assignment.

Midterm makeup exams will be given IF and ONLY IF there is a legitimate reason (appropriate documentation is required) for missing the test. It is your responsibility to notify me and the TA why you are not taking the test. Do so prior to, on, or immediately after the exam date.

In order to justify the absence from a test, students need to show documentation of its reason. This may include an obituary, court order, doctor-signed prescription/bill, or a document from an agency signed by a legitimate authority that fully describes the emergency causing the student’s missing the test. Turn in this documentation to the TA before taking the makeup exam. Contact the TA to learn about the date, time, and location of the makeup exam. The makeup exam may have a different format from the original i.e., essay questions.

INCOMPLETE GRADES
Incomplete (“I”) grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).

Student Conduct: My many years of college experience, both as student and instructor, have shown me that for the most part students are bright, good-natured and amiable toward others. In general you are expected to comply with the FSU Code of Conduct at all time while participating in FSU-related activities. Your behavior during class should be courteous, respectful and professional. In a nutshell, anyone who ignores my authority to protect the integrity of the classroom will be asked to cease his/her disruptive behavior, may be asked to leave the classroom, and/or drop the course.

Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.

http://e-soc.net/
All electronic devices not needed for the class are to be turned off BEFORE entering the classroom

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY:
It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form.

http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/grad/info/university_notices.htm