



**Sociology 357 - Sociology of Families
Spring 2019**

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Telephone: 206 409 1927 – this is my mobile phone number. Students tend to text me since this is the fastest way to get a response, but they also email and call all the time. Do not be shy about getting in touch.

Required Materials: Author: Seccombe, Karen; Title: Families and their Social Worlds, 3rd Ed. ISBN: ISBN-10: 0133936600| ISBN-13: 9780133936605

Welcome to our class about the sociology of family life. This examines the social institution of the family from historical, multi-cultural and contemporary perspectives. Examines the micro (interpersonal) and macro (societal, policy) approaches in studying the family. Topics include the social construction of the family, race/ethnicity, social class, gender, sexual orientation, social change and family policy.

ASSIGNMENTS - There are 3 Primary activities:

1. Quizzes: There will be two quizzes. See the Class Schedule (below) for the open and due dates. Each quiz is 15% of your overall grade. Both exams are short answer/multiple choice. You will have one try at them but 90 minutes to complete each. Late or early quizzes are acceptable with prior arrangement. Each will be open for four days. Once you begin a quiz, you must complete it. They are reviewable after they are taken.

2. Discussions: There are FIVE discussion assignments. Please participate actively in on-line discussions by reading the PowerPoints, assigned chapter readings, and viewing/listening to films and podcasts. Designed like mini-research

papers, and using APA citations and references as evidence, you are expected to respond to 5 questions or matters raised that come up during the weeks indicated in Canvas in addition to engaging in discussions with at least 3 of your class mates.

*Here's the tricky bit - I have already selected TWO for you to write about, but the remaining THREE are for YOU to choose. These may include responding to readings/films/radio assignments, questions in PowerPoints – Apart from the two questions I assign, **you can choose which you want respond to**. All this means you will have a total of 4 posts: 1 is your own primary post, and the remaining 3 are exchanges with others. Please post your responses to Discussions by the dates shown. Missing exchanges with others will result in 10% loss for each one that is not posted. Overall this participation is valued at **50%** of your grade.*

3. Socialisation Assignment: Valued at **20 percent** of your grade. See Assignments for details and sample paper.

Special Notices:

1. **All assignments are due by 9AM.** This includes discussions and quizzes. Late discussion assignments will not be graded as these are collaborative pieces of work and you have ample time to complete them. Exams always open Fridays at 7am and are open until the following Tuesday. Access shuts off at noon on the due date and exams that are still underway are automatically submitted.
2. **Extra credit assignments are unlikely to be available.** It causes grade inflation, lowers standards, and is unfair to students who get their work right the first time (most). Please work consistently throughout the quarter to earn your final grade. If there is something you don't understand, please ask me.
3. **Grading:** The grading rubric for written assignments is below and in Canvas. The more analytical and thoughtful your work, the better you will do. In discussions, answers that can simply be looked up will not do well. Look for topics to address that involve thought.
4. **It doesn't hurt to ask.** If you need special treatment due to extenuating circumstances, please ask me.

Winter 2019 Academic Calendar

Instruction begins 3 January
 Instruction ends 8 March
 Grades posted by 19 March

Class Schedule

Week	Week of	Topic	Readings	Addl. Info
1	1 Jan	History of marriages and families	Chap 1	<i>Readings: Please see Modules for each week's additional readings</i>
2	7 Jan	Gender issues family challenges	Chaps 2, 3	Discussion 1 due by 9AM on 9 Jan. Responses to others due 11 Jan. Covers material from weeks 1 & 2.
3	14 Jan	The faces of love	Chap 4	
4	21 Jan	Sexuality and lifestyles	Chaps 5, 6	Discussion 2 due by 9AM on 23 Jan. Responses to others due 25 Jan. Covers material from weeks 3-4.
5	28 Jan	Mating and marrying	Chaps 7, 8	Quiz 1 opens 1 Feb at 7am – covers material from weeks 1-5.
6	4 Feb	Communicating	Chaps 9	Quiz 1 due 5 Feb by 9AM Discussion 3 due by 9AM on 6 Feb. Responses to others due 8 Feb. Covers material from weeks 5-6.
7	11 Feb	Procreating, parenting parenthood, work	Chaps 10, 11	
8	18 Feb	Family life, coping with stressors	Chap. 12, 13	Discussion 4 due by 9AM on 20 Feb. Responses to others due 22 Feb. Covers material from weeks 7-8.
9	25 Feb	Violence; divorce	Chaps 14	

				26 Feb Socialisation Assignment due by 9AM.
10	4 Mar	Second families and ageing family members; The Life Cycle	Chap 15	Discussion 5 due by 9AM 6 Mar. Responses to others due 8 Mar. Covers material from weeks 9-end. Quiz 2 opens 8 Mar at 7am – covers weeks 6-end
11	11 Mar			Quiz 2 due 12 Mar by 9AM

Required Syllabus Content

Extension policy: In cases of serious illness or family emergency, please contact me in advance of a due date to discuss your situation. In the interests of fairness, extensions may or may not be given.

Academic dishonesty: Intellectual dishonesty is theft and will not be tolerated. Within the context of this class, it includes any form of unapproved help on an exam, or assisting someone to cheat in any way. Students who engage in such activities may be dismissed from the college as outlined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Disability Support Services: The college offers accommodations to qualified disabled students to ensure access to all programs and activities at the college.

Course Outcomes:

Critical thinking, understanding of diversity, writing clearly and developing student responsibility will be met in this class and is incorporated into the grading process.

1. Critical thinking means being able to not take things at face value, to consider all aspects of a problem or idea. It is a skill that is necessary in all disciplines, as well as in almost all life situations. It is especially valuable in times of strong emotionality.

How is this assessed?

- * by showing that you are curious, that you are evaluating your own thinking and supporting your opinions with fact (not just personal experiences)
- * by having intellectual humility....that means we begin by realizing we actually don't know everything and we are open to what others can teach us

2. Understanding diversity is also a necessity in almost all life situations, especially in a country like the United States, where our diversity is more pronounced than almost anywhere else in the world.

How is this assessed?

- * contributions to class discussions and in written work demonstrates a curiosity about others who are different from yourself
- * expressing respect to others, even in disagreement
- * demonstrating a growing understanding of the cultural factors that make us different from one another

3. Being able to write clearly is a valuable skill regardless of your career choice.

How is this assessed?

- * Making sure that written work is free from errors
- * Making sure that your answer fits the question!
- * No text-speak! Please write properly.

4. Responsibility.

How is this assessed?

- * coming to class on time and turning work in on time
- * turning off cell phones - no texting during class
- * being a respectful, contributing part of this learning community

Critical Thinking Rubric for Written Work:

Definition:

A critical thinker will question, search for answers and understanding, evaluate ideas and information, and develop and support meaningful conclusions.

Class Grading Scale

Default grading scheme

 [Select another scheme](#)

Name:

Range:

A

100 %

to 94.0%

A-

< 94.0 %

to 90.0%

B+

< 90.0 %

to 87.0%

B

< 87.0 %

to 84.0%

B-

< 84.0 %

to 80.0%

C+

< 80.0 %

to 77.0%

C

< 77.0 %

to 74.0%

C-

< 74.0 %

to 70.0%

D+

< 70.0 %

to 67.0%

D

< 67.0 %

to 64.0%

D-

< 64.0 %

to 61.0%

F

< 61.0 %

to 0.0%