

COURSE SYLLABUS



Course Title: Sociology and the Family

Course code: SOC 381/2

Semester and year: Spring 2017

Day and time: Wednesday, 8.15 – 11.00

Instructor: Vidhu Maggu, Ph.D., MBA

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Consultation hours: by appointment

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Intermediate
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	Intro to Sociology
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	PS, HSC, JC Elective

1. Course Description

This course examines one of the most important social institutions in our society, the family - a basic unit of society.

It is an introduction to the study of social and cultural foundations of family, its historical development, changing structures and functions; the interaction of marriage and parenthood.

The course aims to enable students to understand and deal with different life situations and new challenges that are shaping the family and marriage issues in the contemporary society.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the basic understanding of the institution of family and marriage, its historical development and the internal dynamics of family life from a sociological perspective.

Upon successfully completing this course the student will be able to

- Understand key concepts of the institution of family and marriage.
Understand major theoretical and methodological perspectives.
- Develop an ability to analyze a problem, synthesize an analytic discussion, present and justify an analysis orally and respond to criticism and queries raised by fellow students and the course tutor.
- Explain human behavior from a sociological perspective and be able to assess them in the context of their own setting.
- Demonstrate the appropriate level of competence in written expression as demanded by the discipline and as expected of an undergraduate student.
- Demonstrate the appropriate level of competence in library research as demanded by the discipline and as expected of an undergraduate student.

3. Reading Material

Required Materials

Required Materials (Available in the Library or to Download)

- Schwartz, M.A. & Scott, B.M. (2003) *Marriages and Families: Diversity and Change*, 6th edition, New York: Prentice Hall.

Recommended Materials:

Newman, D.M. & Grauerholz, L(2002) *Sociology of families*, 2nd edition, Sage Publications.

Hammond, R.J & Cheney,P (2010), *Sociology of the Family*

Link to online version: <http://pinxit.com/page101/page108/downloads-4/files/Sociology-of-the-family.pdf.pdf>

Other readings will be available on Neo.

Additional reading material will be discussed and distributed in the class & power point presentations will be available on the net.

Much of out of class communication will be done using Neo, including sending of articles, case studies, class notes etc.

4. Teaching methodology

The course will be taught by a series of lectures, in-class activities, quizzes, group work and discussion of specific reading materials. Students will read, watch, analyze and discuss a variety of text specific visuals to enable them to deal with real-life sociological predicaments.

This format aims to develop student's ability to analyze a problem, synthesize an analytic discussion, present and justify an analysis orally and respond to criticism and queries raised by fellow students and the course tutor.

5. Course Schedule**Topics Covered:**

Course will cover an overview of social theories in the field of family study; relationships within the family; marital roles; mate selection; parent-child relations; family patterns in various cultures; family dissolution and reorganization; the interplay between family and society across time and cultures.

Note: *This syllabus serves as a guide for the course and is subject to change, with student notification, to meet the needs of the course.

*Additional readings and related websites will be assigned throughout the semester

Date	Class Agenda
Feb.15th	Topic: Marriages and Families over Time Description: General overview of the course, different types of marriages families, functions of families Reading: Schwartz & Scott, Chap. 1 – Intro, PPT Assignments/deadlines: In-class Exercise
Feb. 22nd	Topic: Marriages and Families over Time t.b.c. Theoretical Perspectives Description: Looking at family from a historical perspective, Understanding different functions and theories of family. Reading: Schwartz & Scott, Chap. 2- Ways of Studying and Explaining Marriages and Families, PPT Assignments/deadlines: Groups prepare and present in class, the theory of family.
March 1st	NO CLASS

	Alternate arrangements will be made
March 8th	<p>Topic: Ways of Studying and Explaining Marriages and Families Description: Understanding various steps and the methods used for conducting research. Reading: Schwartz & Scott, Chap. 2- Ways of Studying and Explaining Marriages and Families, PPT Assignments/deadlines: Choose Team topic (for final team projects) and post requests for dates.</p>
March 15th	<p>Topic: Understanding Gender Description: Gender and it's influence in Intimate Relationships, PPT Reading: Newman, Chap.2- Gender and families, PPT Assignments/deadlines: Quiz.</p>
March 22nd	<p>Topic: The Many Faces of Love Description: Understanding the meaning, types and theories of love Reading: Schwartz & Scott, Chap.4,PPT Assignments/deadlines: Writing your own script: Social construction of reality.</p>
March 29th	<p>Topic: Dating, Coupling and Mate Selection Description: Mate selection from a historical and cross-cultural perspective. Reading: PPT Assignments/deadlines: Class Discussion-Debating Social Issues: To regulate or not, that is the question.</p>
April 5th	<p>Topic: Non-marital Lifestyles Description: An overview of the different non marital lifestyles Reading: PPT Assignments/deadlines: Teams meet to finalize project proposal.</p>
April 12th	<p>Topic: MIDTERM EXAM, The Marriage Experience Description: In Midterm, all chapters covered in class will be included in the written exam. The Marriage Experience: Change and continuity in the meaning of marriage, Marriage traditions and rituals. Reading: PPT Assignments/deadlines: Electronic and hard copy submission of the Project Proposal by each group.</p>
April 19th	MIDTERM BREAK - NO CLASS
April 26th	<p>Topic: The Marriage Experience t.b.c., Reproduction and Parenting Description: Fertility patterns worldwide and reproductive technology. Reading: Schwartz & Scott, Chap.9,PPT Assignments/deadlines: Pop Quiz on Marriage</p>
May 3rd	<p>Topic: Individual Presentation-SSP Description: Each student will make a three-five minute presentation followed by class discussion. More information will be provided in class Assignments/deadlines: Group presentation (PPT, Prezi) to be submitted electronically.</p>
May 10th	<p>Topic: Team Project Presentation, Evolving work and family structure... if time permits Description: Each group will make a 15 -20 minute presentation to the class on a topic mutually agreed. Reading: PPT Assignments/deadlines: Submit both electronic and hard copy of the (i) Selected take home Assignment and the Group Project Report.</p>
May 17th	Topic: Team Project Presentation, Revision

	<p>Remarriage and Remarried Families... if time permits</p> <p>Description: Each group will make a 15-20 minute presentation to the class on a topic mutually agreed.</p> <p>Reading: PPT</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Submit both electronic and hard copy of the Group Project Report.</p>
May 24th	<p>Topic: FINAL EXAM</p> <p>Description: Cumulative</p> <p>Reading: All topics and reading covered in the class.</p>

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Class Participation and Attendance	15	10%	Active and meaningful participation is expected. In-class activities will be assessed on either individual basis or group basis and will be marked according to student's ability to work together as a group and come up with a solution to the problem asked.	3
Group Project	30	20%	Students will work in small groups to give a presentation and demonstrate their ability to explain the studied topic to peers and identify key issues. Creativity and innovation are encouraged with regard to the facilitations! Handouts, visual aids, posters, slides, etc. will enhance the presentations and benefit the class	1 & 2
Individual Project	20	15%	An Individual Project to explain the selected family issue from a sociological perspective to the class. Students demonstrate presentation and analytical skills to explain the selected issue to the class and identify key issues and solutions. Detailed information will be provided in class/posted on net	1,2
Assignment and Quiz	20	20%	Homework will be assessed individually and will evaluate your comprehension of the week's	1

			reading.	
Midterm exam	25	15%	An in-class written examination to ascertain the extent to which key terms and basic concepts have been understood.	1
Final exam	40	20%	An in-class written examination to ascertain the extent to which key terms and basic concepts have been understood.	1
TOTAL	150	100%		

Course requirements include Team project, Individual project (SSP), Take home written assignment, Quiz, Mid-tem exam and a Final exam. Test format may be a combination of short answer exercise, essay questions covering all readings, lectures, hand-outs and class discussion content. More details regarding all assignments will be discussed in class.

7. Detailed description of the assignments:

Participation

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Analyzing the readings, raising questions, bringing discussion points, responding to questions and working as a team.	70%
Ability to express thoughts and discuss issues with peers in a scholarly manner	30%

Group Presentation

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Ability to identify and introduce a specific topic that is helpful to other students.	10%
Ability to explain clearly the studied topic to peers, addressing the most relevant points and covering the key points in Sociology of the family	30%
Ability to analyze and contextualize the topic in reference to the theoretical material covered in class, providing relevant citations	30%
Ability to show creativity and innovation with regard to the facilitations.	10%
Ability to stay within the provided time limit and work together as a team.	20%

Individual Assignment

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Ability to identify, write and discuss a relevant topic in Family and Marriage	20%
Ability to write and discuss a structured paper that is logically argued.	30%
Ability to analyze and contextualize the topic in reference to the theoretical material covered in class	30%

Ability to identify key aspects and solutions to the selected social aspect of family	20%
	10%

Short Response paper/Quizzes

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Ability to include original thoughts	20%
Ability to be reasoned and convincing	20%
Ability to demonstrate a critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis or valid arguments and relevant supporting detail	60%

Mid-term and Final Exam

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Ability to demonstrate a grasp of the major issues posed by the questions	20%
Ability to be reasoned and convincing by employing terms, concepts, and frames of reference from texts, lectures, and class participation	40%
Ability to demonstrate a critical understanding of material covered in class and in readings	40%

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

Electronic communication and submission

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS.

Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and shall have the course code in the subject.

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

Homework and In-class assignments

In-class assignments will be assessed on either individual basis or group basis and will be marked according to student's ability to work together as a group and come up with a solution to the problem asked.

Homework will be assessed individually and will evaluate your comprehension of the week's reading.

All assignments must be submitted both as hardcopy and electronically.

Required Readings

Read assignments on time. The lectures and class discussions are always based on the assumption that you already have understood the more elementary aspects of the readings. All assignments are to be submitted with a cover sheet indicating your name, a title of your work and the name of this course and must be stapled. All papers should be word-processed, 1.5 spaced and in a 12-point font.

Attendance

Attendance is required. The university recommends, as a minimal policy, that students who are absent 35 percent of the course should be failed (or administratively withdrawn from the course if the absences are excused).

Absence excuse and make-up options

Should the student be absent from a class for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he needs to submit an Absence Excuse Form supplemented with documents proving the reasons for absence to the Assistant Dean. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if they submit an Absence Excuse Form along with the finalized add/drop form. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of absence. If possible, it is recommended to inform the instructor about the absence in advance.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean are entitled to make up exams they missed provided that the nature of the exam allows for a make-up. The students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week from the date the absence was excused, and for making arrangements with the instructor about make-up options as necessary.

Unexcused absences

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Absences above this number may result in failure of the course.

Late work: No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines.

Electronic devices

Any electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may be used only for class-related activities (taking notes, looking up related information...). Any other use will result in being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. No electronic devices may be used during the tests. **Mobile phones** must be turned off during class (wait until the break).

Eating is not allowed during classes.

Cheating and disruptive behavior

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center

Plagiarism is "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin's White Paper 'The Plagiarism Spectrum' (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one's own previous work without citation; To self plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The "Aggregator" includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by and when: Vidhu Maggu, December 2016.

Approved by and when: School of Humanities and Social Sciences, January 2017