

SOCI/CHFD 4610
SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
SPRING 2009

Professor: Dr. N.L. Hollett

Office: 214A Baldwin Hall

E-mail: via Web-CT

Office hours: 10-11:00 Mondays and Wednesdays and by appointment

Phone: (706) 542-3190

TEXT:

Cherlin, Andrew J. (2008). *Public & Private Families: An Introduction* (5th ed.). McGraw Hill Higher Education: New York.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To explore the family
- To examine the concept of the public family: family's contributions to the societal welfare
- To gain an understanding of the nature of the American family in its present form(s)
- To be knowledgeable about historical changes in the form and function of the American family over time
- To understand the influence of social stratification such as gender, social class, and race
- To explore the consequences of conflict and disruption in family life
- To explore social and political issues involving the family and society
- To utilize scientific research to explore contemporary social issues, to critically evaluate personal positions, and to professionally present summaries of research-backed recommendations on controversial issues regarding the family.
- To be able to apply the knowledge gained in this class to your own experiences—past, present, and future—of family.

By enrolling in this course, you commit to...

- 1) come to class prepared to share ideas and discuss assigned readings. I encourage and welcome discussion, diversity of opinions, and critical thinking. Therefore, it is expected that you complete all readings by the assigned date and attend class regularly.
- 2) take three exams (two during the semester and one final exam) which will cover lectures and readings. You are responsible for all material in the text even if not discussed in class
- 3) Participate in collaborative group research projects and present findings to class.
- 4) Attend class and participate in class discussions. Excused absences will be handled by the Office of Student Affairs (<http://www.uga.edu/studentaffairs/about/faq.shtml#3>).
- 5) Complete in-class and out-of-class assignments that will be assigned throughout the semester. These activities will be counted for a portion of the course grade. Throughout the course, topics discussed in lecture and presented in the readings will be further explored through individual activities and small group activities that will be completed during selected lectures in or out of class. Because assignments build on material covered during class sessions and contribute to class participation, in-class assignments may not be submitted late by students who have missed class (except in cases of documented emergencies/excused absences).
- 6) Check Web-CT daily for information regarding the class
- 7) Abide by UGA's academic honesty policy. Detailed information about academic honesty at The University of Georgia can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>.

Course Outline*:

Week 1 Thursday January 9th
INTRODUCTION, SYLLABUS, & CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Week 2 January 12-16
SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY AND FAMILIES
Cherlin: Chapter 1, "Public and Private Families"

Week 3 January 21-23
No class January 19th - MLK
HISTORY OF THE FAMILY AND THEORY
Cherlin: Chapter 2, "The History of the Family"

Week 4 January 26-30
GENDER AND THE FAMILY
Cherlin: Chapter 3, "Gender and Families"
Xtra Credit: Write-Up of Interview w/ Older Person Due (see Web-CT for details)

Week 5 February 2-6
SOCIAL CLASS AND THE FAMILY
Cherlin: Chapter 4, "Social Class and Families"

Week 6 February 9-13
EXAM 1 February 9th (TEXT chapters 1-4 & class notes)**
RACE, ETHNICITY, AND FAMILIES
Cherlin: Chapter 5, "Race, Ethnicity and Families"

Week 7 February 16-20

SEXUALITY & SOCIETY

Cherlin: Chapter 6, “Sexualities”

Week 8 February 23-27

COHABITATION & MARRIAGE

Cherlin: Chapter 7, “Cohabitation and Marriage”

Week 9 March 2-6

WORK, FAMILIES, AND CHILDCARE

Cherlin: Chapter 8, “Work and Families”

SPRING BREAK March 9-13

Week 10 March 16-20

CHILDREARING

Cherlin: Chapter 9, “Children and Parents”

Week 11 March 23-27

Cherlin: Chapter 9, “Children and Parents” (cont.)

EXAM2 March 27 (TEXT chapters 5-9 & class notes)**

Week 12 March 30-April 3

GROWING OLD IN FAMILIES

Cherlin: Chapter 10, “The Elderly and Their Families”

Week 13 April 6-10

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Cherlin: Chapter 11, “Domestic Violence”

Week 14 April 13-17

DIVORCE

Cherlin: Chapter 12, “Divorce”

Week 15 April 20-24

Debate Presentations

Week 16 April, 27, 29, & 30 (Note that Thursday 4/30 is a Monday-schedule class date)

REMARRIAGE & BLENDED FAMILIES

Cherlin: Chapter 13, “Remarriage and Stepfamilies”

FINAL EXAM—See *Final Exam Schedule*

* The course syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

EVALUATION:

EXAMS (300 points)

There will be three exams (two exams during the semester and one final exam). Exams consist of multiple choice and written response questions and will be based on required readings and class lectures.

****Class Exam Policy**

Students **MUST** take all exams at the scheduled date and time. In the case of serious illness or emergency, students may request to take the missed exam (1 or 2) during the semester. Documentation is required.

Taking sides: Controversial Issues surrounding Families today (75 points)

You and a small group of classmates will research both sides of a contemporary family issue. Your group will create a 10-12 minute class presentation in which you will present both sides of the issue. Each member of the group will then lead a small group discussion pertaining to the issue.

See Web-CT for specific assignment guidelines and evaluation form

Leadership Assignments: (20 points)

Each student will have one of the following leadership opportunities: Video Clip presentation, Source Summaries, or Chair responsibilities.

See Web-CT for description and responsibilities associated with the leadership assignments

Participation (45 Points)

Attendance policy/ Participation points for Class Lectures:

Throughout the semester, topics will be explored through activities completed in-class or as homework assignments. Activities & assignments build on material covered during class sessions and contribute to class participation. Students who have missed class may not submit in-class assignments late. The participation grade will consist of attendance, class participation, small group participation, homework assignments, and possibly quizzes.

Extra Credit Opportunity: Students may participate in two of the following extra credit opportunities

INTERVIEW w/ Older Person (5 possible points)

See Web-CT for assignment guidelines. The write-up is due on January 30th. No late papers accepted.

Sociology Spring COLLOQUIA (5 possible points)

See Web-CT for colloquia topics, dates, and written assignment.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE DATE
Exam 1	100	2/9
Exam 2	100	3/27
FINAL	100	See final exam schedule
Participation: Attendance/Homework/ Projects	45	Throughout semester
Collaborative Presentation	75	varies
Leadership assignments: Source summary/Video Clip assignment/ Chair responsibilities	20	varies

Final Grade Breakdown:

A:	90-100%
B+:	87-89%
B:	83-86%
B-:	80-82%
C+:	77-79%
C:	73-76%
C-:	70-72%
D:	60-69%
F:	Below 59%

Academic Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

→ The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at:

<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

Final Exams

Final Exam Conflicts: University examination policy pertaining to students with three Final examinations scheduled on the same calendar day or two examinations at the same time. Students in this situation may petition an instructor to reschedule one exam at a different time. If one of the conflicting final examinations is a “mass” exam, then that examination should be rescheduled first. The policy providing for this, including links to the petition and what the student must include in it may be found at:

<http://www.curriculumsystems.uga.edu/FinalExamConflicts/FinalExamConflicts.html>

Student Needs

1. Any student with a disability who require accommodations or other assistance in this course should contact Dr. Hollett as soon as possible so that your needs can be met.

Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of student grievances. Any student registered for a Sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- (1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- (2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should then discuss the problem with the Head of the Sociology Department.
- (3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the student's satisfaction, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia. The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file at the Sociology offices, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations, and make a decision, in writing, with copies to the student complainant and the instructor involved. Any appeal of that decision must be to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.