

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Sociology
Family Seminar Soc. 904
Wednesday 2:00-4:35

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Office Hrs: M, W, 9:30-11:00 or appt.

Course Overview:

This seminar will focus on research pertaining to the study of family sociology. We will discuss how the family has changed over the last several decades, relevant theories to explaining families, and numerous issues that families face including family violence, parent socialization, divorce, re-marriage and step-families, intergenerational relations and so forth. We will also look at the literature that examines how individuals choose their mates. In addition to these readings, you will receive professional development training including being a discussant for a fellow student's paper, responding to their review of their paper, writing a research/critical review paper, and writing a short paper on one of the family theories discussed in class. You will also get to try out your presentation skills throughout the semester.

Required Readings:

Required readings for this class will consist of articles and a book of family theories listed in the schedule of assignments for each week. A copy of each article is available in the department of sociology. You will, of course, also need to read additional sources that you identify for your class paper.

Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted as a seminar. This means thorough preparation and attendance at each class meeting. A participation grade will be assigned to each student based on demonstration of completion of readings, contributions to the class discussion, and overall attendance. Each student will be expected to share leadership of the seminar by being prepared to present and discuss one to two articles per week. Articles will be assigned in class for next class session. This will count for 25% of your course grade. Average work for a graduate student is considered "B" work. Average participation means regular attendance, consistent preparation and readiness to present articles, and regular class discussion. An above average grade will be assessed on quality of your presentations. Below average grades will reflect lack of preparedness, or failure to present an assigned article.

You will need to write a short theory paper on one of the theories covered in the Klein and White book. Specific guidelines will be handed out later in the term. This short paper will count for 10% of your course grade and **will be due October 18th.**

It is expected that each student will prepare a critical literature review (including literature review, theory, hypotheses, etc.) or research paper, which he/she will present during one of the last two weeks of the semester (this time period may change depending on enrollment). The class paper should be 15-20 pages (both critical review or research paper). Do not go over this limit! The paper must be based significantly on readings and research materials that go beyond the course reading list. First, you will submit a 1-2 page prospectus that outlines the focus of the paper (worth 5% of your grade), identifies some key references and, if applicable, describes the data to be used in analyses. The prospectus is **due October 4th**. The complete paper will be worth 40% of your grade. Each student will serve as a discussant for one of the papers. The discussant will provide both a written (1-2 pages) and oral review of

a paper on the day that paper is presented. (A copy of the written portion will be given to both the student and instructor). You need to give your paper to the discussant at least one week prior to the presentation (i.e., one week prior to **November 15th.**). The role of discussant is worth 15% of your grade. You will also need to write a letter to me that explains how you addressed the discussants comments (or disagree with their comments) in your revised paper. Both of these tasks are important exercises in professional development and this is good training for when you submit your papers for publications to professional journals.

The final portion of your grade (5%) will involve an oral presentation (about 15 minutes) of the paper to the class. After the presentation, the student will then revise the paper based on the input of the discussant and the class discussion and submit **a final formal copy of the paper due December 6th during class time.** No late papers, please. Papers submitted after this date and time will be heavily penalized (i.e., the drop of at least one letter grade). **NO Recycled Papers!!**

Each of the course requirements will make up the following proportions of the final grade:

Overall participation score	25%
Prospectus	5%
Theory assignment	10%
Discussant role	15%
Paper	40%
Paper Presentation	5%

Disability concerns: If you need an accommodation for a disability for this class, have the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities contact me as soon as possible.

Read the university graduate bulletin regarding your rights and responsibilities as a UNL student.

Schedule of Class Sessions and Reading Assignments

Aug 23 **Introduction to Family Sociology**

Aug 30 **Family Theories**

Readings

Daly, K. (2003). Family theory versus the theories families live by. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 771-784.

Chapters 1-5

Klein, D. M., & White, J. M. *Family theories: An introduction*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Sept 6 **Family Theories Continued**

Readings

Chapters 6-9

Klein, D. M., & White, J. M. *Family theories: An introduction*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Sept 13 Mate Selection**Readings**

- Li, N. P., Bailey, J. M., Kenrick, D. T., & Linsenmeier, J. A. W. (2002). The necessities and luxuries of mate preferences: Testing the tradeoffs. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 82*, 947-955.
- Lichter, D. T., Anderson, R. N., & Hayward, M. D. (1995). Marriage markets and marital choice. *Journal of Family Issues, 16*, 412-431.
- Press, J. E. (2004). Cute butts and housework: A gynocentric theory of assertive mating. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 66*, 1029-1033.
- Schoen, R. & Cheng, Y. A. (2006). Partner choice and the differential retreat from marriage. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 68*, 1-10.
- Shackelford, T. K., Schmitt, D. P., & Buss, D. M. (2005). Universal dimensions of human mate preferences. *Personality and Individual Differences, 39*, 447-458.
- Sweeney, M. M. & Cancian, M. (2004). The changing importance of white women's economic prospects for assertive mating. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 66*, 1015-1028.

Sept 20 Family Diversity**Readings**

- Allen, K. R., Blieszner, R., Roberto, K. A., Farnsworth, E. B., & Wilcox, K. L. (1999). Older adults and their children: Family patterns of structural diversity. *Family Relations, 48*, 151-157.
- Coontz, S. (2000). Historical perspectives on family studies. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 62*, 283-297.
- Crowder, K. D. & Tolnay, S. E. (2000). A new marriage squeeze for black women: The role of racial intermarriage by black men. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 62*, 792-807.
- Rutter, V. & Schwartz, P. (2000). Gender, marriage, and diverse possibilities for cross-sex and same-sex pairs. In D. H. Demo, K. R. Allen, and M. A. Fine (Eds.), *Handbook of family diversity* (pp. 59-81). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Savin-Williams, R. & Esterberg, K. G. (2000). Lesbian, gay, and bisexual families. In D. H. Demo, K. R. Allen, and M. A. Fine (Eds.), *Handbook of family diversity* (pp. 197-215). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Smith, S. (1995). Family theory and multicultural family studies. In B. B. Ingoldsby & S. Smith (Eds.), *Families in multicultural perspective* (pp. 5-35). New York: Guilford Press.

Sept 27 Parenthood and Socialization**Readings**

- Baumrind, D. (1968). Authoritarian vs. authoritative parental control. *Adolescence*, 3, 255-272.
- Baumrind, D. (1996). Parenting: The discipline controversy revisited. *Family Relations*, 45, 405-414.
- Ceballos, R., Ramirez, C., Hearn, K. D., & Maltese, K. L. (2003). Community violence and children's psychological well-being: Does parental monitoring matter? *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 32, 586-592.
- Demo, D. H. & Cox, M. J. (2000). Families with young children: A review of the research in the 1990s. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62, 876-895.
- Pettit, G. S., Laird, R. D., Dodge, K. A., Bates, J. E., & Criss, M. M. (2001). Antecedents and behavior-problem outcomes of parental monitoring and psychological control in early adolescence. *Child Development*, 72, 583-598.
- Spera, C. (2005). A review of the relationship among parenting practices, parenting styles, and adolescent school achievement. *Educational Psychology Review*, 17, 125-146.

Oct 4 Economic Stress**Readings**

- Conger, R. D., Conger, K. J., Matthews, L. S., & Elder, G. H., Jr. (1999). Pathways of economic influence on adolescent adjustment. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 27, 519-541.
- Conger, R. D., Rueter, M. A., & Elder, G. H. (1999). Couple resilience to economic pressure. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 76, 54-71.
- Mistry, R. S., Vandewater, E. A., Huston, A. C., & McLoyd, V. C. (2002). Economic well-being and children's social adjustment: The role of family process in an ethnically diverse low-income sample. *Child Development*, 73, 935-951.
- Parke, R. D., Coltrane, S., Duffy, S., Buriel, R., Dennis, J., Powers, J., French, S., & Widaman, K. F. (2004). Economic stress, parenting, and child adjustment in Mexican American and European American families. *Child Development*, 75, 1632-1656.
- Sobolewski, J. M. & Amato, P. R. (2005). Economic hardship in the family of origin and children's psychological well-being in adulthood. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67, 141-156.

Oct 11 Marital Satisfaction**Readings**

- Amato, P. R., Johnson, D. R., Booth, A., & Rogers, S. J. (2003). Continuity and change in marital quality between 1980 and 2000. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 1-22.

Previti, D. & Amato, P. R. (2003). Why stay married? Rewards, barriers, and marital stability. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 561-573.

Rogers, S. J. & May, D. C. (2003). Spillover between marital quality and job satisfaction: Long-term patterns and gender differences. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 482-495.

Twenge, J. M., Campbell, W. K., & Foster, C. A. (2003). Parenthood and marital satisfaction: A meta-analytic review. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 574-583.

Waller, M. R. & McLanahan, S. S. (2005). "His" and "her" marriage expectations: Determinants and consequences. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67, 53-67.

Oct 18 Family Violence

Readings

Hoffman, K. L., Kiecolt, K. J., & Edwards, J. N. (2005). Physical violence between siblings: A theoretical and empirical analysis. *Journal of Family Issues*, 26, 1103-1130.

Horowitz, A. V., Widom, C. S., McLaughlin, J., & White, H. R. (2001). The impact of childhood abuse and neglect on adult mental health: A prospective study. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 42, 184-201.

Johnson, M. P. & Ferraro, K. J. (2000). Research on domestic violence in the 1990s: Making distinctions. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62, 948-963.

Onyskiw, J. E. & Hayduk, L. A. (2001). Processes underlying children's adjustment in families characterized by physical aggression. *Family Relations*, 50, 376-385.

Rossmann, B. B. R. (1999). Multiple risks for children exposed to parental violence: Family factors, psychological maltreatment, and trauma. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 2, 207-237.

Oct 25 Divorce

Readings

Amato, P. R. (2000). The consequences of divorce for adults and children. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62, 1269-1287.

Parke, M. (2006). Are married parents really better for children? What research says about the effects of family structure on child well-being. *CLASP Policy Brief*, 3, 1-7.

Simons, R. L., Lin, K. H., Gordon, L. C., Conger, R. D., & Lorenz, F. O. (1999). Explaining the higher incidence of adjustment problems among children of divorce compared with those in two-parent families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 61, 1020-1033.

Strohschein, L. (2005). Parental divorce and child mental health trajectories. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67, 1286-1300.

Willets, M. C. & Maroules, N. G. (2005). Parental reports of adolescent well-being: Does marital status matter? *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 43, 129-148.

Nov 1 Remarriage and Single Parent Families

Readings

Hetherington, E. M. (1999). Should we stay together for the sake of the children? In E. M. Hetherington (Ed), *Coping with divorce, single parenting, and remarriage: A risk and resiliency perspective* (pp. 93-116). New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

Gunnoe, M. L. & Hetherington, E. M. (2004). Stepchildren's perceptions of noncustodial mothers and noncustodial fathers: Differences in socioemotional involvement and associations with adolescent adjustment problems. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 18, 555-563.

Manning, W. D. & Lamb, K. A. (2003). Adolescent well-being in cohabiting, married, and single-parent families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 876-893.

Rodgers, K. B. & Rose, H. A. (2002). Risk and resiliency factors among adolescents who experience marital transitions. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 64, 1024-1037.

White, L. & Gilbreth, J. G. (2001). When children have two fathers: Effects of relationships with stepfathers and noncustodial fathers on adolescent outcomes. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63, 155-167.

Nov 8 Intergenerational Relationships and the Future of Families

Papers to Discussants this Week for Nov. 15th Presentations!

Readings

Bengtson, V. L. (2001). Beyond the nuclear family: The increasing importance of multigenerational bonds. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 63, 1-16.

Gibson, P. A. (2005). Intergenerational parenting from the perspective of African American grandmothers. *Family Relations*, 54, 280-297.

Goodman, C. C. & Silverstein, M. (2001). Grandmothers who parent their grandchildren. *Journal of Family Issues*, 22, 557-578.

Mueller, M. M. & Elder, G. H. (2003). Family contingencies across the generations: Grandparent-grandchild relationships in holistic perspective. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 65, 404-417.

Nov 8 Studying Families and the Future of Families

Readings

Hodder, H. F. (2006). The future of marriage: Changing demographic, economics, and laws alter the meaning of matrimony in America. In K. R. Gilbert (Ed.), Annual editions: The family (pp. 94-101). Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series.

Lewin, E. (2006). Does marriage have a future? In K. R. Gilbert (Ed.), Annual editions: The family (pp. 11-21). Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series.

Nov 15 Paper Presentations and Discussants

**Nov 22 Thanksgiving Break – No Class!!!
Papers to Discussants this Week (by Wed.) for Nov. 29th Presentations!**

Nov 29 Paper Presentations and Discussants

Dec 6 Papers Due During Class Time – Final Class – Pot Luck

Dec 13 No Exam – Papers will be handed back some time this week