

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Sociology
Family Seminar Soc. 904
Monday 2:00-4:30

Dr. Kimberly Tyler
717 Oldfather Hall
Phone: 472-6073

Email: kim@ktresearch.net
Web site: <http://www.ktresearch.net>
Office Hrs: M: 1:00-2:00; W: TBA 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, family theories, and numerous issues facing families including family and partner violence, parenthood and socialization, divorce, single parent families, intergenerational relations and so forth. We will also look at the literature that examines how individuals choose their mates. In addition to being a discussant for the weekly readings, you will receive professional development training including being a discussant for a student paper, responding to their review of your paper, writing a research/critical review paper, and honing your presentation skills.

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 article per week. You will need to type up a summary of the article and distribute copies to the class. Articles will be assigned in class for next class session. This will count for 30% 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.

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 toward the end of the semester. The class paper (either critical review or research) should be 15-20 pages. 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 5th**. 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 your presentation (i.e., **November 16th**). 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 when you turn 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 publication to professional journals.

The final portion of your grade (10%) will involve an oral presentation (about 15-20 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 7th 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	30%
Prospectus	5%
Discussant role	15%
Paper	40%
Paper Presentation	10%

Final Grade: Your grade will be calculated based on a percentage, not the actual numbers.

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 24 Introduction to Family Sociology

Aug 31 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 White, J. M., & Klein, D. M. (2008). *Family theories*. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Sept 7 Labor Day – No Class!!

Sept 14 Family Theories Continued

Readings

Chapters 6-10 White, J. M., & Klein, D. M. (2008). *Family theories*. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Sept 21 Mate Selection

Readings

Carmalt, J. H., Cawley, J., Joyner, K., & Sobal, J. (2008). Body weight and matching with a physically attractive romantic partner. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 1287-1296.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 28 Family Diversity

Readings

- Bratter, J. L., & King, R. B. (2008). But will it last?: Marital instability among interracial and same-race couples. *Family Relations*, 57, 16-171.
- Brumbaugh, S. M., Sanches, L. A., Nock, S. L., & Wright, J. D. (2008). Attitudes toward gay marriages in states undergoing marriage law transformation. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 345-359.
- 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.
- 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.
- Teachman, J. D., Tedrow, L. M., & Crowder, K. D. (2000). The changing demography of America's families. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62, 1234-1246.

Oct 5 Parenthood and Socialization

Readings

- Baxter, J., Hewitt, B., Haynes, M. (2008). Life course transitions and housework: Marriage, parenthood, and time on housework. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 259-272.
- Dribe, M., & Stanfors, M. (2009). Does parenthood strengthen a traditional household division of labor? Evidence from Sweden. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 71, 33-45.
- Goldberg, A. E., Downing, J. B., & Sauck, C. (2008). Perceptions of children's parental preferences in lesbian two-mother households. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 419-434.

Poehlmann, J., Schlafer, R. J., Maes, E., & Hanneman, A. (2008). Factors associated with young children's opportunities for maintaining family relationships during maternal incarceration. *Family Relations, 57*, 267-280.

Shanahan, L., McHale, S. M., Crouter, A. C., Osgood, D. W. (2008). Linkages between parents' differential treatment, youth depressive symptoms, and sibling relationships. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 70*, 480-494.

Oct 12 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.

Bryant, C. M., Taylor, R. J., Lincoln, K. D., Chatters, L. M., & Jackson, J. S. (2008). Marital satisfaction among African Americans and Black Caribbeans: Findings from the national survey of American life. *Family Relations, 57*, 239-253.

Kamp Dush, C. M., Taylor, M. G., & Kroeger, R. A. (2008). Marital happiness and psychological well-being across the life course. *Family Relations, 57*, 211-226.

Tach, L., & Halpern-Meekin, S. (2009). How does premarital cohabitation affect trajectories of marital quality? *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 298-317.

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

Oct 19 Fall Break – No Class!!

Oct 26 Violence within Families

Readings

Brown, S. L., & Bulanda, J. R. (2008). Relationship violence in young adulthood: A comparison of daters, cohabitators, and marrieds. *Social Science Research, 37*, 73-87.

Caetano, R., Ramisetty-Mikler, S., & Field, C. A. (2005). Unidirectional and bidirectional intimate partner violence among white, black, and Hispanic couples in the United States. *Violence & Victims, 20*, 393-406.

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.

Johnson, M. P., & Leone, J. M. (2005). The differential effects of intimate terrorism and situational couple violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. *Journal of Family Issues, 26*, 322-349.

Sorenson, S. B., & Thomas, K. A. (2009). Views of intimate partner violence in same- and opposite-sex relationships. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 337-352.

Nov 2 Divorce and Single Parent Families

Readings

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.

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

Teachman, J. D., & Tedrow, L. (2008). Divorce, race, and military service: More than equal pay and equal opportunity. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 70*, 1030-1044.

Usdansky, M. L. (2009). A weak embrace: Popular and scholarly depictions of single-parent families, 1900-1998. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 209-225.

Responses:

- Cherlin, A. J. (2009). The origins of the ambivalent acceptance of divorce. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 226-229.
- Thornton, A. (2009). Framework for interpreting long-term trends in values and beliefs concerning single-parent families. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 230-234.
- LaRossa, R. (2009). Single-parent family discourse in popular magazines and social science journals. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 235-239.
- Usdansky, M. L. (2009). Ambivalent acceptance of single-parent families: A response to comments. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 71*, 240-246.

Nov 9 Intergenerational Relationships

Readings

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

Bucz, F., van Wel, F., Knijin, T., & Hagendoorn, L. (2008). Intergenerational contact and the life course status of young adult children. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 70*, 144-156.

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.

Monserud, M. A. (2008). Intergenerational relationships and affectual solidarity between grandparents and young adults. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 182-195.

Nov 16 General Interest and Future of Marriage/Families

Papers to Discussants this Week for Nov. 23rd Presentations!

Readings

Cherlin, A. J. (2004). The deinstitutionalization of American marriage. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 66, 848-861.

Elliott, S., & Umberson, D. (2008). The performance of desire: Gender and sexual negotiation in long-term marriages. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 391-406.

Gordon, R. A., Kaestner, R., & Korenman, S. (2008). Child care and work absences: Trade-offs by type of care. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70, 239-254.

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.

Nov 23 Paper Presentations and Discussants

Nov 30 Paper Presentations and Discussants

Dec 7 Paper Presentations and Discussants
Papers Due During Class Time – Final Class – Pot Luck

Dec 14-18 No Exam – Papers will be handed back some time this week