

**Sociology of the Family SOC 2310**  
**William Paterson University, Winter 2019**

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**Course Description:**

This course focuses on current social changes affecting American families, with particular emphasis on the intersections of families with other social institutions and social inequality. We will first explore common assumptions about the "traditional family," comparing this image with a brief overview of historical facts about American family life over the past two centuries. We will then examine how macro forces and systems of social inequality shape my life. Then, we will analyze four current major transformations in American family life: the changing relationship between work and family life; new trends in dating, intimacy, and marriage; new patterns of parenting; and the increasing diversity of families. In our discussions of all of these topics, we will explore the social and political implications of these changes for men, women, and children, and for society.

**Course objectives:** This course will:

1. Introduce students to basic concepts, theories, and research methods used in sociology to study the family.
2. Analyze the impact of broader social, cultural, economic, and political changes on marriage, parenting, and the family.
3. Enhance understanding of how the diversity of family life is shaped by gender roles and expectations, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexuality
4. Raise awareness of current family issues and challenges.

**Required Texts:**

Zinn, M. B., Eitzen, D. S., & Wells, B. (2014). *Diversity in Families*. Tenth Edition.  
Allyn & Bacon Publishers. (9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE)

Other assigned news articles and blog posts are available online.

**Schoology.com:** Instead of Blackboard, we are using Schoology for this class.

**A quick guide to Schoology:**

**Homepage:** I will use the course homepage to post reminders and updates.

**Materials:** In the "Materials" menu, you can find links to course **assignments**, **resources**, and our **Discussion Board**.

**Discussion Board:** The Discussion Board is organized by topics. Please post your assigned postings, and free posts, in the related topic board.

**Calendar:** On the right hand side, there is a calendar of due dates with links to **assignments** and **readings**.

**Course Policies:**

As this is a short, online course, **no late postings or assignments will be accepted**. This is non-negotiable. If you fall even a day behind this course, your grade will suffer.

**Grammar and spelling count!** Be sure to carefully edit each assignment and posting to the online discussion. Spelling and grammar errors will significantly reduce your grade.

**Paper requirements:**

**Only word documents will be accepted (.doc or .docx format).**

**Assignments must be double-spaced and use 12 point standard font, with normal margin size (1 inch from each side).**

**Citing your work:** You are required to follow proper citation procedures for all assignments and online posting. If something is not your own original idea, it needs a citation. See the online Course Resources for more information on proper citation. **Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.**

**Grades:** Your final grade will be made up of the following:

50 pts total (5 pts each): 10 Free Choice Posts

50 pts total (10 pts each): 5 Assigned Posts

180 points (60 pts each): 3 Open-Book Exams

40 points: Final Analytic Paper

**Final Grade:**

**The grading for this course is:**

<b>A</b>	<b>93-100</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73-76</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-92</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70-72</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67-69</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>60-66</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>&lt; 60</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>		

**Assignments:**

- **Free Choice Posts:** Over the duration of the course, you are required to post 10 times to the discussion board. You may spread out your posts however you would like.

➤ **What counts as a post?**

A question, informed by the class material that you would like to pose to the class.

An answer, informed by the class material, to another student's question.

A link to a news article, blog post, image, video etc. that is related to that class material, and a description of how it is related.

➤ **What does not count as a post?**

Anything that is too brief ("I agree" or "good question" etc.). Your posts should be 50-100 words.

Anything that is not explicitly tied to course material.

- **Assigned Posts:** During the course, there are 5 assigned posts that you must complete and post to the discussion board. Assigned post details are listed in the course schedule. The length of the assigned posts will vary and instructions for each assigned post will be announced in Schoology.

- **Exams:** During the course, you will take 3 open-book exams. **These will be posted at 8 AM on the day of the exam, and must be submitted on Schoology by 11.59PM on the same day. You will have 2.5 hours to complete each exam.**

**Exam 1:** Sunday, December 30

**Exam 2:** Tuesday, January 8

**Exam 3:** Sunday, January 13

- **Analysis Paper:** There is one 4-5 page analysis paper due. The assignment is posted online.

**Monday, January 14:** Work/Life Choices paper due

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

Below course calendar can be modified at my discretion depending on how we progress during the semester.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; Tests</b>
<b>Introductions 12/26</b>	Introduce yourself online!!	Register for Schoology (I will send the instructions by email)
<b>What is Family? 12/26</b>	Chapter 1 "Images, Ideals, and Myths"	<b>Assigned Post 1:</b> What is a Family?
<b>Family History 12/27</b>	Chapter 2 "Preindustrial Families and the Emergence of a Modern Family Form"	
<b>Family Diversity 12/28</b>	Chapter 3: "The Historical Making of Family Diversity"	
<b>Macro Forces 12/29</b>	Chapter 4: "Families and the New Economic Realities"	
<b>12/30</b>	Exam will be available on Schoology at 8 am in the morning, and must be completed online by 11.59pm	<b>Exam 1</b>
<b>Family Inequality 01/02</b>	Chapter 5: "Families and Demographic Trends: The New	<b>Assigned Post 2:</b> Dividing Household Chores

	<p>Immigration and the Aging of Society"</p> <p>Konigsberg, Ruth D. "Chore Wars." Time Magazine, Aug.8. 2011.</p> <p>Dockterman, Eliana, "There's a Gender Pay Gap in Kids' Allowances and Parents are to Blame" Time Magazine, April 24, 2014.</p>	
<b>Intersectionality 01/03</b>	Chapter 6: "Class, Race, and Gender"	
<b>Work and Family Life 01/04</b>	<p>Chapter 7: "Meshing the Worlds of Work and Family"</p> <p>Miller, Claire Cain. "The 24/7 Work Culture's Toll on Families and Gender Equality." New York Times, May 28, 2015.</p>	
<b>Dating &amp; Intimacy 01/05</b>	<p>Chapter 8: "The Social Construction of Intimacy"</p> <p>Read and watch lecture: Wade, Lisa. "The Promise and Perils of Hook-Up Culture." <i>Sociological Images</i>. June 21, 2011.</p>	<b>Assigned Post 3:</b> Whatever Happened to Dating?
<b>Marriage 01/06</b>	<p>Chapter 9: "Contemporary Marriage"</p> <p>Coontz, Stephanie. "Economic disparity takes toll on marriage" <i>The Philadelphia Inquirer</i>. Jan 9, 2011.</p> <p>Infographic: The New American Family. GOOD: Culture.</p>	
<b>Raising Children 01/07</b>	<p>Chapter 10: "Parents and Children"</p> <p>Belkin, Lisa. "The Evolution of Dad." <i>The New York Times Motherlode Blog</i> June 16, 2010.</p>	
<b>01/08</b>	Exam will be available on Schoology	<b>Exam 2</b>

	at 8 am in the morning, and must be completed online by 11.59pm	
<b>Children and Consumer Culture 01/09</b>	<p>Braisted, Monica. "Care Bears vs. Transformers: Gender Stereotypes in Advertisements." <i>The Socjournal</i>. Feb 17. 2010.</p> <p>Watch: "Consuming Kids"</p> <p>Chapter 11: "Violence in Families"</p> <p>Hernandez, Daisy. "The Violence of a Recession." <i>Colorlines</i>. March 31, 2010.</p>	<b>Assigned Post 4:</b> Childhood and Consumerism
<b>Divorce and Remarriage 01/10</b>	<p>Chapter 12: "Divorce and Remarriage"</p> <p>Thomas, Susan G. "The Good Divorce." The New York Times. Oct. 28, 2011.</p>	<b>Assigned Post 5:</b> Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage
<b>Changing Families 01/11</b>	<p>Chapter 13: "Emergent Families in the Global Era"</p> <p>Park, Alice. "Study: Children of Lesbians May Do Better than Their Peers." June 7, 2010.</p> <p>Arnold-Gordon, Evan. "My Two Dads" April 30, 2014.</p>	
<b>Family Policy 01/12</b>	Chapter 14: "Family Policy for the Twenty-First Century"	
<b>01/13</b>	Exam will be available on Schoology at 8 am in the morning, and must be completed online by 11.59pm	<b>Exam 3</b>
<b>01/14</b>		<b>Analysis Paper: Work/Family Choices</b>

## **Academic Integrity**

Students should govern themselves according to William Paterson University's policy on academic integrity, found at <https://www.wpunj.edu/human-resources/faculty-and-professional-staff-handbook/academic-integrity-policy-for-students.html>. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The Professor is obligated to report such conduct to the Dean of Students.