Sociology 213: Sociology of the Family
Meets: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:00-10:50 AM.
Professor: Sabino Kornrich, skornrich@emory.edu
Office Location and Hours: Tarbutton 229, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00
TA: Stephanie Miedema, stephaniemiedema@emory.edu
Office Location and Hours: Tarbutton 112B, Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:00

About this course:
Families are a contentious topic in the contemporary United States. Families have been seen as a “haven in a heartless world,” as a solution to social problems, and some politicians have worried about the decline of the American family. In this course, we will begin by asking what counts as families, and what we think should count as families. We will then take up the question of how families have changed over time, what families do, and processes that go on within families. Taking this course will give you a broader perspective on American families and, to some extent, families around the world.

The course also asks you to reflect on your own family. You will interview members of your family and consider how their experiences reflect broader social patterns covered in the course. You will then use this material, along with photos or other media to construct a webpage. Using these tools will allow you to depict a family experience and show how it relates to materials we have discussed in the course.

Grades:
The largest portion of the class work for this course will be keeping up with the readings and being ready to discuss them in class. To check your comprehension and completion of the readings, there will be 12 short quizzes at the beginning of Tuesday classes that cover the reading from the previous week (including the reading for Tuesday). Each quiz will have 5 short-answer or multiple-choice questions. These quizzes will each count for 2 points of your final grade. In addition, you will be responsible for writing 4 position papers out of 5 total that will draw from the readings to make arguments about the topics in a unit of the course.

Turn-in and late policies for the quizzes and paper. Papers should be turned in, printed out, the day of class when they are due. The late policy is that each day late will lower your grade by 10%. This will be waived in the case of an emergency or a medical absence.

Finally, as a semester-long project, you will construct a set of web pages that showcase your own family story and tie this story to the themes from the course and course readings. In order to do this, you will do interviews with your family, construct a narrative, and build web pages. The course will feature instruction in interview design and interviewing, as well as introductory web page design and construction.
Summary:

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<thead>
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<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>x 2</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>x 6</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website</td>
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<td>x 50</td>
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**Disability Statement**
Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor(s) with an accommodation notification letter from Access, Disabilities Services and Resources office. Students are expected to give two weeks’ notice of the need for accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to meet with instructor(s) as soon as your accommodations have been finalized.

**Emory Honor Code:** The Emory University honor code applies fully to this course. When you sign an exam or submit your assignments, you are pledging to the honor code. For reference, please consult: [http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policy/honor_code.html](http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policy/honor_code.html)

**Books:**
- Ansari, Aziz and Eric Klinenberg. *Modern Romance*.
- Coontz, Stephanie. *The Way We Never Were*.
- England, Paula and George Farkas. *Households, Employment, and Gender*.
- Hamilton, Laura. *Parenting to a Degree: How Family Matters for College and Beyond*.
Schedule

Week One (Aug 22-26)
Tuesday  No class

Thursday  Introduction to the Course

Friday  Defining the family
- Class Activity: Which of these are families?

Week Two (Aug 29-Sep 2)
Tuesday  Defining the family
- Powell et al. *Counted Out* chapters 1-3
- Add/drop ends (Wednesday)
- Quiz 1

Thursday  Defining the family
- Powell et al. *Counted Out*, chapter 4

Friday  Defining the family
- Powell et al. *Counted Out*, chapter 5

Week Three (Sep 5-9)
Tuesday  Defining the family
- Powell et al. *Counted Out*, chapters 6 and 7
- Class discussion: what counts as a family?
- Position paper 1 due: What is a family?
- Quiz 2

Thursday  Family Transformation
- England and Farkas, *Households, Employment and Gender*, Chapter 1 (short)

Friday  Family Transformation
- Strasser, Susan. *Never Done*. Prologue and Chapter 1 (*ONLINE*)

Week Four (Sep 12-16)
Tuesday  Family Transformation
- Quiz 3
Thursday    Family Transformation

Friday     Family Transformation
- Cherlin, Andrew. “A Happy Ending to a Half-Century of Family Change?” (online)
- Position paper 2 due: What are the biggest transformations in the American family?

Week Five (Sep 19-23)

Tuesday    Family Formation
- Ansari & Klinenberg: *Modern Romance*, Chapters 1 and 2
- Quiz 4

Thursday Family Formation
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Friday     Family Formation
- Ansari & Klinenberg: *Modern Romance*, Chapters 3 and 4

Week Six (Sep 26-30)

Tuesday    Family Formation
- Ansari & Klinenberg: *Modern Romance*, Chapters 7 and Conclusion
- Position paper 3 due: Family formation (what are the causes or consequences of changes in patterns of family formation)
- Hand-out instructions for signing up for web domain
- Quiz 5

Thursday Family Processes (Exchange)
- England & Farkas: *Household, Employment and Gender*, Pages 51-101
- E-mail completed web domain sign up

Friday     Family Processes (Norms)
- Gupta (online)
- Bianchi et al. (online)

Week Seven (Oct 3-7)

Tuesday    Family Processes (Justice)
Thursday  Family Processes (Social scientists don’t believe in love)
- Fowler, Ana Carolina. “Love and Marriage: Through the Lens of Sociological Theories”. (online)
- Re-read England and Frkas, pages 31-40.

Friday  Brainstorming: Family Stories
- Reading: https://storycorps.org/great-questions/ (online)
- In-class discussion about family interviews

Week Eight (Oct 10-14)
Tuesday  No class (Fall break)

Thursday  1/2 class goes to web tutorial, 1/2 goes to meeting with TA for full-group class discussion of interview techniques
- Hand-out: Instructions for interview questions and interviewees

Friday  1/2 class goes to web tutorial, 1/2 goes to meeting with TA for full-group class discussion of interview techniques
- Hand-out: Instructions for interview questions and interviewees

Week Nine (Oct 17-21)
Tuesday  Family Processes (conflict)
- READING TBA (online)
- Turn in list of completed interview questions and proposed interviewees
- Quiz 7

Thursday  Family Processes (sex)
- Kornrich, Brines and Leupp. “Egalitarianism, Housework, and Sexual Frequency.” (online)

Friday  Family Processes
- Position Paper: What processes are most important in families?

Week Ten (Oct 24-28)
Tuesday  Inequality between Families
Quiz 8

Thursday  Inequality between Families
   • Altintas

Friday  Inequality between Families
   • Ramey and Ramey. The Rug Rat Race. (online)

Week Eleven (Oct 21-Nov 4)

Tuesday  Inequality between Families
   • McLanahan and Percheski. “Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities.” (online)
   • Quiz 9

Thursday  Inequality between Families
   • Hamilton, Laura. Parenting to a Degree. 1-46

Friday  Inequality between Families
   • Hamilton, Laura. Parenting to a Degree. 47-118

Week Twelve (Nov 7-11)

Tuesday  Intergenerational Processes
   • Hamilton, Laura. Parenting to a Degree 119-161.
   • Quiz 10
   • Interview summary (persons, length of interview) turned in

Thursday  Intergenerational Processes
   • Hamilton, Laura. Parenting to a Degree 162-186.

Friday  Same-Sex Families
   • Carrington, Chris. No Place Like Home. 3-28.

Week Thirteen (Nov 14-18)

Tuesday  Same-Sex Families
   • Carrington, Chris. No Place Like Home. Chapters 1 & 5.
   • Quiz 11

Thursday  Same-Sex Families
   • Regnerus, Mark. 2011. “How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study.” (online)
• http://www.regnerusfallout.org/
• Cheng and Powell. 2015. “Measurement, methods, and divergent patterns: Reassessing the effects of same-sex parents.”

**Friday**  
**Same-Sex Families**
- Carrington, Chris. *No Place Like Home*. Chapters: Conclusion.
- Position Paper: Are same-sex families different?

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**Week Fourteen (Nov 21-25)**

**Tuesday**  
Class Cancelled

**Thursday**  
No class (Thanksgiving)

**Friday**  
No class (Thanksgiving)

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**Week Fifteen (Nov 28-Dec 2)**

**Tuesday**  
Family story presentations

**Thursday**  
Family story presentations

**Friday**  
Family story presentations

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**Week Sixteen (Dec 5-Dec 9)**

**Tuesday**  
Family story presentations (Last day of class)

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Final Online Projects due date of final: Friday, December 9.