

## **Sociology 213: Sociology of the Family**

Meets: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:00-10:50 AM.

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Office Location and Hours: Tarbutton 229, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00

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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:

Quizzes:	11	x	2 points=	22	
Papers:	4	x	6 points=	24	
Website:	1	x	50 points=	50	(total)
Presentation:	1	x	4 points=	4	
Total:				100 points	

**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*.

Carrington, Chris. *No Place Like Home: Relationships and Family Life among Lesbians and Gay Men*.

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*.

Powell, Bohlzental, Geist, and Steelman. *Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definitions of Family*, 3rd Edition

## **Schedule**

### **Week One (Aug 22-26)**

**Tuesday**      **No class**

**Thursday**      **Introduction to the Course**

**Friday**          **Defining the family**

- Coontz. *The Way We Never Were*, Chapter 1.
- 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**

- Coontz. *The Way We Never Were*, Chapter 2.
- 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**

- Cowan, Ruth. *More Work For Mother*. Chapters 3 & 4.
- Quiz 3

**Thursday      Family Transformation**

- Coontz. *The Way We Never Were*. Chapter 4.

**Friday          Family Transformation**

- Goldscheider, Bernhard, and Waite. "The Gender Revolution: A Framework for Understanding Changing Family and Demographic Behavior." (online)
- 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**

- England & Farkas: *Households, Employment, and Gender*, Pages 19-51.
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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)**

- Baxter, Janeen. 2000. "The Joys and Justice of Housework." (online)

- Perales, Baxter, and Tai. 2015. (online)
- Quiz 6

**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**

- Kornrich & Furstenberg. "Investing in Children: Changes in Parental Spending on Children, 1972–2007." (online)

- 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?

Week Fourteen (Nov 21-25)

**Tuesday      Class Cancelled**

**Thursday      No class (Thanksgiving)**

**Friday      No class (Thanksgiving)**

Week Fifteen (Nov 28-Dec 2)

**Tuesday      Family story presentations**

**Thursday      Family story presentations**

**Friday      Family story presentations**

Week Sixteen (Dec 5-Dec 9)

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

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