

SOC 213: Sociology of the Family

Fall 2022 – Revised

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:45 pm

Location: Math and Science Center E208

Instructor: Dr. Megan Reed

Office: Tarbutton Hall 112A

Office Hours: Mondays from 10:30 am to 12 noon and Tuesdays from 4-5 pm or by appointment

(Email me if you would prefer to meet outdoors or on Zoom, otherwise we will meet in Tarbutton Hall 112A.)

Email: mnreed@emory.edu

Course description and objectives

This course is designed to challenge you to think about family in new ways by exposing you to sociological approaches to understanding the family as a social institution. Over the course of the semester, you will learn about how the family intersects with other social structures and inequalities such as those by social class, gender, sexuality, and race. In addition, you will learn about patterns of family change over time and the diversity of family forms and practices found around the world.

The objectives of this course are to:

1. Develop an understanding of how family life intersects with other social structures and identities
2. Read and critically assess sociological research on the family
3. Learn and be able to discuss the broad trends and patterns in family life within the US and globally.

Required texts

The textbook for this course is:

The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change

Third Edition

Phillip N. Cohen

2021

This book is available as an e-book, in loose-leaf format, or as a hard-copy book. The E-book can be purchased for only \$41.95 at this website: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393537314> Purchase of the hard-copy textbook also comes with access to the e-book. You may rent or buy the book through a 3rd party vender such as Amazon, but please make sure that you get the 3rd edition as older versions may not contain all of the same content. A copy of the textbook has also been made available in the library through the Course Reserves program for your use and reference. If you have any trouble accessing the textbook, please reach out to me via email.

In addition to the textbook, there will be other assigned readings. These readings will be accessible via this course's Canvas webpage.

Assignments and Grading

Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

Participation and attendance	6%
Reading comprehension quizzes (10 over the semester)	20%
3 media analysis writing assignments	24%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Participation and attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and engage in active class participation. Active class participation means that you should be paying attention in lectures as well as actively engaging in class discussions and in-class activities.

If you must miss class for some excusable reason such as an illness or family emergency, please inform the Teaching Assistant via email **BEFORE** the class. I also advise you to get notes from the class missed from a peer. Attendance will be taken in every class via a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure that you sign-in each day. **More than three unexcused absences will impact your grade.** You can keep track of your attendance on Canvas. Do not wait until the end of the semester to reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation and attendance grade.

Weekly reading comprehension quizzes

It is important that you complete all readings assigned for the week by Tuesday's class. In order to help guide your reading and check your comprehension of the material, you will be asked to complete (almost) weekly quizzes on Canvas. You must complete each quiz before class on Tuesdays (by 1:59 pm). The quizzes are not timed and you are allowed to use your textbook, the other readings, and any other material while completing the quiz. Though these quizzes are "open-book," you are not allowed to copy answer from your peers. The quizzes will contain a mix of multiple-choice, fill-in the blank, and short answer (write a few sentences) questions and will be based only on the readings assigned for that week. Occasionally the quiz will cover material from the previous week when there was no quiz that week. Each quiz will only contain a few questions and, if you completed the readings, should not take too long to complete. These quizzes are designed to help prepare you for the exams by ensuring that you are mastering each week's material.

Media analysis writing assignments

Over the course of the semester, there will be three short writing assignments. For each assignment, students will be asked to analyze the depictions of family life in a film or advertisement. In 4-6 pages double-spaced, you should provide an analysis that references the theories, concepts, and trends discussed in the class with citations to the texts. More details will be provided in class and on Canvas about each assignment.

Assignment 1

Analysis of Tide Laundry Detergent ads through the years (commercials and/or print ads)

Due October 4

Assignment 2

Analysis of immigrant family life as depicted in one of the following recent films:

- *The Farewell* (2019)
- *Minari* (2020)
- *Tigertail* (2020)

Due October 27

Assignment 3

Analysis of family dynamics associated with arranged marriage as depicted in *A Suitable Girl* (2017)

Due November 17

Exams

The two exams are aimed to test your comprehension of the concepts, terms, and debates covered in the assigned readings, assignments, and class lectures. The exams will contain a mix of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, short answer, and short essay questions. The midterm exam will take place in class and will cover all material up to that point in the semester. The final exam will take place during finals week and will be cumulative though it will focus on material learned since the midterm. More details about the exams will be shared later in the semester.

The dates for the exams are:

Midterm Exam: **October 6** (in class)

Final Exam: **December 8** (3-5:30 pm, location TBA)

Please write down the dates of the exams now and make plans to be in class on those days. There will be no make-up exams except in the case of extenuating circumstances such as an emergency.

Policies and Procedures

Office hours and communication during the semester

The Teaching Assistant and I have set aside time each week for office hours, a period of time for meeting with students regarding this class. Students are encouraged to come to office hours to clarify any concepts, assignments, or other course-related issues. If neither of my office hours work for your schedule, you may email me to schedule another time to meet.

You are welcome to email me with any questions you have during the semester. I will try to respond to emails within two business days of receiving them. Please direct questions regarding your attendance grade directly to our TA and cc me on the email.

We will use Canvas for this course. This is where you will find the readings and assignments. Please regularly check the Canvas page for updates.

Technology use

Please refrain from using your mobile devices in class. I strongly encourage students to take notes on paper rather than using a laptop as research suggests that hand-written notes improve retention of the information. If you do use your laptop in class, it should be used only for notes or referencing the readings and not for surfing the internet or responding to email or chat messages. Students using their laptops to surf the internet during class may lose points on their participation and attendance grade.

Late assignments and make-ups

Please make a note of all assignment deadlines as well as quiz and exam dates and inform me in advance if you anticipate a scheduling conflict. Late assignments and quizzes will only be accepted on a case-by-case. In addition, all late assignments and quizzes will be docked points and will not be accepted more than two weeks after the original deadline so do not wait until the end of the semester to request permission to submit an assignment late. Make-up exams will only be allowed in rare cases such as a family emergency. Please reach out to me early if there is something going on in your life which is impeding your ability to complete your work for this course.

Academic integrity and code of conduct

Students should familiarize themselves with the Emory's Code of Conduct and Honor Code especially as it pertains to academic integrity and respect in the classroom. Cheating or plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated. Remember, you are responsible for understanding and recognizing what constitutes plagiarism. I am happy to answer any questions or provide clarification in office hours regarding the definition of plagiarism. Read Emory's Honor Code here: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

Accessible learning

I strive to make this course accessible to all students. If you require academic accommodation, please register with Emory's Department of Accessible Services (DAS) within the first few weeks of class. For more information about these services see <https://accessibility.emory.edu/>

Other campus resources

There are a wide range of resources available to students on campus including those aimed at improving your academic success as well as your overall well-being and mental health. For example, students are able to access free mental health care including 24-hour support through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (<https://counseling.emory.edu/>). In addition, the Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.emory.edu/>) is a great resource for receiving one-on-one advice related to writing for class projects or papers. I encourage you to learn about these resources and make use of them during your time at Emory. Learn more here: <http://campuslife.emory.edu/support/index.html>

Changes to the syllabus

The information in this syllabus, especially the course schedule and readings listed below are subject to change. Updates to the syllabus, if necessary, will be posted to Canvas.

Course schedule and readings

Week	Topic	Readings (Cohen refers to textbook, all other readings will be posted on Canvas)	Class meeting dates	Quizzes, exams, discussion, and assignment due dates (quizzes and assignments due before class)
1	Overview of the course		Thurs. Aug. 25	
2	What is the family and how do sociologists study it?	Cohen Chapter 1 <i>New York Times</i>	Tues. Aug. 30	
			Thurs. Sept. 1	
3	History of the family	Cohen Chapter 2 Coontz 2004	Tues. Sept. 6	Quiz 1
			Thurs. Sept. 8	
4		Cohen Chapter 5	Tues. Sept. 13	Quiz 2
			Thurs. Sept. 15	
5	Gender and family	Daminger 2020	Tues. Sept. 20	Quiz 3 on Daminger 2020; Class discussion on Daminger
	Social class and the family	Cohen Chapter 4	Thurs. Sept. 22	
6			Cohen Chapter 4	Tues. Sept. 27
	Lareau 2002		Thurs. Sept. 29	Class discussion on Lareau 2002
7	Global family change and diversity	Thornton 2001	Tues. Oct. 4	Assignment 1 due; class discussion on Thornton 2001
	MIDTERM		Thurs. Oct. 6	Midterm Exam in class
8	FALL BREAK		Tues. Oct. 11	NO CLASS
	Race, ethnicity, immigration and the family	Cohen Chapter 3	Thurs. Oct. 13	
9		Cohen Chapter 3	Tues. Oct. 18	Quiz 5 on Cohen 3
	Dow book chapter	Thurs. Oct. 20	Class discussion on Dow	
10		Cohen Chapter 7	Tues. Oct. 25	Quiz 6 on Cohen 7
		Watch Tedtalk "Dating is Dead"	Thurs. Oct. 27	Assignment 2 due
11	Dating, cohabitation, and marriage	Cohen Chapter 8	Tues. Nov. 1	Quiz 7 on Cohen 8
		Cherlin 2004	Thurs. Nov. 3	Class discussion on Cherlin 2004
12		Cohen Chapter 9	Tues. Nov. 8	Quiz 8 on Cohen 9
		Randles book chapters	Thurs. Nov. 10	
13	Fertility and parenthood	Randles book chapters	Tues. Nov. 15	Quiz 9 on Randles
		Cohen Chapter 10	Thurs. Nov. 17	Assignment 3 due; Class discussion on Randles book
14	Divorce, re-partnering, and blended families	Cohen Chapter 10	Tues. Nov. 22	
	THANKSGIVING		Thurs. Nov. 24	NO CLASS
15		Cohen Chapter 11	Tues. Nov. 29	Quiz 10 on Cohen 11
		Brinton and Oh 2019	Thurs. Dec. 1	
16	Families and work	Brinton and Oh 2019	Tues. Dec. 6	Class discussion on Brinton and Oh 2019
	FINAL EXAM		Thurs. Dec. 8	Final Exam (time and location TBA)