

SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILY - YISS 2021

Professor Leslie Paik

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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The family is an integral institution in society. Families provide the context in which individual lives unfold: they foster deep emotional ties to others and shape how we view and engage in relationships and our lives. In this sense, families are “private institutions.” Families also play a role in the greater society: in addition to serving as a major agent of socialization for our children and taking on the responsibility for the elderly, they also contribute to generating and perpetuating social inequalities (e.g., racial, gender, class) through the different roles placed upon the individual family members and the life chances those families have. In this sense, families are “public institutions” that matter for society as a whole.

This course will examine families as both private and public institutions from a sociological perspective. The course’s major goals are to learn about differences in family structure over time and to challenge our own assumptions about families. While the focus will be on the United States, research about families in other countries in Europe and Asia will be discussed as well.

COURSE MATERIALS

There will be a course reader available on YSCEC.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is mandatory. If you come in late (10 minutes+), your attendance will not be counted for that day but you are still required to attend. Also, you are expected to read the assigned chapters/articles listed underneath the lecture

date prior to class so that you can participate fully in the discussions. *Any student caught cheating on the exams/presentation will automatically receive an F in the course.* Your grade will be based on the following:

- Course participation: 15%
- Midterm: 35%
- Group presentation: 20%
- Final: 30%

CHEATING POLICY

Any student caught cheating on the exams will automatically receive an F in the course. Any student who is caught plagiarizing will automatically fail that assignment. In addition, these rules will be followed in this class:

1. No use of cell phones or any electronic devices during exams.
2. No leaving the classroom until you finished your exam.
3. No plagiarism on the group presentation.

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source.
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source.
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source.
- Finally, Internet plagiarism includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, and "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week 1: The Family – private and public realms

June 29: Overview of course

June 30: History of family

1. William Goode, Theoretical Importance of Family
2. Selections from Stephanie Coontz (1993) *The Way We Never Were & the Nostalgia Trap*

July 1: The public and private realms of family

1. Giddens, Global revolution in Family and Personal Life
2. Janet Giele, Decline of the Family: Conservative, Liberal and Feminist Views

Week 2: Family and the State

July 5: Family and Institutions

1. Selections from Fernandez-Kelly, Patricia. 2015. *The Hero's Fight: African Americans in West Baltimore and the Shadow of the State*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

July 6: Welfare

1. Selections from Edin, Kathryn and Laura Kefalas. 1997. *Making Ends Meet*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
2. Selections from Hays, S. 2003. *Flat Broke With Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform*. Oxford University Press

July 7: Family and Economy

1. Selections from Cooper, Marianne. 2014. *Cut Adrift: Families in Insecure Times*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

July 8: Family and Law

1. Selections from Abrego, Leisy. 2014. *Sacrificing Families*. Stanford University Press
2. Skinner, Denise and Julie Kohler. 2002. "Parental Rights in Diverse Family Contexts: Current Legal Developments." *Family Relations*

Week 3: Changing Family Structures

July 12: Youth; Gay and Lesbian Families

1. Stacey, J.& Biblarz, T. (2001). (How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter? *American Sociological Review* 66, n.2 :159-83.
2. Mintz, S. Beyond Sentimentality: American Childhood as a Social & Cultural Constraint

July 13: Adoption/Surrogacy

1. Jones, Maggie. Why a Generation of Adoptees Is Returning to South Korea. *NY Times Sunday Magazine*. 1/14/15
2. Kuczynski, Alex. Her Body, My Baby. *NY Times Sunday Magazine*. 11/30/08

July 14: Midterm review

July 15: Midterm

Week 4: Cohabitation/Marriage, Divorce and Parenting

July 19: Marriage/Cohabitation

1. Judith Seltzer - Cohabitation and Family Change
2. Sabatelli, Ronald and Karen Ripoll. Variations in Marriage Over Time: An Ecological/Exchange Perspective
3. Pasley, Kay and Brad Moorefield. Stepfamilies: Changes and Challenges

July 20: Marriage/Cohabitation and Class

1. Andrew Cherlin. The Real Reason Why Richer People Marry. NY Times. Dec. 6, 2014
2. Selections from Edin, K. & Kefalas, M. 2005. *Promises I Can Keep*
3. Qian, Z. 2005. "Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America". *Contexts*

July 21: Divorce

1. Coontz, S. 1997. "Putting Divorce in Perspective." *The Way We Really Are*
2. Amato, Paul. Divorce in Social and Historical Context: Changing Scientific Perspectives on Children and Marital Dissolution

July 22: Parenting

1. Selections from Lareau, Annette. 2003. *Unequal Childhoods*
2. Selections from Villalobos, Ana. 2014. *Motherload: Making it all better in Insecure Times*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Week 5: Family and Work

July 26: The Mommy Wars

1. Slaughter, Ann-Marie. 2012. "Why Women Still Can't Have It All." Atlantic Magazine July/August 2012
2. Selections from Sandberg, Sheryl. 2013. *Lean In*

July 27: Mastering the Balancing Act

1. Selections from Hochschild, Arlie. 2012. *The Second Shift*. Revised ed. NY: Penguin
2. Selections from Hondagneu-Sotelo, P. 2007. *Domestica: Immigrant Workers Cleaning and Caring in the Shadows of Affluence*.

July 28: The Father's Perspective

1. Selections from Coltrane, S. (1996) *Family Man: Fatherhood, Housework and Gender Equity*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2. Cohen, Andrew. 'Having It All'? How About: 'Doing The Best I Can'? Atlantic Magazine. June 27, 2012
3. Selections from Fernandez-Kelly, Patricia. 2015. *The Hero's Fight: African Americans in West Baltimore and the Shadow of the State*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

July 29: Class presentations

Week 6: Family Violence and Wrap-up

August 2: Domestic Violence

1. Park, Gum Ryeong, Eun-Ja Park, Jina Jun and Nam-Soon Kim. 2017. "Association between intimate partner violence and mental health among Korean married women." *Public Health* 152: 86-94.
2. Martinez, Pilar Rodriguez and Huzefa Khalil. 2017. "Changing Values: Attitudes about Intimate Partner Violence in Immigrants and Natives in Five Western Countries." *Deviant Behavior* 38 (3): 241-253

August 3: Child Abuse

1. Excerpts from Reich, Jennifer. 2005. *Fixing Families: Parents, Power, and the Child Welfare System*. Routledge.

August 4: Course Wrap-Up and Review

August 5: Final