

Southern Illinois University
Course Syllabus
Sociology 304i – 3 hrs. Credit
Families in Global Perspective

Instructor: Kristie Perry, kristieyp@yahoo.com or kristiey@siu.edu

Class Time/location: M/W/F 12:00-12:50 Parkinson 108

Office: Faner Hall 3421

Office Hours: M/W 8:45-11:45 or by appointments

Contact Number: 618-453-7618 or 662-230-7330

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Leeder, Elaine, 2004, *The Family in Global Perspective: A Gendered Journey*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
2. Other Supplemental Readings distributed in class.

GENERAL:

GOALS: Families in Global Perspective (hereafter FGP) raises questions about the causes and consequences of variations in family patterns among the societies around the world. This course will use historical, theoretical, and comparative perspectives to better understand the diverse and changing nature of family life in the United States and other parts of the world. We will only occasionally touch on domestic life in the USA.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should be able to: (a) demonstrate knowledge of family life in other areas of the world in a comparative context; (b) inquire independently and write about issues in family life around the world (e.g., Globalization, Female circumcisions); and (c) understand the economic structure in societies (i.e. healthcare, welfare).

INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF THE COURSE: FGP brings together materials from several disciplines. Descriptions and typologies of family life come from anthropology, history, demography, and sociology. Theories include structural-functional theory from anthropology and sociology; human sociobiology, which is grounded in biological evolutionary theory; and conflict theories from sociology--including some marxism and feminism. While we know quite a bit about the ways in which families vary around the world, there is debate among the diverse perspectives in trying to explain these patterns of family life.

Course Outline

Exams: This course will include two exams each worth 100 points. The exams will cover lecture notes, chapter readings, and supplemental readings. Exams will be take-home. Students are required to work independently without copying or plagiarizing others work or opinions. Exams are due on the due date and are deducted one letter grade per day it is late. Students that require special assistance on the exam must take care of arrangements the first two weeks of class. All examinations will be essay and must be typewritten or word-processed double-spaced, and in standard 12 point fonts (times new roman, arial).

Sociological debate requirements: Students must participate in a Sociological debate addressing issues discussed in the global families' course. The debating assignment will be issued the first day of class and assignments will be issued the first two weeks of class. If you are not present to receive your topic, it is your responsibility to have a topic assignment no later than **September 4, 2009**. This will be a group project and students will utilize class time for preparation of their debates. Each student is responsible for independent research related to their topics. Each student must also complete a position paper on their topics (see handout). The debate projects must be completed by **October 5, 2009**. This project is worth 100pts 50% for debate and 50% for a position paper. For additional information see (*Debate Assignment grading procedures and requirements issued Day 1 of class*).

Debate Topics:

Is Globalization a Positive Trend for Family Life?

Do Sexually Egalitarian Societies Exist?

Should Sociologists and Anthropologists Work to Eliminate the Practice of Female Circumcision?

Is immigration a Problem in Developed Nations?

Are Arranged Marriages a Good Tradition?

Should we Accept Alternatives to Monogamous, Heterosexual Marriage?

Should Divorces be Difficult to Obtain (as they are in many other societies)?

Should spanking a child be illegal (as it is in many countries)?

Interview

Each student must conduct an in-depth interview with someone from another country, and write a report based on the interview. The Interview assignment will be issued day one of class. The interview plan is due **October 30, 2009** and the assignment is due **November, 30th2009**. This assignment includes an interview with someone willing to tell you about their family life and a 3-5 page write up (see assignment sheet). Late papers will be deducted one letter grade per day it is late. This assignment is worth 100pts.

Grading

Grades will be based on points accumulated on two exams, one interview, written and verbal debate, and attendance.

		Grading Scale:
Assignments		405-450 = A
2 exams	100 pts each	360-404 = B
1 debate	100 pts	315-359 = C
1 interview	100pts	270-314 = D
Attendance	50pts	270- below= F

Attendance Policy: You should attend class regularly. Moreover, you are responsible for finding out about information you missed in lectures, announcements, and updates on assignments, etc, even if you have excused absences. Attendance will be taken in the form of in class activities or through class roster. Class attendance is worth 50pts of your total grade. Strive to be on time for each class. *Entering late is rude and disruptive, as are noises from cell phones and iPods. Turn them off before entering the classroom.* If attendance drops off, pop quizzes will be given.

Cheating Policy: The Department of Sociology strongly recognizes the honor policy held with in the university. Students will receive a grade of zero (0) on plagiarized or copied work. Students will also receive a zero (0) if they are caught cheating on an exam.

All questions or concerns about grades or class material may be addressed with the instructor.

Course Schedule

August 24-28. *Introduction: Leeder Chapter 1: Focusing on the Family.*

August 31-September 4. *Leeder Chapter 2: Defining Families in Global Terms* **Must have a topic assignment.**

September 7-11. *Leeder Chapter 3: Theories on the Family*

September 14-18. *Leeder Chapter 4: The History of the Family in the United States*

September 21-25. *Leeder Chapter 4 cont.* **Work on Group Debate Projects.**

September 28- October 1. *Leeder Chapter 5: History of the Family in the Semiperiphery and Periphery.* **Work on Group Debate Projects**

October 5-October 9. **Presentation of Group Debate Projects. Position Paper due October 9**

October 12-16. *Chapter 6: Gender and the Family*

October 19- **Review and Final Exam distributed. No class October 21. Exam 1 due October 23.**

October 26-October 30: *Chapter 7: Race, Class, Ethnicity, Caste, and Family Life.* **October 30th interview plan is due.**

November 2-November 6: *Chapter 8: Intimate Relationships: Love, Marriage, and Their Dissolution.*

November 9-November 13: *Chapter 9: Intergenerational Relationships*

November 16-November 20: Chapter 9 cont.: November 20th No class work on Interview

November 23-November 27-Thanksgiving Break

November 30-December 4th *Chapter 10: Violence and the Family* **November 30th Interview paper is due.**

December 7-11th: *Chapter 11: The Future of the Family in Global Perspective.*

December 14th Review and distribute Final exam. ***Due in my Mail box Friday December 18th 2:50p.m.***

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

Class Expectations

Come to class having read all the required readings and ready to participate in class discussions. Pop Quizzes will be given based on class overall knowledge of material.

Absolutely no texting or talking during class. **You will be asked to leave.** Turn your cell phones off.

No Laptops or other technology unless you have written permission from Disability Support Services.

(parts of this syllabus was adopted by Sociology professor Chris Wienke, Ph.D. Southern Illinois University.)

Emergency Procedures. Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and health environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.