

Sociology of Family

Course Number: SOC 340, Section 1

Instructor: Kristina Dzara

Contact Information: The best way to reach me is by e-mail (kdzara@siu.edu). I check my e-mail frequently and will return messages as soon as possible. Please check all e-mails for grammar and spelling.

Phone: 618-453-2494

Office: Faner 3429

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:15am – 12:15pm

Class Time and Room: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00am – 9:15am, Faner 1326

Textbook: Schwartz, Mary Ann and BarBara Marliene Scott. 2007. *Marriages and Families: Diversity and Change (Fifth Edition)* New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

- A copy of the textbook is available at the Morris Library course reserve desk.
- A companion website with chapter objectives and self-assessment materials is available at http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_schwartz_diverchang_5/
- Additional readings are required and may be added throughout the semester. The readings are available through the Morris Library online course reserves:
<http://library.ilcso.illinois.edu/sic/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=rbSearch>

Course Assumptions: Because this is an upper-level undergraduate course, I assume that all students are dedicated to attending often and completing the requirements of the course. I also assume that all students are able and willing to obtain readings from Morris Library, through both the online course reserves and academic journal sources (such as SocINDEX, Academic Search Premier, and JSTOR). Finally, all students are expected to regularly check both their SIU e-mail and ‘Blackboard.’

Purpose of Course: This course surveys the evolving norms of union and family formation, including cohabitation and marriage in the United States. This course covers the history of marriages and families, the influence of gender on intimate relations, and the debate between marital decline and marital resilience scholars. Specifically, we examine sexual expression, dating, cohabitation, marriage, parenting, divorce, and remarriage. This course is presented with a strong research emphasis. Students are exposed to current sociological research and are expected to read and begin to understand recent research in the field of family sociology.

Course Objectives: Upon the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Display basic knowledge of contemporary union formation
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to read and have an introductory understanding of published journal articles
- 3) Engage in critical thinking about the dialogue emerging from different perspectives pertaining to marriage and family
- 4) Apply sociological concepts from personal and life experience to analyze family as a social structure that must be understood to enhance the common good

Sensitive Topics: All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a scholarly environment. This class will explore sensitive topics. When discussing any topic in the class, please remember to speak to the class as a whole, not to one student in general. If any topic upsets you, please discuss it with me at my office hours so that we can talk through the issue. Any personal attack on the instructor or another student in the class will NOT be tolerated. Diverse and alternate viewpoints are encouraged and accepted in this class.

Plagiarism and Honesty: Soliciting, receiving, or obtaining help during the administration of an exam or quiz is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will result in a score of 0 for that exam or quiz. (http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)

Withdrawal Schedule: <http://registrar.siu.edu/records/pdfrec/sp08calschedsched.pdf>

University Holidays:

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: Monday, January 21st
Spring Vacation: Saturday March 8th – Sunday March 16th

Taping: The course MAY NOT be audio or videotaped without the instructor's express consent.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:

To meet the expectations of this course, persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations are encouraged to bring this to my attention as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first week of the semester along with a request for special accommodations. Contact the SIU Disability Support Services (DSS) to facilitate requests:

Woody Hall B-150, Carbondale, IL 62901, Mail Code: 4705
DSSsiu@siu.edu Ph: (618) 453-5738 Fax: (618) 453-5700 TTY: (618) 453-2293

Emergency Procedures:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy 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 the BERT'S website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines 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.

Assignments, Examinations, Grading, and Attendance

Examinations: Examinations make up 40% of your final grade. There are two examinations in this course: a mid-term and a final. Taking a late exam will not be permitted without a written excuse from a relevant University official or doctor. Please contact me immediately if you have an emergency and will not be present for a scheduled test. Those who need special consideration for a disability or extracurricular activities may make up the exam with proper documentation. It is your responsibility to schedule a mutually beneficial time to take the test. Materials from the lectures, book, and readings will be covered in the exams, which may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and/or essay questions. The exam dates are listed in the “class schedule” section of the syllabus.

Assignments and Quizzes: Assignments and quizzes make up 50% of your final grade. Both assignments and quizzes may be in-class or take-home. Unless instructed otherwise, all assignments should be in Times New Roman, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins.

- The assignment worth the most points (100) is the journal article assignment. Each student is expected to thoroughly read and understand one journal article during the course of the semester. Students will sign up for their journal article during the first week of class. After familiarizing themselves with their article, students are expected to draft a one-page annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography should be clear and succinct, providing the reader a quick and accurate synopsis of the articles’ purpose, hypotheses, methods, variables, findings, and conclusions. On the week that a student’s journal article is discussed, the student is expected to bring copies of the annotated bibliography to class to disperse to all classmates and the instructor. Each student is also expected to discuss the article with the class for five minutes. The student will be graded on all aspects of the assignment. Failure to bring the annotated bibliography to class on the first day of the assigned week or to discuss the article will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment. A sample annotated bibliography will be provided to all students the first week of class.
- Up to 5 other take-home assignments or quizzes will require no more than 4 pages of writing and may involve internet, book, and library research and/or personal experience or observation. The take-home assignments will be worth up to 30 points each. Any take-home assignments that contain more than one sheet of paper are required to be stapled – they will NOT be accepted paper clipped or folded in the corner.
- Ten in-class assignments or quizzes will require responses to the day’s activity or assigned readings. In-class assignments will be worth 5 points each. In-class assignments will be unannounced and will occur sporadically throughout the semester.
- Assignments may be made up with a note from a relevant University official or doctor. Late take-home assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 2 points per late class period. Assignments more than 2 class periods late will not be accepted.

Attendance:

Attendance counts for 10% of your final grade (50 points). All students are allowed to miss up to four classes over the course of the semester, for any reason, without discussing the absences with the instructor. Starting with the fifth class missed, five points will be deducted from the 50 available attendance points:

- 1 to 4 class periods missed: 50/50
- 5 class periods missed: 45/50
- 6 class periods missed: 40/50
- 7 class periods missed: 35/50
- 8 class periods missed: 30/50
- 9 class periods missed: 25/50
- 10 class periods missed: 20/50
- 11 class periods missed: 15/50
- 12 class periods missed: 10/50
- 13 class periods missed: 5/50
- 14 or more class periods missed: 0/50

Grading:

Your final evaluation will be determined by the total number of points you accumulate this semester. Grades are calculated out of 500 available points.

Two examinations worth 100 points each: 200 points

Journal article assignment: 100 points

Take-home assignments and quizzes: 100 points

In-class assignments and quizzes: 50 points

Attendance: 50 points

Total points available = 500 points

- A = 450+
- B = 400-449
- C = 350-399
- D = 300-349
- F = 299 and below

Class Contact Information

I encourage you to obtain the name, phone number, and e-mail of least three students in this class in case you are absent and need to obtain class information or notes.

Class Schedule

NOTE: *Italics indicates the reading is available through library course reserve.*

Week 1 Jan 15, 17	Syllabus Distribution, Class Policies, Class Introduction Assignment of Journal Article and Presentation Date Chapter 1 (Marriages and Families over Time) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 22, 24	Finish Chapter 1; start Chapter 2 (Ways of Studying and Explaining Marriages and Families) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 2 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 1</i>
Week 3 Jan 29, 31	Finish Chapter 2 (Ways of Studying and Explaining Marriages and Families) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 2
Week 4 Feb 5, 7	Chapter 3 (Understanding Gender: Its Influence in Intimate Relationships) and Chapter 4 (The Many Faces of Love) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapters 3, 4
Week 5 Feb 12, 14	Chapter 5 (Dating, Coupling, and Mate Selection) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 5
Week 6 Feb 19, 21	Chapter 6 (Sexuality and Intimate Relationships) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 6 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 5</i>
Week 7 Feb 26, 28	Chapter 7 (Living Single, Living with Others, Nonmarital Lifestyles) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 7 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 4</i> <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 6</i>
Week 8 March 4, 6,	Test Review and Test #1 Test #1 Review: March 4th Test #1: March 6th (Chapters 1 – 7)
Week 9 March 11, 13	SPRING BREAK

Week 10 March 18, 20	Chapter 8 (The Marriage Experience) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 8 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 7</i> <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 8</i>
Week 11 March 25, 27	Chapter 9 (Reproduction and Parenting) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 9 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 10</i>
Week 12 April 1, 3	Chapter 10 (Evolving Work and Family Structures) and Chapter 11 (Power, Abuse, and Violence in Intimate Relationships) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapters 10, 11
Week 13 April 8, 10	Chapter 12 (The Process of Uncoupling: Divorce in the United States) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 12 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 15</i>
Week 14 April 15, 17	Chapter 13 (Remarriage and Remarried Families) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 13 <i>Knox and Schacht: Excerpts from CH 16</i>
Week 15 April 22, 24	Chapter 14 (Marriages and Families in Later Life) Readings: Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 14
Week 16 April 29, May 1	Chapter 15 (Marriages and Families in the Twenty-First Century: U.S. and World Trends) TEST #2 Review: May 1st Schwartz and Scott: Chapter 15 <i>Knox and Schacht: Epilogue</i>
May 6	Final Exam: Test# 2 (Chapters 8 – 15) Tuesday, May 6th, 7:50am – 9:50am