

SOCY/WMST 3016: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY IN THE U.S.
Summer 2007 – Term A

Class: M-F 2:30-4:05 in ECON 205

Instructor: Ali Hatch

Email: Alison.Hatch@colorado.edu (best way to contact me)

Office: Ketchum 8

Office Hours: I will be available after class most days. If this does not work for you, I'll be happy to schedule another time.

Required Texts:

1. Skolnick, Arlene S. and Jermone H. Skolnick (Eds), 2007. *Family in Transition, Fourteenth Edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
2. Hatch, Alison. Course Packet Summer 2007.
3. E-Reserve articles accessible through Norlin online at <http://libraries.colorado.edu>. Articles can be retrieved under the "reserve lists" link.

Optional Text: (see extra credit opportunity)

4. Kingston, Anne. 2004. *The Meaning of Wife*. New York: Picador.

The textbooks and the course packet are available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore.

Course Description & Organization:

This course is designed to examine marriage and the family in the U.S from a sociological perspective. We will look at how marriage and family are fluid constructs, transforming and evolving over time. As the majority of families currently do not fit the "nuclear" model, special emphasis will be placed on the various realities of people's lives and how they differ from cultural ideals.

This class will primarily utilize a discussion format. A good deal of the learning will take place through critical analysis and discussion of the course readings and lecture material. It is important that people come to class both prepared and willing to engage with the material. Some of the topics in this course can be controversial. Feel free to disagree with each other and with your instructor, just be sure your disagreements are handled in a respectful manner.

Please note that the University of Colorado officially states that, "an undergraduate student should expect to spend approximately 3 hours per week outside of class for each credit hour earned." In a summer course, this translates to over five hours a day.

Expectations and Required Classroom Decorum:

- As this course is on an accelerated summer schedule, you will be assigned reading almost every day. It is imperative that you do not get behind in your reading and I will expect that you come to each class having read the material assigned for that day.

- If you are absent, please do not approach me for missed notes. I recommend that you ask another student to provide you with any missed relevant information. If you miss a film, I recommend you visit Norlin's Media Library – as long as the film is not checked out, you may watch it there.
- If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services by the end of the first week of class. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact them either by phone at 303-492-8671 or on the Web at www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices
- Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in University sanctions. Please note that plagiarism (presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own) is considered cheating. While you are encouraged to study with your peers, you must turn in your own work at all times.
- Please feel comfortable approaching me if you have questions or concerns about any aspect of the course. I am happy to discuss questions you may have in class, after class, or via email.
- It is important that everyone feels comfortable taking part in class discussions. Please remember to respect your peers and your instructor, even (especially!) if you disagree with them. No one should feel as though they are being personally attacked over something they express in class, no hurtful comments or insults, no interrupting, etc. Part of respecting your fellow peers is learning how to accept different viewpoints and life choices without making judgments about them or their behavior. Additionally, if you feel as though you will be unduly uncomfortable with specific course material (including videos or guest speakers), please let me know beforehand so we can make alternative arrangements.

Grades: Your final grade is calculated out of a total of 1000 points. How the grade breaks down is discussed below. You may choose to do one extra credit project, the details of which are below.

Participation/Attendance: 70 points

Please think of this class as a community in which you play an important role. As a community, EVERY member (you, your peers and your instructor) is an integral part of the learning process. In other words, your instructor is not alone in this room, please participate and share in the project of making everyone's voice a valuable contribution. Based on this philosophy, I will be grading everyone on her or his contribution to a productive learning environment. This means active involvement in the course and no disruptive behavior (e.g., side conversations). Everyone starts the class with thirty-five points; I will take points away throughout the session if you engage in disruptive behavior, if you fail to come to class on a regular basis, or if you fail to contribute to class discussions. I will add to your original thirty-five points if you attend class regularly and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions. Though I will not be taking roll, please keep in mind that I will get to know and recognize you, and that I will be able to remember your general trends in attendance and participation. I will take all of this into account when assigning this portion of your grade. If you do not feel as though you will be comfortable speaking in class, the alternative is to visit with me personally a few times throughout the course.

Listserv 10 points:

You are required to subscribe to and be responsible for all information disseminated by means of the course email list. This list is used by the instructor to provide information that is applicable to the course (e.g., daily journal topics), and can be used by the class as a forum for group discussion. In order to receive credit, please subscribe to the list by June 6th. Subscription directions are as follows:

Address an e-mail to listproc@lists.Colorado.EDU with the subject line blank. In the message body write the following: (do not include the <>'s)

subscribe summer-3016@lists.Colorado.EDU <first last name>

So, for example, I would write the following in the message body in order to subscribe to the list:

subscribe summer-3016@lists.Colorado.EDU Alison Hatch

Be sure to check to see if you received enrollment confirmation.

Journal/ "Mini Papers": 420 points

As opposed to a more formal paper, the writing for this class will be in the form of guided journal entries. Some journal entries require you complete an exercise or mini-research project, others ask you to respond to a certain prompt or question. Almost every day (except for Fridays), I will email the journal topic to the listserv – thus, it is very important that you sign on to the list. While there will be a total of 14 journal topics, only 12 will count towards your grade. I will drop your lowest, or missing, 2 grades. Each entry is worth 35 points. No one may skip the first or last journal entry.

The topic I assign is designed to coincide with the information that we are discussing at that time, thus you should do the assigned reading for that day *before* composing your journal entry. Your daily writing needs to be kept together in a thin folder (not a three ring binder). You will turn in all entries *in class* (even those that have been previously graded) on their due dates and I will return them to you on the following Monday. Your journal due dates are as follows:

Friday, June 8th

Friday, June 15th

Friday, June 22nd

Friday, June 29th

Thursday, July 5th

I do not accept late journals. Thus, if you fail to turn in your journal on the above days, all journal entries for that week will receive a zero. If you cannot come to class to turn in your journals, find someone who can bring it in for you. Journals need to be handed to me in class – do not put them in my box. Journals absolutely cannot be emailed to me.

Your journal entries do not need to be in the style of an academic paper. In other words, you do not need an introduction, thesis, conclusion, etc. However, I do expect college level writing. This means the use of proper grammar, complete sentences, good spelling, etc. Additionally, you need to cite all sources used and/or referenced to in your journal. In grading the entries, I will be looking for thoughtful reflection, application of course materials, completion of exercise (if applicable) and coherence. The journals themselves

are private communications between yourself and the instructor. As such, I hope that you will challenge yourself to submit personally introspective and honest entries.

Your entries must be typewritten, handwritten entries will not be accepted. Each entry needs to be at least one FULL typewritten page (double spaced, 12-point font). I expect that many of your entries will be longer than one page, however, I ask that you limit each entry to no longer than four pages.

Exams: 500 points (each worth 250 points)

There are two multiple-choice exams in this course, a midterm and a final. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course; the final will cover material from the second half of the course. For the most part, the final will not be cumulative, however it is expected that you will be able to synthesize course themes. Please note that we will likely not have time to discuss all assigned readings in class, however they are all “fair game” for the exams. Material from videos and guest speakers are also “fair game” for the exams. Each exam is MANDATORY - you cannot skip an exam for any reason. Further exam details will be discussed in class.

Midterm: Thursday, June 21st

Final: Friday, July 6th

Extra Credit (optional): 40 points

You may complete one extra credit paper on the book *The Meaning of Wife*. I recommend that you read the entire book; at the very least, you will need to read chapters 1-4 and 8-9 for this assignment. This should be written in the style of a formal paper, and should be at least four pages in length (12 pt. font, double-spaced). Please see separate handout on course e-reserve for specific paper requirements. The paper is due in class on Monday July 2nd.

Final Grades:

Please keep all returned exams, returned journal entries, and returned extra credit in the event that you have a grade dispute at the end of the semester. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

94-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	59 & below	F
90-93	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
		80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

Reading Assignments:

- ✓ Please have readings completed by the date listed (even if instructor is behind schedule in lectures!).
- ✓ Skolnick and Skolnick = S&S (the numbers listed refer to the reading numbers)
- ✓ Reserve articles can be retrieved through Norlin online, these articles are NOT included in the Course Packet.
- ✓ Optional = if article title is indicated as optional, it is encouraged that you read the article but you will not be tested on this material
- ✓ Instructor reserves the right to change this schedule as needed.

Definitions and Sociohistoric Look at Families

M 6/4: No reading is due.

The "Traditional" Model

T 6/5: S&S "Introduction: Family in Transition"
S&S #4 "Changes in the Demographics of Families over the Course of American History"

Course Packet "What We Really Miss about the 1950," Coontz

W 6/6: S&S #32 "Diversity within African American Families"

S&S #33 "Diversity within Latino Families"

Optional: S&S #35 "'The Normal American Family' ..."

Last day to receive credit for signing up on listserv

The "Decline" of the Family

TH 6/7: Course Packet "American Family Decline: 1960-1990," Popenoe

Course Packet "Good Riddance to 'The Family': A Response to David Popenoe," Stacey

Course Packet "The Sky Is Falling, But Popenoe's Analysis Won't Help Us Do Anything About It," Cowan

Optional: S&S #6 "Decline of the Family: Conservative, Liberal and Feminist Views"

Doing Gender & The Institution of Heterosexuality

F 6/8: Course Packet "Doing Gender," West & Zimmerman

S&S #11 "Sexual Revolution(s)"

S&S #12 "The Decline of the Date and the Rise of the College Hook Up"

Journals Due

M 6/11: Course Packet "Challenging Monogamy," Brown

Course Packet "Just Monogamy?" Emens

Guest Speaker: Robyn Trask from Loving More

Partnering:

A. Cohabitation

T 6/12: S&S #14 "Cohabitation"

Course Packet "First Comes Love, Then Comes Living Together" Solot & Miller

B. Marriage

i. Traditional Judeo-Christian

W 6/13: Reserve "The Wedding-Industrial Complex" Ingraham

TH 6/14: S&S #13 "Grounds for Marriage: How Relationships Succeed or Fail"

F 6/15: S&S #15 "Can Marriage Be Saved?"

Journals Due

ii. Variations

M 6/18: Course Packet "Asian Indian Marriages – Arranged, Semi-Arranged, or Based in Love" Lessinger

Reserve "The Commitment" Jones

iii. Doing Gender in Marriage

T 6/19: Course Packet "Men's Family Work," Coltrane & Adams

S&S #27 "The Second Shift"

W 6/20: S&S #5 "The Mommy Wars"

Study for midterm!
TH 6/21: Midterm

C. Beyond the Nuclear (not married by choice, gay/lesbian)

F 6/22: S&S 7 "Why Do Gays Want to Marry?"
Course Packet "Should Same-Sex Couples Be Allowed to Marry Legally?" Lambda vs. George
Journals Due

M 6/25: Course Packet "Why Aren't You Married?" Solot & Miller

Parenting:

A. Reproduction & Raising Children in Today's World

T 6/26: S&S #19 "New Families: Modern Couples as New Pioneers"
S&S #20 "Caring for Our Young: Child Care in Europe and the U.S."
Course Packet "Feminist Child-Rearing" Lipsitz Bem
Optional: S&S #22 "The Four Facets of Fatherhood"

B. Parenting "Controversies" (single, teen, gay/lesbian, trans-racial adoption)

W 6/27: S&S #34 "Gay and Lesbian Families: Queer Like Us"
S&S #37 "Unmarried with Children"
Course Packet "Transracial and Open Adoption," Shanley
Course Packet "Should Lesbian and Gay Couples be Allowed to Adopt?"
ACLU vs. Dailey
Optional: Course Packet "Dubious Conceptions: The Controversy Over Teen Pregnancy," Luker
Optional: S&S #21 "Who Are Our Children? Adoption, Past and Present"

C. Multigenerational and Child-free Families

TH 6/28: Course Packet "Beyond the Nuclear Family: The Increasing Importance of Multigenerational Bonds" Bengston
Course Packet "Ambiguous Constructions: Development of a Childless or Child-Free Life Course" Bulcroft & Teachman
Course Packet "This Dog's Life" Patchett

Family Stresses:

A. Family and Economics

F 6/29: S&S #26 "Family Values against the Odds"
S&S #28 "The Work-Home Crunch"
S&S #29 "Families on the Fault Line"
S&S #31 "Why Middle-Class Mothers and Fathers are Going Broke"
Optional: S&S #24 "What Children Think about Their Working Parents"
Optional: S&S #30 "The Economy That Never Sleeps"
Journals Due

B. Divorce & Remarriage

M 7/2: S&S #16 "Divorce Culture: A Quest for Relational Equality in Marriage"
S&S #17 "Children's Adjustment Following Divorce"
S&S #18 "The Modern American Stepfamily"
Extra Credit Due

C. Family Violence

T 7/3: Course Packet "Violence Against Women," Dobash & Dobash
Course Packet "The Impact of Intimate Violence," Gelles and Straus
S&S #38 "Issues in the Definition of Family Violence and Abuse"
Optional: S&S #36 "Prisoners' Families and Children"

Guest Speaker: Tsunemi Rooney from SPAN (Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence)

W 7/4: No Class – Happy Independence Day!

TH 7/5: Readings to be announced
Study for the final!
Journals Due

Guest Speaker: Kitty Sargent from Blue Sky Bridge

F 7/6: Final Exam

