

SOC251 Introduction to Sociology of the Family University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Fall Extension 2017

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 Saunders 245
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Class Times: **Online**

Introduction

Welcome to SOC 251 Introduction to Sociology of the Family. This is a 15-week long online course, which runs from September to December in 2017. The family is a fundamental building block of social life. As the primary agent of socialization, the family is the dominant influence on most people’s lives and worldviews. However, family life is also being shaped by social, economic, political, and cultural forces, and has undergone substantial changes and increased in diversity over time. This course is intended to introduce students to the various domains and issues of contemporary family life from a sociological perspective. It explores the variation and complexity of family experience based on individuals’ social locations such as gender, class, race, ethnicity, and age. The course examines the diversity of family forms and the various forces that influence the structure, processes, and changes in family events and practices. Building on this knowledge, students will learn to analyze family trends in contemporary America within sociological theoretical and methodological contexts.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Understand the sociological concepts on the family and understand family issues in cross-cultural and local contexts.
2. Have a good understanding of the topics studied are marked by great diversity based on gender, SES status, race and ethnicity, age, and other factors.
3. Be able to critically examine the diversity and variation of families.
4. Make sense of personal experience and critically analyze their daily observations of family and related social issues.
5. Improve analytical writing skills through class discussion and written assignments.

Required Texts:

Ciabattari, Teresa. 2016. *Sociology of Families: Change, Continuity, and Diversity* 1st Edition. SAGE Publications, Inc. *(The first 5 registered students will be provided a textbook)*

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is not directly calculated toward your overall grade as this is an online course.

Participation Policy:

Your participation will decide your final grade. Online course gives students flexibility to manage their own schedule. Please avoid missing a discussion, assignment, or an exam. All of these are only available for certain period of time.

Late Submission/Make-up Exam Policy:

If you are unable to or late in submitting an assignment, or test, contact me as soon as you can before the assignment/quiz/exam due date (email is the quickest way to reach me).

Requirements:

Weekly Written Discussion (participation in Laulima online discussion, 10 total = 200pts = 40%):

- There are 10 Discussion Questions (DQs) in this course, one for each chapter. Since we are not meeting face to face in class, the discussion forum is our main mode of Interactions in this course. Each week, I will post discussion questions pertaining to the chapter readings for the week. Every student is then required to post their original response to the discussion forum by Friday midnight, HST, and reply to one classmates' responses by Sunday, 11:59 PM HST. The reason for answering discussion questions by Friday midnight is that all students in our class should be given an opportunity to express themselves and then have some time to go over other responses and comment on those.
- The weekly discussion questions will be posted under "forum" on Laulima. First you need to construct an original post addressing the questions by clicking "Start a New Conversation." The original post is recommended to be around 200–300 words long (not less than 1 page, double spaced). Later in the week, you will need to construct two response posts to comment on another two students' original posts by clicking "Reply to Initial Message." The reply to a classmate's responses is recommended to be a minimum one paragraph. Your answer should not be merely opinion, but based on your understanding of the textbook reading. Use citations and references as evidence to back up your claims as needed.
- Make sure that your comments contribute to the class discussion. (You can use Private Mail for your personal conversations/social chat with classmates). Your comment or response to your classmates will be evaluated based on the quality of arguments used in it. "I agree", "Cool stuff!" remarks are not considered adequate contribution to the discussion and will not be graded. You can certainly cheer your classmates but do not expect to receive any points for participation based solely on those "Way to go!" type postings. When you post messages online, follow the basic principles of netiquette -rules for communication online. (The Core Rules of Netiquette are located on the web site <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>)

Quizzes (10 total = 100pts = 20%)

- There will be 10 chapter quizzes, for a total of 20% of your overall grade. Quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice questions on terms/definitions from the textbook.

Assignment (2 total = 100pts = 20%):

There will be two homework assignments throughout the semester. It is worth 20% of your grade.

Final Exam (= 100pts = 20%):

- The final exam will be comprised of multiple-choice questions, and short answers questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

Extra credits (= 25pts = 5%):

- There will be occasional extra credit opportunities announced by the instructor on Laulima.

Grading Policy:

A: 93- 100% C+: 77- 79%
A-: 90- 92% C: 73- 76%
B+: 87- 89% C-: 70- 72%
B: 83- 86% D: 60- 69%
B-: 80- 82% F: less than 60%

Writing Assistance:

1. Throughout the semester, the instructor is very willing to arrange office hours to provide students with feedbacks regarding any assignments.
2. The Writing Center is located at Kuykendall Hall 415. The Writing Center offers free assistance from experienced writers to all UHM students, faculty, and staff with all types of writing. Schedule an appointment with a writing consultant. Students are highly encouraged to make full use of this resource for their writing assignments.

Online Writing Assistance:

UH Manoa Online Learning Academy (OLA) provides writing services online. You can schedule appointments in 1-hour time slots to work one-on-one with a tutor online at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/ola/subjects/writing.php>.

Class Schedule (Tentative)

WK	TOPIC	ASSIGHMENT	TO READ
1	- Class Introduction	- Self-introduction	

2	- Introduction	- DQ 1 - Quiz 1	Chapter 1
3	- Defining family	- DQ 2 - Quiz 2	Chapter 2
4	- Sociological methods and theories in the study of families	- DQ 3 - Quiz 3	Chapter 3
5	- Young adults and the transition to adulthood	- DQ 4 - Quiz 4	Chapter 4
6	- Marriage and cohabitation	- DQ 5 - Quiz 5	Chapter 5
7	- Marriage and cohabitation, con't	- Assignment #1	Chapter 5, con't
8	- Divorce and relationship dissolution	- DQ 6 - Quiz 6	Chapter 6
9	- Parents and children	- DQ 8 - Quiz 7	Chapter 7
10	- Family work	- DQ 9 - Quiz 8	Chapter 8
11		- Assignment #2	Material on Laulima
12	- Family lives of older adults	- DQ 11 - Quiz 9	Chapter 9
13	- Social policy and the future of families	- DQ 12 - Quiz 10	Chapter 10
14	- Exam Review	- Review	
15	- Final Exam	- Final exam	

KOKUA: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Academic Integrity: The integrity of a university depends upon academic honesty, which

consists of independent learning and research. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. The following are examples of violations of the Student Conduct Code that may result in suspension or expulsion from UH Mānoa.

- **Cheating:** Cheating includes, but is not limited to, giving unauthorized help during an examination, obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is administered, using inappropriate sources of information during an examination, altering the record of any grade, altering an answer after an examination has been submitted, falsifying any official UH Mānoa record, and misrepresenting the facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student's language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; and "dry-labbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, and fabricating data to fit the expected results.