

**University of Hawaii
Department of Sociology
Spring, 2016**

**SOC/WS452: Marriage and Family: A Feminist Perspective (3 cr.)
Monday & Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:15 pm
Kuykendall 408**

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I. Rationale for course

This course will take a feminist standpoint to examine sex role socialization; mothering, fathering and parenting; work-family conflicts; intimacy, coupling and marriage; reproductive issues; and alternative family and partnering structures/institutions. Exploration of social problems such as sexual assault, intimate violence, elder abuse and child maltreatment that occur in the social context of intimacy, marriage and family life will also be discussed. Course content will include relevant research and social theory about women and gender, masculinities and applications of theory to social policy and intervention in relation to marriage and family life. In addition, the course will highlight the intersection of race/ethnicity, age, religion, social class, sexual and gender identity, nationality and other co-factors in local (Hawaii), national (U.S.) and global contexts.

II. Student Learning Objectives

This course addresses the Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs) of UHM and the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) of the Sociology Department. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the sociology of coupling, marriage and the family, including the perspectives of Hawaiian culture and history in the ways intimacy, coupling and families are constructed and enacted in the Hawai'i context (ILO-1)
2. Critically and effectively analyze, interpret and evaluate sociological theories about feminism, intimacy, coupling, marriage and the family in writing and orally (ILO-2; SLO-2; SLO-3)
3. Collect, analyze and interpret data and draw valid conclusions from their analyses about intimacy, coupling, marriage, family and social life from a feminist perspective, in writing and orally (ILO-2; SLO-2; SLO-3)
4. Demonstrate in writing and orally, the intersection of co-factors such as race/ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, social class, religion and nationality with the ways intimacy, coupling, marriage and family as social institutions are constructed and enacted in social life in Hawaii, the U.S. and globally (ILO-3; SLO-1; SLO-2; SLO-3)

5. In writing and orally, be able to conduct research and effectively demonstrate understanding of social problems such as sexual assault, domestic violence, reproductive issues, sex trafficking and other issues related to a feminist analysis of intimacy, coupling, marriage, family and social life (ILO-2; ILO-3; SLO-1; SLO-2; SLO-3)

III. Text and Readings

The assigned text for this course is: Mary Ann Schwartz & Barbara M. Scott, (2012), *Marriage and Families: A Diversity Perspective, 7th Edition, Books a la Carte Edition Plus NEW MySocLab with Pearson eText -- Access Card Package*, Boston: Pearson, ISBN 9780205959518. A binder-ready, three-hole punched version of the text bundled with MySocLab access will be available at the UHM Bookstore. An e-text version with MySocLab access is accessible on-line from Pearson.

IV. Course Assignments

This upper division course is considered a collaborative learning experience between students and instructor. The instructor is considered to have more institutional power in the classroom by virtue of her role and position vis a vis the university as an academic institution. However, students have diverse backgrounds, experiences, training, and education that also differentiate them from the instructor and other students in terms of their own power and privilege in the classroom and in their already-existing knowledge of the course content.

In preparing this course syllabus, the instructor's responsibility is to provide a range of learning opportunities that will enhance understanding and mastery of the student learning objectives outlined for this course. However, students are encouraged to join in the design and evaluation of all aspects of this course and their learning.

There are five assignments for this course. Listed below are descriptions, learning objectives, and evaluation criteria for each assignment. All assignments unless indicated are due on or before the end of class on the day/date listed in the Class Schedule.

1. *Writing Your Own Script* – 25 points

Learning objectives of assignment: To actively reflect on one's own life scripts about relationships and coupling; to think sociologically about personal decision making in light of relevant research on course topics.

Description of assignment:

Every chapter of the text includes a *Writing Your Own Script* box that focuses on some critical issue raised in that chapter. The exercise is a formalized process for reflecting on and planning your own "life script" related to the values, beliefs, attitudes and actions you have and will take regarding life choices over your lifetime.

Students will respond briefly in writing to **five** *Writing Your Own Script* assignments over the semester. Due dates for the papers are in the Class Schedule. Each paper should

be no more than 2-pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-pt font. At the right-hand top of each page as a header, include your name, UHID#, and page number. The heading of each paper should include the course title and the paper assignment title, e.g., "SOC452, Spring 2016, Writing Your Own Script, Paper #1." Papers must be submitted as Microsoft Word-compatible electronic files that you upload to Drop Box in the class site on Laulima. Assignments should be submitted with a file name that includes the course number (452), the semester (S16), student name, and the assignment. Example of correct file name format: *[452S16KimoSmithWYOS1.doc]*

Evaluation of assignment:

This assignment is worth 25 points (5 papers x 5 points per paper = 25 points total). Papers will NOT be graded; however you must submit papers by their due dates to get full credit.

2. Applying the Sociological Imagination – 25 points

Learning objectives of assignment: To learn how to analyze social life from new and sociological perspectives; to critically apply the sociological imagination to everyday life and social issues; to focus on social structures as the site of sociological understandings (vs. only at the micro or individual level).

Description of assignment:

Every chapter of the text includes a *Applying the Sociological Imagination* box that focuses on some critical issue raised in that chapter. Drawing from Mills' notion of the sociological imagination, which focuses on social-structural-historical contexts in which social issues arise instead of situating our understanding of social life in individual or even "group troubles" in a specific point or place in time.

Students will respond briefly in writing to **five** *Applying the Sociological Imagination* assignments over the semester. Due dates for the papers are in the Class Schedule. Each paper should be no more than 2-pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-pt font. At the right-hand top of each page as a header, include your name, UHID#, and page number. The heading of each paper should include the course title and the paper assignment title, e.g., "SOC452, Spring 2016, Sociological Imagination, Paper#1." Papers must be submitted as Microsoft Word-compatible electronic files that you upload to Drop Box in the class site on Laulima. Assignments should be submitted with a file name that includes the course number (452), the semester (S16), student name, and the assignment. Example of correct file name format: *[452S16KimoSmithSI1.doc]*

Evaluation of assignment:

This assignment is worth 25 points (5 papers x 5 points per paper = 25 points total). The instructor will evaluate this assignment based on 1) evidence of comprehension and application of topic in response, 2) evidence of critical thinking and analysis; 3) organization of response, overall writing (grammar, spelling), compliance with paper guidelines (length, formatting, etc.). These papers may be revised for up to the maximum 5 points per paper (point deductions for late submission cannot be made up). The final date for revisions is the last day of class.

3. In Other Places – 20 points

Learning objectives of assignment: To demonstrate understanding and appreciation of diverse forms of marriage, coupling and families; to reflect upon similarities and differences across different structures, forms and functions of family and social life across cultures, race/ethnicity, nationalities, religious affiliations and sexual and gender identities.

Description of assignment:

Every chapter of the text includes an *In Other Places* box followed by a series of “What Do You Think?” questions that focus on the issues raised in that box and the chapter.

Students will respond briefly in writing to **two** *In Other Places* assignments over the semester. Due dates for the papers are in the class schedule. Each paper should be no more than 3-pages, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-pt font. At the right-hand top of each page as a header, include your name, UHID#, and page number. The heading of each paper should include the course title and the paper assignment title, e.g., “SOC452, Spring 2016, In Other Places, Paper#1.” Papers must be submitted as Microsoft Word-compatible electronic files that you upload to Drop Box in the class site on Laulima. Assignments should be submitted with a file name that includes the course number (452), the semester (S16), student name, and the assignment. Example of correct file name format: *[452S16KimoSmithIOP1.doc]*

Evaluation of assignment:

This assignment is worth 20 points (2 papers x 10 points per paper = 20 points total). The instructor will evaluate this assignment based on 1) evidence of comprehension and application of topic in response, 2) evidence of critical thinking and analysis; 3) organization of response, overall writing (grammar, spelling), compliance with paper guidelines (length, formatting, etc.). These papers may be revised for up to the maximum 10 points per paper (point deductions for late submission cannot be made up). The final date for revisions is the last day of class.

4. Chapter Tests – 20 points

Learning objectives of assignment: To keep up with course readings and content; to demonstrate understanding and application of course content as covered in texts and related materials/assignments.

Description of assignment:

There is a test bank at the end of each chapter of the course text. Students will complete and submit online via MySocLab **four** chapter tests by the end of the semester. Students may/should select their best or highest scoring test results for this assignment, as your grade will be based on your average of the four test results.

Evaluation of assignment:

This assignment will not be graded by the instructor but will be based on an average of the four chapter test results completed and submitted. All four chapter tests must be

submitted by the last day of class, May 4 to get full credit for this assignment.

5. In-Class “Quick Writes” – 15 points

Learning objectives: To assure comprehension of required course readings; develop critical thinking, reflection and analysis abilities as applied to reading; to keep up with required readings.

Description of Assignment

Students are expected to keep up with the assigned readings throughout the semester. During **three** select class dates there will be a brief written assignment addressing key concepts and topics covered in the readings assigned for that date, but may also include topics and content from previous chapters or class lectures. These “quick writes” will be open-book, and usually will be based on a response to a video or other material related to the course topic. Each quick write will be worth 5 points. **NOTE:** You must be present in class when the assignment begins to get credit for this assignment; there will be no make-ups.

Evaluation of assignment:

This assignment will be graded by the instructor based on student written response and demonstrated understanding of the concepts, issues, theories or other content related to the assignment.

6. Bonus Point Activities – 10 points

Throughout the semester, there will be various activities for students to earn a minimum of 10 bonus points. These points may include such activities as: take-home questions, attending community activities, viewing videos, responding to online or news stories, etc. Some bonus point activities may be related to readings, lectures or other assignments or distributed during a class period, guest lectures, news stories or other topics covered in/outside class. These assignments will only be available during a specific time period; there are no extensions or make-ups.

There may be more than 10 points worth of bonus activities offered over the semester but you may only apply 10 bonus points towards your final grade total. For example, if you earned 15 points, you may only apply 10 points towards your final grade.

Summary of Final Course Grades:

The total number of points for the course is 100 points based on the following:

Writing Your Own Script	25 points
Applying the Sociological Imagination In Other Places	25 points
Chapter Tests	20 points
In-Class Quick Writes	15 points
	<u>100 points TOTAL</u>
Bonus points	+10 bonus points**
	<u>110 points TOTAL **</u>

**A maximum of 10 bonus points can be applied to final point totals, so the maximum number of points possible for the course is actually 110 points.

Letter grades for point totals are:

A+	98-110 (100 + 10 bonus points)
A	93-97
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	60-69

Guidelines regarding course assignments:

This course assumes that we are all adult learners in a collaborative learning environment. We ask each other to respect and be accountable to the objectives, activities and assignments established for this course, and by doing so we also ask each other to respect the “spirit” of being collaborative learners in this venture.

1. The entire class, by consensus, may negotiate aspects of each assignment until 10 days before its due date. We may mutually decide to change guidelines, deadlines, learning objectives, or other aspects of individual assignments. No changes will be made after that point.
2. Students may discuss individual variations on assignments with the instructor 10 days before its due date.
3. Deductions of 5 points per day will begin accruing for any assignment that is not submitted at the end of the class period that it is due. Personal and extenuating circumstances are a part of everyday life; however, any late assignments will be deducted 5 points/day unless students attain the instructor’s consent for extensions at least 24 hours prior to the due date.
4. Some assignments may be revised for higher points depending on type of assignment, due dates, etc. Please note: points deducted for late submission of assignments cannot be made up.
5. The instructor will make every effort to work with every student to maximize his or her learning opportunities and student performance throughout the semester. Therefore only under extremely rare conditions will final grades be changed after they are submitted.

Academic Support:

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 with 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 Conduct:

The University of Hawai'i explicitly prohibits cheating or plagiarism of any kind in the academic environment. The UH Code of Student Conduct, Section 1D. Academic Dishonesty states:

“Cheating includes but is not limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination; obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is given; submitting another’s work as one’s own; using prohibited sources of information during an examination; fabricating or falsifying data in experiments and other research; altering the record of any grade; altering answers after an examination has been submitted; falsifying any official University record; or misrepresenting of facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual’s work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another’s idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student’s language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or “drylabbing,” which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.”

Not being “aware” that one is cheating, using existing papers written by others, plagiarizing or copying verbatim the words of others without appropriate citation of those works is not accepted as a rationale or excuse for such actions. As an upper division course, all students are expected to understand and know these standards of conduct for the University of Hawai'i. Any violations of the above guidelines may result in an immediate “F” for the assignment and/or an F for the course.

IV. Course Content and Class Schedule

WYOS = Writing Your Own Script

SI = Applying the Sociological Imagination

IOP = In Other Places

Class Date	Class Topic	Assignments Due
01/11	Review syllabus & course materials	
01/13	Chapter 1: Diversity & Change	
01/18	HOLIDAY	
01/20	Chapter 1: Diversity & Change	
01/25	Chapter 2: Studying Marriages & Families	
01/27	Chapter 2: Studying Marriages & Families	Quick Write
02/01	Chapter 3: Understanding Gender	WYOS, p. 86
02/03	Chapter 3: Understanding Gender	
02/08	Chapter 4: Faces of Love	SI, p. 80
02/10	Chapter 4: Faces of Love	
02/15	HOLIDAY	
02/17	Chapter 5: Dating, Coupling	IOP, p. 97
02/22	NO CLASS	
02/24	Chapter 5: Dating, Coupling	WYOS, p. 143
02/29	Chapter 6: Sexuality & Intimacy	
03/02	Chapter 6: Sexuality & Intimacy	WYOS, p. 201
03/07	Chapter 7: Non-Marital Life	
03/09	Chapter 7: Non-Marital Life	SI, p. 178
03/14	Chapter 8: Marriage	
03/16	Chapter 8: Marriage	IOP, p. 245
03/20 03/23	SPRING BREAK	
03/28	Chapter 9: Reproduction & Parenting	WYOS, p. 314
03/30	Chapter 9: Reproduction & Parenting	
04/04	Chapter 10: Work & Family	
04/06	Chapter 10: Work & Family	Quick Write

04/11	Chapter 11: Domestic Violence	SI, p. 340
04/13	Chapter 11: Domestic Violence	
04/18	Chapter 12: Uncoupling & Divorce	Quick Write
04/20	Chapter 12: Uncoupling & Divorce	
04/25	Chapter 13: Remarriage	SI, p. 423
04/27	Chapter 13: Remarriage	
05/02	Chapter 14: Marriage in Later Life	WYOS, p. 474
05/04	LAST CLASS Chapter 15: Issues At Home & Abroad	SI, p. 511 Chapter Tests