



**Type of Course:**  General Education (requires APGES Committee approval)  Trial Course  
 Undergraduate  Graduate  Combined U/G (dual level)

**Cross Listed?**  No  Yes If yes, list course(s) Sociology 339/539 Sociology of the Family

**Course Title:** Sociology of the Family

**30-Character Abbreviation** (for new course or title change):

**Course Description** [to appear in University Catalog (bulletin)]:

The course examines the family system in the U.S. and elsewhere, including the ways family structures both reinforce and challenge gender roles. Sociological and gender-based theories of the family are explored as well as the complex relationships among marriage, parenting, work, and family. Varieties of family experience are considered, with special attention given to issues concerning competing definitions of the family.

**Prerequisites** (if any) [to appear in University Catalog (bulletin)]:

Sociology 101 or 151, or consent of instructor.

**Objectives of course:**

See attached syllabus

**Outline of course content (attach syllabus):**

**Are new resources required?** No

**APPROVALS:**

Department Chair(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Curriculum Comm. Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean/College: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
AVC Graduate School \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
APGES Committee Chair (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Provost and Vice Chancellor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

{Cross-listed courses require both/all Department Chair signatures. Chair and Dean signatures signify qualified instructional staff, adequate student demand & facilities, appropriate equipment & materials, consideration of exceptional course fees (above \$20), approval of college/school curriculum committee (if applicable), and communication with other affected units.}

**University of Wisconsin Oshkosh**

**Sociology of the Family**

**Time: Wed. 6-9 p.m.**

**Instructor: Dr. Orlee Hauser**

**Office: #323 Swart**

**Office Hours: Wed. 12-2 p.m.**

**Office Phone: 920-424-2038**

(Please note that I will often be in my office outside of my office hours. My door will be open - feel free to drop in anytime to discuss course material. Appointments are also available for those who can not make office hours.)

**Required Texts:**

Students are responsible for assigned readings which will be available through electronic reserves. (The assigned readings are listed below.)

Students are also required to read: *The Time Bind : When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work* by Arlie Russell Hochschild. This text should be available through the university book store.

**Subject Matter**

The course examines the family system in the U.S. and elsewhere, including the ways family structures both reinforce and challenge gender roles. Sociological and gender-based theories of the family are explored as well as the complex relationships among marriage, parenting, work, and family. Varieties of family experience are considered, with special attention given to issues concerning competing definitions of the family.

**Course Requirements**

**Midterm Exam and Reading Quiz: 25% - held in class on Oct. 18**

**Final Exam: 30% - to be held in class on Dec. 13**

**Hochschild Review: due Nov. 15-29th (students can choose when to hand it in as long as it is by the 29<sup>th</sup>) - 15%**

This is a 3-4 page written assignment in response to Hochschild's work, *The Time Bind*, which is assigned reading for the course. Students should answer the question:

Why does Hochschild claim that there is a battle between paid labour and family life? Who would she say is winning? Why? What can be done to change the situation?

Answer this question any way that you choose. However, there must be CLEAR EVIDENCE that you have read the book in order to get a passing grade on this assignment.

Alternately, if students choose, they may write a "response piece" to Hochschild's work. Again, there is a great deal of flexibility here as long as it is clear that you have read and fully understood Hochschild's work.

**Take home Reading Quiz: 30% - due Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS (it will be handed out on Nov. 29th)**

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

You are expected to know UWO's Academic Dishonesty Guidelines and abide by the rules of the institution. (Please see [www.uwosh.edu/dean/conduct.htm](http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/conduct.htm).) Cheating in any of your academic work is a serious breach of the discipline code and is grounds for an F for the entire course or suspension. Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, copying from any source without proper citation, going beyond what is allowed in a group project and lying in connection with your academic work. You will be held responsible for your actions. If you are unsure as to what is permissible, please consult me.

## **WHERE TO GET HELP**

There are many resources on campus to help you with your course work, with your writing skills, or with other concerns such as depression or feelings of anxiety. Please note the following #s:

Center for Academic Resources: 424-2290 [www.uwosh.edu/car](http://www.uwosh.edu/car)

Writing Center: 424-1152 <http://www.english.uwosh.edu/wcenter/>

Counseling Center: 424-2061 [http://www.uwosh.edu/couns\\_center](http://www.uwosh.edu/couns_center)

## **Topics and Readings**

### **1. What is the Family?**

Definitions of the Family - pages 4-13 in: Larson, Goltz, & Munro. *Families in Canada: Social Contexts, Continuities, And Changes - Second Edition*. Scarborough: Prentice Hall, 2000.

Pages 3 - 55 (**chapters 1 and 2**) in Lamanna and Riedmann. *Marriages and Families: Making Choices in a Diverse Society - Eighth Edition*. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2003

### **2. Sociological Theories on the Family**

Parsons, Talcott. "The Structure and Function of the Nuclear Family" in Coser ed. *The Family 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* New York: St. Martin's 1974. pp. 14-17.

Cherlin, Andrew. "Sociological Theory and the Family" Pages 28 -35 from *Public and Private Families: An Introduction - Third Edition*. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2002.

### **3. Marriage and Courtship**

Smock, Pamela. "Cohabitation in the United States" (2000) in Coltrane (ed) *Families and Society*, Belmont: Wadsworth, 2004.

Coontz, Stephanie. "The Future of Marriage" (1997) in Coltrane (ed) *Families and Society*, Belmont: Wadsworth, 2004.

Issue 6 "Should Same-Sex Marriages Be Legally Recognized?" Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund versus Schulman in Finsterbusch (ed) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues - Thirteenth Edition*, Dubuque: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2006.

Issue 21 "Are the Negative Consequences of Divorce on Children Substantial?" Wilson versus Hetherington and Kelly in Finsterbusch (ed) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues - Thirteenth Edition*, Dubuque: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2006.

DeGenova and Rice. "Coming Together: Remarriage and Stepparenting" Chapter 21 from *Intimate Relationships, Marriages, & Families: Fifth Edition*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2002.

Film: "Some Kind of Arrangement" to be viewed in class.

#### **4. Parenthood**

Margolis, Maxine. "Putting Mothers on the Pedestal" Chapter 10 in Fox (ed) *Family Patterns Gender Relations - Second Edition*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Bartholet, Elizabeth. "Blood Knots: Adoption, Reproduction, and the Politics of Family" from: Cherlin ed. *Public & Private Families, a reader - Second Edition*. New York: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2001.

Gailey, Christine Ward. "Adoptive Families in the United States"

(2004) in Coltrane (ed) *Families and Society*, Belmont:

Wadsworth, 2004.

Hewlett, Barry S. "The Cultural Nexus of Aka Father-Infant Bonding" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Townsend, Nicholas W. "Fatherhood and the Mediating Role of Women" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Browner, Carole H. "The Politics of Reproduction in a Mexican Village" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Ragone, Helena. "Surrogate Motherhood: Rethinking Biological Models, Kinship, and Family" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Film: "Ms. Conceptions" to be viewed in class.

## 5. Work Within the Home

Hochschild, Arlie. *The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*. New York: Henry Holt, 1997.

Di Leonardo, Micaela. "The Female World of Cards and Holidays: Women, Families, and the Work of Kinship" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Murcott, Anne. "'It's a Pleasure to Cook For Him'": Food, Mealtimes, and Gender in Some South Wales Households" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Blakely, Mary Kay. "Calling All Working Fathers: A Homespun Idea for Revolutionary Change" in Kaufman ed. *In Stitches A Patchwork of Feminist Humor and Satire*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991.

Film: "Chore Wars" to be viewed in class.

## 6. Abuse

Reading 11-1 - Ferraro, Kathleen J. "Battered Women: Strategies for Survival" from: Cherlin ed. *Public & Private Families, a reader - Second Edition*. New York: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2001.

Stone, Linda and Caroline James. "Dowry, Bride-Burning, and Female Power in India" in Brettell and Sargent (eds) *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Fourth Edition*. Upper saddle River: Pearson Hall, 2005.

Jacobsen, Neil and John Gottman. "Basic Facts about Battering: Myths vs. Realities" from Jacobsen and Gottman *When Men Batter Women*. 1998.

Film: "You Can't Beat a Woman!" to be viewed in class.

## 7. Sum-up

Hunter, James Davison. "The Family and the Culture War" in Skolnick and Skolnick eds. *Family in Transition*. New York: Longman, 1997. pp 81-92.

Issue 7 "Is the Decline of the Traditional Family a National Crisis?" Popenoe versus Coontz in Finsterbusch (ed) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views*

*on Controversial Social Issues - Thirteenth Edition*, Dubuque: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2006.

Afterword: Where Do Families Go From Here? from: Mcdaniel & Tepperman eds. *Close Relations: An Introduction To The Sociology of Families - Brief Edition*. Toronto, Prentice Hall, 2002.