Contact Information
Instructor: Megan M Jones       email: mmj13b@my.fsu.edu
Zoom Office Hours Monday 2pm – 3pm

Teaching Assistant: TehQuin Forbes       email: tf16e@my.fsu.edu
Virtual Office Hours Tuesday 10am – 11am

Email correspondence will be addressed within 24-48 hours.

Course Description
This course explores families in the United States from a sociological perspective. We examine the family as an institution rooted in historical and social context, focusing on how society shapes family norms, opportunities, and behaviors. We emphasize the connection between social change (major historical transformations in society) and corresponding family changes. We also learn about individuals within families and how family relationships have changed over time.

Course Objectives
In order to meet this broad goal, the course has been designed to achieve several specific objectives. These objectives are (1) to provide information about historical and contemporary families in the United States, (2) to explore the relationships between individuals, families, and other social institutions, (3) to develop analytical and communication skills that will enable you to examine and assess divergent ideas and perspectives on contemporary family issues.

Liberal Studies Statement
The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies thus offers a transformative experience.

Required Materials


CANVAS MATERIAL: Readings, media, and lectures beyond the textbook will be posted for you on Canvas.

Official Copyright Notice: This course website may contain copyrighted materials that are used in compliance with U.S. Copyright Law. Under that law, materials may not be saved to your computer, revised, copied, or distributed without permission. They are to be used in support of instructional activity as part of this course only and shall be limited to the duration of the course, unless otherwise specified by the instructor or owner of the material. You may only download or print materials at the direction of your instructor, who knows which materials are copyrighted and which are not.

Course Disclaimer
Lectures, readings, videos, and discussions may include graphic descriptions of sexual activity and use sexual slang (such as when quoting research respondents), and the course also includes material about women’s subordination around the world. This material may make some students feel uncomfortable,
and students who are concerned about this possibility may want to discuss their apprehensions with me before they commit to taking the course.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on 3 multiple choice exams (25% each, 75% of total grade), and a final paper described in a separate handout (25%). There will be five extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. Each extra credit opportunity is work up to 5 additional points. The grading scale is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99</td>
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<td>77-79.99</td>
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<td>73-76.99</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63-66.99</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Written work in the course—which includes your final paper—will be called your “writing portfolio.” The rubric for grading the writing portfolio appears at the end of this document. Your final paper will be submitted through Canvas as a Microsoft Word document. **ONLY files in .doc or .docx will be accepted.**

**Final Paper:** This 6-8 page paper (which can go no longer than 10 pages) compares what you know about family change in society to family change in your own family. You will conduct interviews with people of different generations in your own family (or a friend’s family) and link class material to what you learn from the interviews. You may conduct interviews via Zoom or a similar app.

**Exams:** Each of your three exams will be 50 questions, worth 100 points, and will count for a total of 25% of your grade. That makes your exams worth a total of 75% of your final grade (25% for each exam).

**Extra Credit:** There will be 5 optional extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. Each extra credit opportunity will be worth up to 10 points. This means that you have the opportunity to earn up to 50 points of extra credit that will be applied to your final grade.

**Course Policies**

Treat everyone in the class with respect, regardless of their beliefs.

Regularly check your official FSU email account and the course Canvas page.

Email correspondence will only be conducted via direct emails to the instructor and/or the teaching assistant. **No correspondence sent through Canvas will be addressed.**

It is University policy that emails on course sites must be directly related to the class and involve no personal financial gain. That means you cannot try to sell your notes on Canvas.

Submit the final paper online (via Turnitin on Canvas, under “Assignments”). **Make sure you submit your paper as either .doc or .docx**

In order to take a make-up exam, please contact your teaching assistant regarding the reason for your inability to make the exam time. The “absence” must be for one of the reasons listed in the University policy (below).

**This Course Attendance Policy**

This class does not have an official meeting time, therefore, there is no attendance policy. You will be required to submit an introduction of yourself as a discussion board post for first day attendance.
Otherwise, weekly zoom meetings are optional attendance.

**Academic Honor Policy**
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “... be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

**Academic Dishonesty**
Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor’s discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the university administration for further disciplinary action as specified in the Academic Honor Policy. http://fda.fsu.edu/Academic-Resources/Academic-Honor-Policy

**Americans with Disabilities Act**
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and  
(2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.  
Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.  
This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.  
For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities:
Student Disability Resource Center  
874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), sdrc@admin.fsu.edu 
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

**Religious Holidays**
Students are allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays, but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside and covered in class on the day(s) missed. You must talk with your instructor in advance of missing a class for religious holiday observance reasons.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
Outline

Week 1: August 24-28
➔ First day attendance due on FSU Canvas by 3:30pm est.
➔ First Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)

Week 2: August 31-September 4
➔ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
Introduction to Course & Review of Core Sociological Concepts

Objective: To understand that family forms tend to adapt to the demands of their environment. To understand the sociological perspective (the "sociological rainbow") and apply it to social problems, including the problem of gender inequality. To understand the meaning of structure, functions, norms, and roles in the family context. To introduce the 4 basic family eras the course will cover (clan, patriarchal, nuclear, and post-nuclear).

READINGS:

Week 3: September 7-September 11
➔ No Zoom meeting this week
➔ University Observed Labor Day Holiday – No readings this week

Week 4: September 14-September 18
➔ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
Childhood Through the Ages

Objective: To understand the meaning of childhood in the different eras.

READINGS:
2. Choices in Relationships Chapter 11

Week 5: September 21-September 25
➔ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
Child Poverty and Welfare

Objective. To understand trends and causes of contemporary child poverty in the U.S. To situate current economic conditions in historical context.

READINGS:
Week 6: September 28-October 2
⇒ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
⇒ No readings this week.

**EXAM 1 OPENS AT 12:AM FRIDAY OCTOBER 2ND AND CLOSES AT 11:59PM EST.**

Week 7: October 5-October 9
⇒ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)

**Love Scripts across Time and Moving from Patriarchal to Nuclear Families**

Objective: To understand that how people frame their feelings of love depends on the time period and the country they live in. To understand the importance of the end community control in allowing the emergence of the nuclear family.

**READINGS:**
3. Choices in Relationships Chapter 2

Week 8: October 12-October 16
⇒ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)

**Relations between the Sexes in Marriage and Courtship Then and Now**

Objective: To understand that economics, not emotion, bound together husbands and wives in the patriarchal era. To understand the gendered division of labor in that period. To understand what factors were important in choosing a spouse and the mechanisms that brought couples together. To understand contemporary mate selection, particularly the concept of homogamy.

**READINGS:**

Week 9: October 19-October 23
⇒ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)

**Work and Family Linkages Then and Now**

Objective: To understand recent trends in work and family (particularly mothers’ entry into the labor force) and how this has impacted the household division of labor. To understand couples’ difficulty in managing the change and the recent trend towards greater equality. To understand employers’ slowness to implement work-family balance policies. To compare the US orientation to the European one.
READINGS:
2. Choices in Relationships Chapter 13

Week 10: October 26-October 30
→ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
Characteristics of the Nuclear Family and the Social Construction of Gender

Objective: To understand the concepts of “separate spheres” and “complementary division of labor” for husbands and wives in the nuclear family. To understand where our modern notions of appropriate femininity and masculinity originated and how institutions recreate them.

READINGS:
2. Choices in Relationships Chapter 3

Week 11: November 2-November 6
→ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
Sex in Relationships

Objective: To understand the changes in the meaning and function of sex in relationships throughout different eras of historical time. To highlight the double-standard and the existence of sex inequality in society today.

READINGS:
3. Choices in Relationships Chapter 9

EXAM 2 OPENS AT 12:AM FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH AND CLOSES AT 11:59PM EST.

Week 12: November 9-November 13
→ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
→ Workshop Week: work on your final papers.
→ No readings of lecture material this week

Week 13: November 16-November 20
→ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3351 1002)
→ Final Paper Due by 5pm est on Friday, November 20th.
Post-Nuclear Family Pattern
Objective. To understand the post-nuclear arrangement in which families are less about obligation and more about choice, which makes them inherently less stable. To understand trends since 1965 in fertility, cohabitation, alternative families, out-of-wedlock births, people living alone, female labor force participation, and divorce.

READINGS:

Week 14: November 23-Novel 27
→ No Zoom meeting this week
→ Happy Thanksgiving! – No readings or lecture material this week.

Week 15: November 30-December 4
→ Zoom meeting (optional attendance) from 2-3pm est. (Meeting ID: 979 3352 1002)
Contemporary Dilemmas: Divorce and Remarriages

Objective: To know the reasons behind the increase in divorce. To understand the losses (besides emotional) that divorce brings to adults. To understand the effect of divorce on children. To understand problems in remarriage and step-families.

READINGS:
1. Choices in Relationships Chapter 15

Week 16: December 7-December 11
→ No Zoom meeting this week
→ UNIVERSITY FINALS WEEK – No readings or lecture material this week.

*FINAL EXAM OPENS AT 12:AM MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AND CLOSES AT 11:59PM EST.*

*FINAL PAPER MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5PM ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH.*

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<tr>
<th>DECEMBER 7TH COURSE FINAL</th>
<th>12am – 11:59pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>IMPORTANT: Final Exam Falls on a MONDAY.</td>
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