

Sociology 820: Seminar in Marriage and the Family

Spring 2009
Wednesdays 9:15-11:45 am
151 Hamilton Hall

Instructor: Lisa Pearce
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 or by appointment
Course Website: <http://www.unc.edu/~ldpearce/soci820/index.html>

Description: This graduate seminar will introduce students to a wide range of studies in the sociology of family, improving their ability to critically analyze work in this field and inspiring students' own family-related research. The course materials draw on a variety of theoretical, historical, cultural and methodological perspectives to examine topics such as union formation and dissolution, family relationships, childbearing, parenthood, work and family issues, and intergenerational exchanges.

Reading Materials:

- Thornton, Arland. 2004. *Reading History Sideways: The Fallacy and Enduring Impact of the Developmental Paradigm on Family Life*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Rosenfeld, Michael. 2007. *The Age of Independence: Interracial Unions, Same-Sex Unions and the Changing American Family*. Harvard University Press.
- Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer. 2005. *Uncertain Honor: Modern Motherhood in an African Crisis*. University of Chicago Press.
- Selected articles & chapters available on the course website and other electronic journal sites

Requirements: Students performance in this seminar will be judged on three criteria: class participation, weekly synthesis notes, and a final research paper/proposal.

1. Class Participation: Each student is expected to come to every class and be prepared to participate in class discussion of the readings.
2. Weekly Synthesis Notes: To guide students' reading and preparation for class discussion, there will be weekly synthesis questions posted on the course website by Friday morning. Students will turn in typed responses to these questions (no longer than 2 single-spaced pages, no less than 11pt font or 1" margins) at the beginning of each seminar.

3. Research Paper/Proposal: Students are required to write a research paper/proposal on a family topic. We will work through the paper process together as a class using the following deadlines:

Topic & data source (if relevant) due Jan 28

Outline due Feb 11

Introduction and literature review due Mar 4

Draft of full paper/proposal due Apr 1

Final version of full paper/proposal due Apr 22 (last day of class)

Grading: Final grades will be equally based on a student's class participation, weekly synthesis notes, and a final research paper/proposal. A grade of "P" signifies having met all course requirements and showing mastery of the topics covered. A grade of "H" will be reserved for those students who excel at all three requirements of this seminar (often only a couple of students in class achieve this grade, but it can vary). Those who consistently perform less than satisfactorily in one or more of the aspects of this course will receive Ls (rare, but possible), and those who give little to no effort will receive Fs (even more rare, but also possible).

COURSE SCHEDULE: (Readings followed by "CW" are available on the course website)

Jan 14: Introduction & Overview of Course

NO READING REQUIRED

Jan 21: Theoretical Perspectives in Family Sociology

Readings

- Chapter 1 in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*. CW
- Parsons, Talcott. 1949. "The Social Structure of the Family." In Ruth Nanda Anshen (ed.), *The Family: Its Function and Destiny* (pp. 173-201). New York: Harper. CW
- Becker, Gary S. 1993. "Chapter 2: Division of Labor in Households and Families," in *A Treatise on the Family* (pp. 30-53). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. CW
- Fox, Greer Litton and Velma McBride Murry. "Gender and Families: Feminist Perspectives and Family Research." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 62 (November 2000):1160-1172.
- Chapter 6 in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*. CW

Jan 28: Methods and Data for the Sociological Study of Families

Readings

- Hofferth, Sandra L. "Secondary Data Analysis in Family Research." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67 (November 2005): 891-907.
- Chapter 3 in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*. CW

Discussion of paper topics in class—Come with an idea

Feb 6: Motherhood in Africa

- Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer. 2005. *Uncertain Honor: Modern Motherhood in an African Crisis*. University of Chicago Press.

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME

MEET THE AUTHOR: Friday, Feb 6, 9:30-11am, Carolina Population Center, Rm 405A, University Square East, 123 W. Franklin St (enter the building with the barber shop on the first floor and take the el

Feb 11: Cohabitation

Readings

- Smock, Pamela J. 2000. "Cohabitation in the United States: An Appraisal of Research Themes, Findings, and Implications," *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 1-20.
- Manning, Wendy and Pamela J. Smock. 2005. "Measuring and Modeling Cohabitation: New Perspectives from Qualitative Data." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 67 (November 2005):989-1002.
- Heuveline, Patrick and Jeffrey M. Timberlake, "The Role of Cohabitation in Family Formation: The United States in Comparative Perspective," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66:1214-1230.
- Brown, Susan L. 2003. "Relationship Quality Dynamics of Cohabiting Unions." *Journal of Family Issues* 24:583-601.
- Thornton, A., W. G. Axinn and D. H. Hill. 1992. 'Reciprocal Effects of Religiosity, Cohabitation, and Marriage.' *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 628-651.

Feb 18: Marriage

Readings

- Sweeney, Megan M. 2002. "Two Decades of Family Change: The Shifting Economic Foundations of Marriage." *American Sociological Review* 67:132-147.
- Edin, Kathryn. 2000. "What Do Low-Income Single Mothers Say about Marriage?" *Social Problems* 47(1):112-133.
- Cherlin et al. 2008. "Promises They Can Keep: Low-Income Women's Attitudes Toward Motherhood, Marriage, and Divorce." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 70(4):919-933.
- Rogers, Stacy J., and Paul R. Amato. 2000. "Have Changes in Gender Relations Affected Marital Quality?" *Social Forces*, 79: 731-753.
- Johnson, Michael P. 1995. Patriarchal Terrorism and Common Couple Violence: Two Forms of Violence Against Women. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 57:283-294.

Feb 25: Union Formation

Reading

- Rosenfeld, Michael. 2007. *The Age of Independence: Interracial Unions, Same-Sex Unions and the Changing American Family*. Harvard University Press.

Mar 4: Divorce

Readings

- Ruggles, Steven. 1997. "The Rise of Divorce and Separation in the United States, 1880-1990." *Demography* 34(4):455-466.
- Oppenheimer, Valerie Kincade. 1997. "Comment on 'The Rise of Divorce and Separation in the United States, 1880-1990.'" *Demography* 34(4):467-472.
- Preston, Samuel H. 1997. "Comment on Stephen Ruggles's 'The Rise of Divorce and Separation in the United States, 1880-1990.'" *Demography* 34(4):475-479.
- Ruggles, Steven. 1997. "Reply to Oppenheimer and Preston." *Demography* 34(4):455-466.
- Amato, Paul R. and Juliana M. Soboleswski. 2001. "The Effects of Divorce and Marital Discord on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being." *American Sociological Review* 66(6):900-921. CW
- Axinn William G., and Arland Thornton. 1992. "The Relationship Between Cohabitation and Divorce: Selectivity or Causal Influence?" *Demography* 29(3):357-374.

Mar 11: SPRING BREAK–NO CLASS

Mar 18: Domestic Division of Labor (Guest Instructor: Claudia Geist, CPC Postdoctoral Fellow)

Readings

- Brines, J. 1994. "Economic Dependency, Gender, and the Division of Labor at Home." *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 100, No. 3 (Nov., 1994), pp. 652-688
- Greenstein, T.N. 2000. "Economic Dependence, Gender, and the Division of Labor in the Home: A Replication and Extension." *Journal of Marriage and Family* Vol. 62, No. 2 (May, 2000), pp. 322-335
- Hook, J.L. 2006. Care in Context: Men's Unpaid Work in 20 Countries" *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (Aug., 2006), pp. 639-660
- Sayer, Liana C., Suzanne M. Bianchi, & John P. Robinson. 2004. "Are Parents Investing Less in Children? Trends in Mothers' and Fathers' Time with Children." *American Journal of Sociology* 110(1):1-43.

Mar 25: Parenthood

Readings

- Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1974. "Parenthood, the Basis of Social Structure." In Rose L. Coser (ed.), *The Family: Its Structure and Functions*. New York: St. Martins Press. CW
- Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67(5):747-776.
- Roy, Kevin. 2006. "Father Stories: A Life Course Examination of Paternal Identity Among Low-Income African American Men." *Journal of Family Issues* 27(1):31-54.
- Chapter 14 in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*. CW

Apr 1: History and Family Change

Reading

Thornton, Arland. 2004. *Reading History Sideways: The Fallacy and Enduring Impact of the Developmental Paradigm on Family Life*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

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Apr 8: Family Relationships & Exchanges

Readings

- Hogan, D.P., D.J. Eggebeen, and C.C. Clogg. 1993. "The Structure of Intergenerational Exchanges in American Families." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:1428-1458.
- Anderson, Elijah. "The Black Inner-City Grandmother in Transition." in *Code of the Street*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. CW
- Bengtson, Vern. 2001. "Beyond the Nuclear Family: The Increasing Importance of Multigenerational Bonds." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 63:1-16. CW
- Dreby, Joanna. 2007. "Children and Power in Mexican Transnational Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 69(4):1050-1064.
- Chapter 16 in *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*. CW

Apr 15: Proposal/Paper Presentations

Apr 22: Proposal/Paper Presentations