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:


- 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
- Chapter 6 in the Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research. CW

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

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

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Feb 11: Cohabitation
Readings


Feb 18: Marriage
Readings


Feb 25: Union Formation
Reading


Mar 4: Divorce
Readings

Mar 11: SPRING BREAK–NO CLASS

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

Mar 25: Parenthood
Readings
• Chapter 14 in the Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research. CW

Apr 1: History and Family Change
Reading

Apr 8: Family Relationships & Exchanges
Readings
• Chapter 16 in Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research. CW

Apr 15: Proposal/Paper Presentations

Apr 22: Proposal/Paper Presentations