

## Sociology 820: Seminar in Marriage and Family

Fall 2017  
Mondays 12:30-3:00pm  
151 Hamilton Hall

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**Description:** This graduate seminar introduces 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:

- Johnson-Hanks, J.A., Bachrach, C.A., Morgan, S.P., Kohler, H.P. 2011. *Understanding Family Change and Variation: Toward a Theory of Conjunctural Action*. Springer.
  - Note this book is available electronically, free of charge, through UNC's library
- Dreby, Joanna. 2010. *Divided by Borders*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
  - Note this book is available electronically, free of charge, through UNC's library
- Pugh, Allison J. 2015. *The Tumbleweed Society: Working and Caring in an Age of Insecurity*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Selected articles & chapters available online (via the library website or Sakai)

**Requirements:** Your performance in this seminar will be based on three criteria: class participation, weekly reading memos, and a final research paper/proposal.

1. **Class Participation:** You are expected to attend every class and be prepared to participate in class discussion of the readings. Each student will volunteer to lead discussion for one seminar session.
2. **Reading Memos:** Each week (starting with the second week) you will prepare a two page memo that discusses the main themes or questioned raised by the readings for the week. You will post these memos to your Dropbox in Sakai by 7pm every Sunday. Use this opportunity to intellectually engage with the readings, synthesize the ideas, critique the state of the field, and/or propose new applications of the ideas. I will read the memos each week, use them to guide class discussion, and occasionally send you comments on your ideas.

3. Research Paper/Proposal: The major assignment of this class is 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 due Sept 21

Outline due Oct 17

Draft of full paper/proposal due to peer reviewer Nov 7

Feedback to peer reviewer on their paper due Nov 12

Presentations of papers: Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 4

Final version of full paper/proposal due Dec 7

**Grading:** Final grades will be equally based on a student's class participation and contributions, 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" is 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**

### **August 28: Introduction & Overview of Course**

*NO READING REQUIRED*

### **September 4: LABOR DAY / NO CLASS**

### **September 11: Theoretical Perspectives in Family Sociology**

*Readings*

- Chapter 1 in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*.
- 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.
- Burton, Linda M., Bonilla-Silva, Victor Ray, Rose Buckelew, Elizabeth Hordge Freeman. 2010. "Critical Race Theories, Colorism, and the Decade's Research on Families of Color." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3):440-459.
- Goldscheider, Frances, Eva Bernhardt, and Trude Lappegård. 2015. "The gender revolution: A framework for understanding changing family and demographic behavior," *Population and Development Review* 41(2): 207-239.

### **September 18: Theory of Conjunctural Action**

*Readings*

- Johnson-Hanks, J.A., Bachrach, C.A., Morgan, S.P., Kohler, H.-P. 2011. *Understanding Family Change and Variation: Toward a Theory of Conjunctural Action*. Springer.
  - Introduction, Chapters 1-2, and pick one other chapter
    - Electronic access free through library

### **September 25: Research Methods for the Study of Families**

*Readings*

- Chapter 3 in the *Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research*

- LaRossa, R. (2012). Writing and reviewing manuscripts in the multidimensional world of qualitative research. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 643 – 659.
  - *RESPONSES TO LAROSSA*
    - Roy, K. M. (2012). In search of culture: Navigating the dimensions of qualitative research. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 660 – 665.
    - Matthews, S. H. (2012). Enhancing the qualitative research culture in family studies. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 666 – 670.
    - Lareau, A. (2012). On using the terms hypothesis and variable for qualitative work: A critical reflection. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 671 – 677.
    - LaRossa, R. (2012). Thinking About the Nature and Scope of Qualitative Research. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 678–687
- Widmer, Eric D., Gaëlle Aeby, and Marlène Sapin. 2013. "Collecting Family Network Data. *International Review of Sociology* 23(1):27-46.

## **October 2: Family Change**

### *Readings*

- Thornton, A. (2001). "The Developmental Paradigm, Reading History Sideways, and Family Change." *Demography* 38(4): 449-467.
- Raymo, James M., Hyunjoon Park, Yu Xie, and Wei-jun Jean Yeung. "Marriage and family in East Asia: Continuity and change." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41 (2015): 471-492.
- Ruggles, Steven. 2015. Patriarchy, Power, and Pay: The Transformation of American Families, 1800–2015. *Demography* 52(6):1797-1823.
- Pearce, Lisa D., George M. Hayward, Laurie Chassin, and Patrick Curran. Under review. "The Increasing Diversity and Complexity of Family Structures for Adolescents." *Journal for Research on Adolescence*.

## **October 9: Cohabitation**

### *Readings*

- Manning, Wendy D., Susan L. Brown, and Krista K. Payne. "Two Decades of Stability and Change in Age at First Union Formation." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76.2 (2014): 247-260.
- Axinn, W. G., & Thornton, A. (1992). The relationship between cohabitation and divorce: Selectivity or causal influence? *Demography*, 29(3), 357-374
- Kuperberg, Arielle. 2014. "Age at coresidence, premarital cohabitation, and marriage dissolution: 1985–2009." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76.2: 352-369.
- Brown, Susan L. 2003. "Relationship Quality Dynamics of Cohabiting Unions." *Journal of Family Issues* 24:583-601.
- Kuo, Janet Chen-Lan, and R. Kelly Raley. "Diverging Patterns of Union Transition Among Cohabitators by Race/Ethnicity and Education: Trends and Marital Intentions in the United States." *Demography* 53, no. 4 (2016): 921-935.

## **October 16: Marriage**

### *Readings*

- Ghimire, Dirgha, J., William G. Axinn, Scott A. Yabiku, and Arland Thornton. 2006. "Social Change, Premarital Non-Family Experiences and Spouse Choice in an Arranged Marriage Society." *American Journal of Sociology*. 111(4): 1181-1218.
- Soons, Judith P. M., Matthijs Kalmijn, and Jay Teachman. 2009. "Is Marriage More than Cohabitation? Well-Being Differences in 30 European Countries." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 71(5):1141–57

- Cherlin, Andrew J. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(4):848-861.
- Edin, Kathryn. 2000. "What Do Low-Income Single Mothers Say about Marriage?" *Social Problems* 47(1):112-133.
- Reczek, Corinne and Debra Umberson. 2012. "Gender, health behavior, and intimate relationships: Lesbian, gay, and straight contexts." *Social Science and Medicine* 74(11): 1783-1790.

### **October 23: Union Dissolution**

#### *Readings*

- Ruggles, Steven. 1997. "The Rise of Divorce and Separation in the United States, 1880-1990." *Demography* 34(4):455-466.
- Schwartz, Christine R. and Hongyun Han. 2014. "The reversal of the gender gap in education and trends in marital dissolution," *American Sociological Review* 79(4): 605–629.
- Rosenfeld, Michael J. 2014. "Couple longevity in the era of same-sex marriage in the United States." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76(5) 905-918.
- Amato, P. R., & Anthony, C. J. (2014). Estimating the effects of parental divorce and death with fixed effects models. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 76(2), 370-386.
- Mitchell, C., McLanahan, S., Notterman, D., Hobcraft, J., Brooks-Gunn, J., & Garfinkel, I. (2015). Family structure instability, genetic sensitivity, and child well-being. *American Journal of Sociology*, 120(4), 1195-1225.

### **October 30: Families and Migration**

#### *Readings*

- Dreby, Joanna. 2010. *Divided by Borders*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

### **November 6: Reproduction**

#### *Readings*

- Almeling, Rene. 2015. "Reproduction." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41(1):423-442.
- Barber, J. S., Yarger, J. E., & Gatny, H. H. (2015). Black-White Differences in Attitudes Related to Pregnancy Among Young Women. *Demography*, 1-36.
- Kane, Jennifer B., S. Philip Morgan, Kathleen Mullan Harris, and David K. Guilkey. "The educational consequences of teen childbearing." *Demography* 50, no. 6 (2013): 2129-2150.
- Hayford, Sarah R., Karen Benjamin Guzzo, and Pamela J. Smock. 2014. "The decoupling of marriage and parenthood? Trends in the timing of marital first births, 1945–2002." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76(3): 520-538.

### **November 13: Parenting**

#### *Readings*

- 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.
- Damaske, Sarah. "Work, family, and accounts of mothers' lives using discourse to navigate intensive mothering ideals." *Sociology Compass* 7, no. 6 (2013): 436-444.
- Hamilton, L., Cheng, S., & Powell, B. (2007). Adoptive parents, adoptive parents: Evaluating the importance of biological ties for parental investment. *American Sociological Review*, 72(1), 95-116.
- Lareau, Annette. 2015. "Cultural knowledge and social inequality." *American Sociological Review* 80(1):1-27.

- Turney, Kristin, and Christopher Wildeman. 2013. "Redefining relationships: Explaining the countervailing consequences of paternal incarceration for parenting." *American Sociological Review* 78(6):949-979.

### **November 20: Family Violence**

#### *Readings*

- 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.
- Cherlin Andrew, Burton Linda, Hurt Tera, Purvin Diane. 2004. "The influence of physical and sexual abuse on marriage and cohabitation." *American Sociological Review* 69(6):768–789.
- Villarreal, Andrés. 2007. "Women's Employment Status, Coercive Control and Intimate Partner Violence in Mexico." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 69: 418-434.
- Yount, Kathryn.M. and Li Li. 2010. "Domestic Violence against Married Women in Egypt." *Sex Roles* 63(5/6): 332 – 347.
- Anderson, Kristin L. 2010. "Conflict, Power, and Violence in Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3)726-742.

\* *Proposal/Paper Presentations*

### **November 27: Work and Family**

#### *Readings*

- Motro, Joanna, and Reeve Vanneman. 2015. "The 1990s shift in the media portrayal of working mothers." *Sociological Forum* 30(4):1017-1037.
- Blair-Loy, M. (2001). "Cultural Constructions of Family Schemas: The Case of Women Finance Executives." *Gender & Society*, 15(5), 687-709
- Bianchi, Suzanne M., Liana C. Sayer, Melissa A. Milkie, and John P. Robinson. "Housework: Who did, does or will do it, and how much does it matter?." *Social Forces* 91(1):55-63.
- Goldberg, Abbie E., JuliAnna Z. Smith, and Maureen Perry-Jenkins. 2012. "The division of labor in lesbian, gay, and heterosexual new adoptive parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74(4):812-828.
- Aisenbrey, S., & Fasang, A. (2017). The Interplay of Work and Family Trajectories over the Life Course: Germany and the United States in Comparison. *American Journal of Sociology*, 122(5), 1448-1484.

\* *Proposal/Paper Presentations*

### **December 4: Economy and Family**

#### *Reading*

- Pugh, Allison J. 2015. *The Tumbleweed Society: Working and Caring in an Age of Insecurity*. New York: Oxford University Press.

\* *Proposal/Paper Presentations*