

Sociology of Marriage and the Family
SOCI/WMGS 210
Department of Sociology



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Office hours:
Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00;
Thursdays & Fridays, 8:30-10:30;
or by appointment

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Course Description

Through the readings, lectures, and classroom discussion, you will have opportunities to consider the many social institutions that influence the choices and constraints pertaining to how we live and experience our personal and family lives. Your readings and assignments involve using sociological insights to examine the everyday world of “marriage,” family and the personal life.

Course Readings

Your readings for this term are available on Moodle in pdf format. You may copy the pdf to your laptop or tablet for used in class, or you can print the articles 1, 2 or 4 pages per printed page.

Optional reference book

Johnson, W., R. Retting, G. Scott and S. Garrison. 2010. *The Sociology Student Writer’s Manual*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall. [Available at the Campus Store]

Class absences and participation

You are required to attend and participate in class. Because participation is an integral part of the course, attendance will be taken. Should you miss class, you are responsible to find out what was you missed (e.g., lectures, announcements, videos, presentations). If you wish to notify me about an unavoidable class absence, please do so through the Dean’s Office or in person. Please turn cell phones off and put them away during class.

Course assignment

Instructions for the two papers will be introduced in class and posted on Moodle. The instructions for seminar leadership and participation are explained on the next page.

Communication and Office Hours

You are encouraged to see me during office hours to discuss any aspect of the course. Email may be the most convenient way to communicate most simple matters, but I prefer to address questions about course work in person. If you decide to communicate using email, please use proper email etiquette. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, please ask for an appointment.

Evaluation

October exam	10%	Thursday, October 9
Seminar leadership and participation	20%	
Family culture essay	10%	Thursday, October 23
December exam	15%	
Family life research paper	20%	February 17 – beginning of class
April exam	25%	

Seminar Leadership and Participation

Students will be randomly assigned responsibility for organizing a fall term and a winter term seminar with two other classmates. You will work together to organize discussion on the assigned reading. The list will be posted for the fall term on September 11.

a. Seminar Leadership

The seminar leaders will guide the discussion of the assigned reading by doing the following:

- Briefly provide a scholarly profile of the author(s).
- Briefly introduce the topic and themes of the paper.
 - Seminar may choose to use a relevant video clip (1-2 minutes) or visual images or to make reference to how the topic is treated in the media
- Once this is finished, organize the class into small group discussions by asking students to work in pairs and triplets on questions you prepared for them. After the small groups have worked for 15 minutes, begin the discussion. By the end of the class, you will have encouraged classmates to:
 - review, define and illustrate key concepts and research objective,
 - appreciate the main arguments and conclusions of the paper, and
 - draw connections with other studies read in this course.
- Leaders should provide closing remarks to end the discussion. Offer an insight or suggest the significance of the research. Some prepared points should be offered, but a strong conclusion would incorporate what the students in the class have discussed.
- Each seminar leader will submit their own 1000 word (5-page) review and reflection of the seminar within three days of the seminar. Do not share your written note for the essay with your seminar leadership partners. This essay should provide a succinct review of the content of the article, and provide examples from the seminar to illustrate points. Upload your essay (a Word document) on Moodle within 48 hours of the end of class. Late submission will be penalized 50%.

b. Seminar preparation and participation

For each assigned reading, *each student should come prepared to participate*. Read the assigned article thoroughly. **Bring both your written notes and either a digital or print copy of the reading to class.** In addition to preparing a summary of the main argument, use note taking to consider how you can contribute to the discussion. Each student is asked to document three passages from the reading that they wish to discuss and comment on during class. When you identify your passages in class, please note the page number and location on the page so other students can find it. **Please note: 5 students, chosen at random, will be asked to hand in their notes on the reading for that day when class starts.** Part of your seminar grade will be based on my evaluation of your notes. Your notes will be returned at the next class.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy spelled out in the university calendar. <http://www.stfx.ca/services/registrar/academic-integrity-document.pdf>