

SOC 125 Syllabus – Fall 2008

Course Title	SOC 125 Human Sexuality
Semester	Fall 2008
Date & Time	Tuesday/Thursday 10:20 to 11:30 a.m.
Location	Room 117, PPH Academic Complex
Instructor	Melanie J. Davis, M.Ed.
Office Hours	Before class, by appointment
Office Location	Rm 317, Sociology Department, PPH Academic Complex
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the family and marriage/commitment, both as a social institution and as a set of intimate relationships in the context of historical change and development. Students will explore familial relationships they have experienced and those they may encounter in the future. The course will examine this subject from a scholarly and personal perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will have

- An understanding of basic family forms, functions, and dynamics;
- Familiarity with the historical, cultural, economic and political factors that shape family structure;
- An ability to discuss controversial and emotionally charged issues, respecting others' experiences and perspectives.
- Experience in data collection and analysis through a research project.
- An ability to use sociological principles to analyze contemporary family issues.

Disclaimer - This syllabus is subject to change. Updates will be posted on Blackboard.

REQUIRED TEXT

Sociology of Families, 2nd Edition. Pine Forge Press, 2002. David M. Newman and Elizabeth Grauerholz.

POLICIES

Academic Honesty

It is your responsibility to follow the college's standards of academic honesty as published on page 8 of your Student Handbook. Plagiarism and cheating are grounds for course failure.

Accommodations

If you need accommodations to maximize your learning in this class, please let me know as early in the semester as possible so we can discuss any accommodations you may require.

Attendance

You are allowed 3 absences for any reason – no excuses or notes required. Anticipate the unknown. Unexpected emergencies and illness may come up, as may out-of-town athletic events. Bank your absences wisely! **I reserve the right to lower your grade one full letter grade for each absence beyond the first 3.** There will be some flexibility if you provide proof of long-term medical or other issues beyond your control. Chronic lateness and early departures will be taken into consideration.

- You are responsible for knowing the material presented on the days you are absent, so identify one or two peers you trust to pass along the material.
- If you miss an exam, you may take a different and potentially more difficult exam within 48 hours of the original exam date.
- Class presentations cannot be made up.

Courtesy

The use and ringing/buzzing/vibrating of personal electronics is prohibited during class. Laptops used for anything other than note taking are distracting to you and others. If your laptop use is problematic, I may ask you to leave for the class period.

ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments are in the Course Outline. You are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class and build upon that information through active participation. Assignments are due by the start of class on the

date assigned. If you will be absent, you may email me your work by the start of the class period. Late assignments will lose 1 letter grade per day for up to two days; thereafter, they will receive an F. *Format for assignments:* Typed double spaced in 12-point Times Roman font. 1” margins on all sides. For your research paper, refer to the *Publication Manual of the A.P.A. (5th ed)* to ensure proper citations.

Genogram

To help you understand the framework from which you observe family systems, you will create a genogram that includes each member of your family, reaching back three generations, if possible (you, your parents, and grandparents). After completing your schematic, you will look for patterns or anything you find pertinent to your health, attitudes, and outlook on families. Submit with your genogram a ½ to 1-page essay describing your findings and feelings about looking at your family system in this manner. *Note:* If you lack access to your ancestral history, you may use the history of the family with which you feel most closely affiliated. Detailed instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Created Family Project

Early in the semester, you will be randomly assigned to a “family” comprised of approximately 5 classmates. Your family will choose its own culture, socioeconomic status, your roles within the family, your family history, etc. You may elect to be a homeless family, a family from a specific racial or ethnic group, a polygamist family, etc., as long as it is different from the cultures to which your family members belong. This project has four graded elements: your independent research paper, your group presentation, your final exam, and your contributions to the family.

Research Paper

This 5-10 page research paper will paint a sociological portrait of the real-life families your SOC 125 family represents. You will write and be graded on this paper as an individual, not as a group. You will use academic-quality resources and to cite them according to APA style. Up to 3 points will be deducted for poor spelling and grammar.

In-class Presentation

As a group, your SOC 125 family will present to the class a sociological portrait of the family you represent. Each family member will assist in addressing the assigned elements in your research papers, i.e., education, economics, values, etc. You may be creative, as long as you cover the basics, accurately and respectfully representing your family.

Final Exam

On or before the last day of class, your SOC 125 family will be faced with a curve ball or crisis. As a group, you will determine how to respond to this situation, given your knowledge about the family’s culture and dynamics. For the final exam, you will write an essay describing not only the conclusions your family reached but also your reaction (as yourself, not in character) to those conclusions. You will be expected to make appropriate references to theories and concepts introduced during the semester.

Contributions

You are expected to conduct research and think about this project throughout the semester, contributing to family discussions and the in-class presentation. Your contributions will be evaluated by your family members, and those points will be added to your Created Family Presentation grade.

GRADES

Your grade for this course is based upon your level of scholarship as reflected in grades for assignments, exams, and in-class participation. After graded assignments and exams have been returned, you will have one week to discuss the results with me; thereafter, the results will stand. I will apply quantitative and qualitative standards in determining grades.

Attendance and participation	5%
Genogram	15%
Exam 1	20%
Created Family Paper	30%
Created Family Presentation	10%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale

A = 100 – 94	B+ = 89 – 88	C+ = 79 – 78	D = 60 – 69
A- = 93 – 90	B = 87 – 83	C = 77 – 73	F = 59 – 0
	B- = 82 – 80	C- = 72 – 70	