

SOC 295: Family in Society

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Office Hours

MTWRF 10am-11am; 2pm-4pm or by Appointment

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Eshleman, J. Ross and Richard A. Bulcroft. 2006. *The Family*, 11th Edition. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Demmitt, Kevin. 2003. *Marriage and Family Using Microcase* ® *ExplorIt*. 3rd edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

This is your lab workbook. Please DO NOT buy this used. Used textbooks may have the needed assignments removed. The workbook also comes with a data CD which you will need to complete our assignments. This lab manual provides a way to start using actual data to study families in the United States and abroad.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/PURPOSE

In this course we will analyze the family as a social institution, using sociological perspectives. We will explore both the private aspects of the family as well as public aspects of the family using various kinds of empirical data. Throughout the course we will explore if and how the family is declining and changing using various sociological writings and theories. Specific topics will include statuses and roles of parents and children; gender, race and social class's influence on family life; how the family relates to, is shaped by, and shapes other social institutions, such as the economy, religion, the state (social policies) and education. This course will focus on more macro societal relationships with the family rather than the personal social psychological processes that occur within families.

Questions we will address will include:

- What is the definition of the family? (and why does this question persist?)
- What role should the state play in shaping, supporting or limiting families?
- What socio-structural forces shape families?
- How does the family shape our society?
- How does the media shape and is shaped by families?

SPECIAL NOTES

Class Participation

Class participation is expected in this course. Sociology is animated and given life through personal experience. So try to come to class with your experience and viewpoints and an open mind. Throughout the semester this class may upset you, frustrate you and at the same time inspire you. Open up and share with the

class your experiences, views, opinions and thoughts. Also, remain courteous to your classmates while they do the same. I will not tolerate mockery of any student for participating in my class. This class should feel like a "safe" place to ask your questions and express your opinions regarding marriage and family life and to build and understanding of the same.

Course Evaluation

Hope College expects all students to assess each course in an effort to continuously improve student learning. At the end of the semester, you will be asked to assess how well this course met its stated goals. Your responses will be kept anonymous, but I will take the collective results seriously in thinking about how to provide Hope students the best possible education. Your responses matter. You are urged to participate in this important process.

Disability Policy

Any student whose disability falls within Americans with Disability Act guidelines should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any special accommodations or equipment needs necessary to complete the requirements for this course. Students must register documentation with the Office of Disability Services and/or Academic Support Center. If you have questions, call Student Development at extension 7800.

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADES

Exams (2)	2x100	200
Final Exam		150
Labs (10)		130
Research lab paper		150
Reflection/class participation		50
Academic Journal article summary	5x10	<u>50</u>
		730 points

Exams

2 examinations will take place throughout the semester. These exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, matching, fill in the blank and essay questions

Final Exams

The final exam will be similar in format to the first two exams. However, the final examination will be cumulative.

Labs

15 labs are assigned from the Microcase workbook. Each of these labs are worth 10 points. You are allowed to drop the lowest 2 scores throughout the year. These labs are to be done with the data from the enclosed CD Rom with your workbook.

Class Participation/Homework

Periodically we will have activities in class and reflection/homework assignments that provide participation points. There will be at least 50 points available throughout the semester.

Academic Journal Article Summaries

Each student is responsible for finding, reading and writing a one page write up on 5 articles from academic journals. These articles are due the day the topic matter is discussed in class. These are not to be journal articles that are assigned and provided for class activities. Students should try to find the most contemporary examples as possible.

Research Paper

Each student will complete a research paper during the course of the year. The topic of this paper can be anything pertaining to the family. This paper must have at least 10 sources from academic journals which are cited in a literature review. The paper will also have your own research tables or maps which you execute using Microcase. The data that you use may come from the data CD provide in your workbook, however, Hope college also has the rights to the entire collection of data through Wadsworth. These include maps, global data, trend data and others. I will provide you instructions for how to access this information early in the semester. The paper is 150 points which will be broken down as follows:

Date	Portion	Points
Feb 5	Ideas for the paper	5
Feb 17	outline/bibliography	10
Mar 3	Variables/datasets from Microcase that may be used	10
March 29	Rough draft	25
April 23	Final Paper Due	100

FINAL GRADE

Your numeric grade = $\frac{\text{points you attained}}{\text{points available (730)}}$

Grades will be determined using the following scale:

100-93	A	(679 points)	76-73	C	(533 points)
92-90	A-	(657 points)	72-70	C-	(511 points)
89-87	B+	(635 points)	69-67	D+	(489 points)
86-83	B	(606 points)	66-63	D	(460 points)
82-80	B-	(584 points)	62-60	D-	(438 points)
79-77	C+	(562 points)	<60	F	

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Subject	Reading	DUE
PART 1: STUDYING FAMILIES			
Jan 13	Welcome		
Jan 15	Defining Families	Chapter 1	
Jan 18	History of Families	Pg 39-53	Chapter 1 Lab
Jan 20	Issues in Modern Families/Family as an Academic discipline	Pg 62-86 Chapter 3	
Jan 22	Theoretical Approaches		Chapter 2 Lab
Jan 25	Theoretical Approaches continued		
PART 2: CULTURE AND FAMILY DIVERSITY			
Jan 27	Gender and the Family		Chapter 3 lab
Jan 29	Social Class and families	Chapter 4	
Feb 1	Poverty and family		Chapter 12 lab
Feb 3	Racial and Ethnic Diversity	Chapters 5 &6	
Feb 5	Racial and ethnic diversity Continued		Ideas for Paper are due
Feb 8	Racial and Ethnic Diversity Continued		Chapter 7 Lab
Feb 10	Review/catchup		
Feb 12	Exam 1	Exam 1	Exam 1

Feb15	WINTER	RECESS	NO CLASS
PART 3: RELATIONSHIPS			
Feb 17	Mate Selection in Society	Chapter 7	Chapter 8 lab Outline/bibliography Due
Feb 19	Alternative Marital forms		Chapter 6 Lab
Feb 22	Alternative Marital forms continued		
Feb 24	Premarital Relationships in Society	Chapter 8	Chapter 4 lab
Feb 26	Nonmarital Sexuality	Chapter 9	Chapter 5 Lab
Mar 1	Marriage in Society	Chapter 10	
Mar 3	Marriage in Society Continued	Chapter 10	Variables/Datasets from microcase Due Chapter 9 lab
PART 4: CHILDREN AND PARENTING IN SOCIETY			
Mar 5	Parenting	Chapter 11	
Mar 8	Single Parenting		Chapter 10 Lab
Mar 10	Childhood	Chapter 12	
Mar 12	Child socialization		Chapter 11 Lab
Mar 15	Family Size		
Mar 17	Exam 2	Exam 2	Exam 2
MAR 19- MAR 26	SPRING	BREAK	NO CLASS

PART 5: CONTEMPORARY FAMILY ISSUES			
Mar 29	Contemporary topics		rough Draft
Mar 31	The Aging Family	Chapter 13	
April 2	GOOD	FRIDAY	NO CLASS
April 5	Family Violence	Chapter 14	
April 7	Family Violence		
April 9	Divorce	Pg 531-562	Chapter 13 Lab
April 12	Divorce		
April 14	Child Support		
April 16	Remarriage	Page 562-571	
April 19	Remarriage		Chapter 14 Lab
PART 6: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND FAMILY			
April 21	Mass Media and the Family	Pg 55-57	Research paper Due
April 23	Family and Education	Page 61	Chapter 15 Lab
April 26	Family and Religion	Pg 57=59	
April 28	The Role of the State on the Family	Pg 59-61	
April 30	Family social policy	Chapter 16	
May 6	FINAL EXAM	9am	