Course Title: Sociology of Families
Course Prefix: SOCG
Course No.: 2013
Section No.: P01

Department of Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences

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Office Hours: W 1030-230pm, R 330-530pm and by appt.
Virtual Office Hours: TBA

Course Location: WOOL 110
Course Meeting Days & Times: TR 1230-150pm

Catalog Description: Study of families as social institutions. Focuses on social facts and theories of size, composition, and life cycle of families, family violence, family diversity, family changes and myths about the family.

Prerequisites: N/A
Co-requisites: N/A


Required Readings:

Access to Learning Resources: PVAMU Library:
P.O. Box 519
Prairie View, TX 77446
phone: (936) 261-1500;
web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/
University Bookstore:
phone: (936) 261-1990;
web: https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d

Course Goals or Overview:
The goal of this course is to provide students from across the University with an introduction to the fundamentals concepts, principles and processes of family as a social institution.

Course Outcomes/Objectives
At the end of this course, the student will

1. Understands the development of policies relating to marriage and families over the human life course.
2. Develops knowledge of the processes and stages of the family life cycle.
3. Understands the impact of socialization and social institutions on marriage and families and how they limit choices of potential spouses, marriage, children, and care giving.
4. Critiques the effectiveness of social policies effecting marriages and families.
Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

**Exams** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material  
**Quizzes** – assesses knowledge of presented course material  
**Course Project** – assignment designed to provide students with critical application of course material and concepts  
**Class Participation** – participation in class discussions and support of campus life which lends itself to synthesis of course material in everyday contexts within the University environment

### Grading Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value (points or percentages)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>8 quizzes at 10 points each</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>3 Exams at 100 points each</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Project</td>
<td>1 at 60 points</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/ Attendance</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Determination:**
- A = 450 – 500pts;  
- B = 400 – 449pts;  
- C = 350 – 399pts;  
- D = 300 – 349pts;  
- F = 299pts or below

### Course Procedures

**Submission of Assignments:**  
**Quizzes** will be administered during class only at the start of each new chapter, so please come to class prepared with pencil and scantron form for all quizzes. **Exams** are taken in class according to course schedule and cannot be “made-up” without a University-excused absence or prior arrangements with instructor; the **Course Project** and any assignments related to **Participation** MUST BE submitted via the University eCourse system to receive grading – NO EXCEPTIONS. Scheduled due dates in **Course Schedule** (below) are meant as a guideline as more or less time may be required for particular topics throughout the course.

**Formatting Documents:**  
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you’re using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format. This is important for assignments submitted via ecourses as instructor may not be able to open documents utilizing other word processing tools.

**Exam Policy**  
Exams are to be taken as scheduled. **No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies** (See Student Handbook) and prior arrangements due to participation in University-sanctioned events.

### Professional Organizations and Journals

N/A

### References

N/A
WEEKLY CALENDAR

Week One: Topic
Introduction to Sociology
Public Policy and the Family

Week Two: Topic
Ch 1 Introduction to Marriage and Family
Quiz #1

Week Three: Topic
Ch 2 How to Study Marriage and the Family
Quiz #2

Week Four: Topic
Ch 3 Communication, Power, and Conflict
EXAM #1 (Chapters 1-3)

Week Five: Topic
Ch 4: The Role of Gender
Quiz #3

Week Six: Topic
Ch 5 Friendship, Affection, Love;

Week Seven: Topic
Ch 7 Intimacy and Choosing a Partner
Quiz #4

Week Eight: Topic
Review and Examination (Chs 4, 5 and 7)

EXAM #2 - MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week Nine: Topic
Ch 9 Family Variation
Quiz #5

Week Ten: Topic
Ch 10 Middle-Aged and Aging Families
Quiz #6

Week Eleven: Topic
Ch 11 The Effects of Work and the Economy
Quiz #7

Week Twelve: Topic
Ch 12 Family and Social Institutions: Education, Religion, Politics, and the Legal System
Exam #3

Week Thirteen: Topic
Ch 13 Stress, Violence, and Abuse in Marriages and Families
Quiz #8

Week Fourteen: Topic
Ch 16 Enduring Marriages and Families: Successful Patterns of Commitment
Instructions for Course Project / THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

Week Fifteen: Topic
Course Project due at Scheduled Final Examination time
FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD
University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook): Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook): You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook) The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook): Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy: Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process: Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor’s assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.
Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:
- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- 56K modem or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM
- 64MB RAM
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette): students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

Technical Support: Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282.

Communication Expectations and Standards:
All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following my receipt of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

Submission of Assignments:
Some Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will be distributed and submitted through your online course. Directions for accessing your online course will be provided. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

Discussion Requirement:
Because this is an online course, there will be no required face to face meetings on campus. However, we will participate in conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course in a true seminar fashion. We will accomplish this by use of the discussion board.

Students are required to log-on to the course website often to participate in discussion. It is strongly advised that you check the discussion area daily to keep abreast of discussions. When a topic is posted, everyone is required to participate. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.