

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Spring, 2009

Course Number: 2830

Time/Location: Sec. 001 TTH 12:30 – 1:45 p.m., Blair Hall 2165

Sec. 002 TTH 2:00 – 3:15 p.m., Blair Hall 2165

Instructor: Dr. Janet Cosbey

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Office Hours: TTH 3:30 – 5:00; W 4 – 6 pm

Other times by appointment

Required Textbooks: Marriages and Families Sixth edition
Nijole V. Benokraitis

This is an optimistic syllabus! Changes may be made as the semester progresses, but this is the material that I would like for us to cover.

- Week 1,2 Introduction - The Changing Family
Chapter 2 - Studying Marriage and the Family
Quiz 1: 1-20
- Week 3 Chapter 3 – The Family in Historical Perspective
Quiz 2: 1-27; Writing assignment 1 due 1-29
- Week 4,5 Social Class, Race and Ethnicity
Chapter 4 Racial and Ethnic Families: Strengths and Weaknesses;
Quiz 3: 2-10; Presentation Topic due 2-10
NO CLASS – February 12
- Week 6 Chapter 5 - Gender Roles and Socialization
Quiz 4: 2-17; Writing Assignment due 2-17
- Week 7 Chapter 6 – Love and Loving Relationships
Quiz 5: 2-19; **NO CLASS 2-26 (AGHE Conference)**
- Week 8 Chapter 7 – Sexuality and Sexual Expression throughout Life
Quiz 6: 3-3; Writing assignment 3 due 3-5
- Week 9 Chapter 8 – Choosing Others: Dating and Mate Selection
Quiz 7: 3-10; Writing assignment 4 due 3-12

HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!!!

Grading: Your grade will be based on the following areas as defined above

Quizzes	(40%) 200 points
Writing assignments	(20%) 100 points
Book analysis	(30%) 150 points
Presentation	(10%) 50 points

Grading Scale:

A – 90 – 100%	(450 – 500 points)
B – 80 – 89%	(400 – 449 points)
C – 70 – 79%	(350 – 399 points)
D – 60 - 69%	(300 – 349 points)
F – 59%	Less than 300 points

Disability Statement: If you have a documented disability and are in need of academic assistance, please see me and/or contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583).

FAMILY AND SOCIETY - BOOK ANALYSIS DIRECTIONS

One of the things that I hope you will learn in this course is that you can use a sociological framework to analyze what is happening - in your life, in the lives of others, in the news, etc. This assignment will help you to do that. For this paper you will read a novel about the family (see attached list for suggestions) and use theories and ideas from the readings in this class to analyze the book. While reading, keep in mind that you are reading this book for a sociology class, which is not the same as reading it for pleasure or reading it for an English class. You are looking at this novel as a sociologist. You will try to understand why people do the things they do given their social history, their present situation, and the circumstances surrounding the situation. Your paper is worth a total of 150 points. Be sure to proofread your paper carefully and follow the directions listed below.

Your paper should include the following sections:

1. What is the theme of the novel? Briefly describe the story the author is telling - identify and introduce the main characters. (30 points)
2. The main part of your paper will be concerned with a sociological analysis of the story. How can you relate this story to the substantive material covered in class? What theories, ideas and research can help us understand why the main characters act the way they do? For example, the book Joanna's Husband and David's Wife, is a novel about marriage. How does what we have learned about marriage in class support the main theme of the novel that marriage is a different experience for men than it is for women? Use references from class notes, presentations, videos, etc. and your textbook to support your arguments. You do not have to use outside sources. Be sure to cite the references you use. (60 points)
3. Your opinion of the novel. Did you like it? Is the story convincing? Did it hold your interest? Why or why not? Would you recommend this book to someone else? (15 points)
4. Conclusion. Summarize briefly what you learned from this. Is this novel reflective of society? Is it realistic? What insight, if any, have you gained from reading this book? (15 points)

points)

The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with a cover page indicating the title of your paper, your name and course section number. Number the pages, but you don't need to put your name on each page. You also must have a bibliography/works cited page. The length of the paper should be as long as it takes you to say what you want to say; however, 8 - 10 pages should do it. (30 points)

SUGGESTED NOVELS FOR THE BOOK ANALYSIS

Warren Adler - The War of the Roses

Melissa Bank - The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing

Dorothy Allison - Bastard Out of Carolina

Elizabeth Berg - Open House

Rosellen Brown - Before and After

Bebe Moore Campbell - Brothers and Sisters

Angela Chambers – When Did You Stop Loving Me?

Barbara Delinsky – Family Tree

Michael Dorris - Yellow Raft in Blue Water

Fannie Flagg - Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café

Jane Green - Babyville

Jane Hamilton - Disobedience

Cathy Hanauer - My Sister's Bones

Alice Hoffman - At Risk

Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey - Joanna's Husband and David's Wife

Michael Grant Jaffe - Dance Real Slow

Barbara Kingsolver - Pigs in Heaven

Stephen McCauley - Object of My Affection

Sue Miller - The Distinguished Guest

Laura Moriarity – The Center of Everything

Gloria Naylor - The Men of Brewster Place

Tom Perrotta – Little Children

Anna Quindlan - Black and Blue

April Sinclair - Coffee Will Make You Black

Amy Tan - The Kitchen God's Wife

Anne Tyler – Digging to America

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Presentation Guidelines

In this class you will be required to give a presentation on a topic related to the study of families. You will be assigned to a presentation date grouped according to topic. You have the option of doing the presentation on your own or with others.

You will have five minutes to visually present some information that you think is not covered in enough detail in the text on a topic that is of interest to you. If you are doing this in a group, each member of the group has five minutes. You can use PowerPoint, posters, photographs, media clips, web sites, the board, or any medium that will offer us a visual depiction of a family issue.

You will also need to turn in a typewritten summary of your presentation, listing the sources that you used. A minimum of three sources is required. The summary is due the day of your presentation.

Presentation topic is due February 10. I will have a sign up sheet for you to indicate your choice. The presentations will begin the week of February 19.

Following are some suggestions for topics (but your choice is not limited to these):

Stalking

STDs

Teenage pregnancy

Sex education

Arranged marriage

Same-sex marriage

Covenant marriage

Incest

Child neglect

Elder abuse

Sibling relationships\birth order

Love and romance on the internet

Interfaith relationships

Interracial and interethnic relationships

Family customs in different cultures

Weddings/wedding customs

High tech infertility treatments/genetic engineering

Adoption

Fetal alcohol syndrome

Children with gay and lesbian parents

Child care arrangements/effects on parents and children

Impact of media on children

Family and medical leave policies

TANF/PRWORA – “welfare”/aid to families; DCFS or other family service program

Divorce laws/divorce mediation