Sociology of the Family (01:920:272:01)
Spring 2017

Class Meetings:

Monday & Wednesday 2:15pm-3:35pm
Loree Hall, Douglass Campus, Room 020

Instructor: Ms. Brittany Battle, MA
015 Davison Hall (Douglass Campus)
Email: brittany.battle@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Monday 4-7PM, Wednesday 12-2PM, and By Appointment

Course Overview:

This course examines one of the most important institutions in social life, "the family." We all have our own personal opinions and experiences regarding families. However, in this course we will examine the family from a sociological perspective. The major goal of this course is to teach you how (not what) to think about families as a public and private social institution. Although families are where we spend much of our private lives, they also serve important societal functions and are shaped by public perception, social conventions, and policy.

Course Procedures:

1. All readings are to be done **before** the class date shown on the syllabus below so that students will be prepared to discuss those materials in class. In class, I do not repeat the material covered in your readings, but rather, I help you synthesize that information with other assigned material or information from your experience. I am happy to answer questions of clarifications about that material in class or during office hours. All students are expected to actively participate in class discussion.

2. Due dates of assignments are listed on the syllabus below and are shown on the course Sakai site. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are to be **turned in on the course Sakai site by the date and time specified on that site.** ***I do not accept late assignments!!*** See me **in advance** if you have a religious or other obligation that conflicts with a due date and we can make alternative arrangements.

3. At times, class discussion may cover sensitive topics. Students are required to show respect at all times to their colleagues (including other students and instructors) while actively engaging as both speakers and listeners.

Grading:

Family Narrative:	20%
Exam One:	20%
Exam Two:	20%

Final Exam:	25%
Class Participation:	15%

90-100=A
87-89=B+
80-86=B
77-79=C+
70-76=C
60-69=D
Below 60=F

Family Narrative:

This written assignment will give the student the opportunity to reflect on their own family life experiences and, by thinking critically about that experience, come to a better understanding of the individual they are today and the roles they may play in the future. This paper must be typed and no more than THREE pages in length. Please submit this assignment via Sakai by Wednesday, March 8th. More information will be given on this assignment in class.

Exams:

Two exams during the semester and the final exam will include approximately 40 multiple choice questions and 5 short answers that will require you to apply the concepts you will learn. Questions will be pulled from assigned readings, lectures and class discussion, and group activities. The final exam is cumulative. The two exams during the semester are each worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

Participation:

I do not take attendance; participation grades are determined by active engagement during class, including: asking/answering questions, offering thoughtful comments, completing in-class activities, and attending office hours. Participation is worth 15% of your final grade.

Required Course Materials:

1. Textbook: Baca Zinn, M. Eitzen, D. S., and Wells, B. 2016. *Diversity in Families Updated 10th Edition*. New York: Pearson. (Referred to as DiF in syllabus)
2. Additional Readings, available on course Sakai site (All assigned readings other than DiF will be posted to Sakai site)

Classroom Atmosphere:

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is

not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted.

If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings. The University Code of Student Conduct is available at http://policies.rutgers.edu/PDF/Section10/10.2.11-current.pdf

University Policy on Academic Integrity:

Students in this class are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. I will not tolerate cheating of any kind in this course, and I will report the incident directly to the appropriate college officer if I believe the university's policy on academic integrity has been violated. Cheating, plagiarism in written work, receiving and providing prohibited assistance, and sabotaging the work of others are among the behaviors that constitute violations of the Policy on Academic Integrity. You are expected to be familiar with this policy. All papers will be run through the Turnitin program to check for plagiarism. If you have questions about specific assignments, be sure to check with me. For more details, see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Disability Accommodations:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

A Few Words to the Wise:

1. Complete all readings prior to the lecture for which they are listed. Do not wait until after I have lectured on something to read the assigned material. Come to class prepared to answer questions, ask questions, and contribute to the class discussion.
2. The readings are not substitutes for the lectures and the lectures are not substitutes for the readings. Not all material in the lectures appears in the readings and vice versa. You are responsible for all material provided in both the readings and lectures.
3. If you are having difficulty, please come to me as soon as possible. Come to office hours prepared to ask specific questions after having gone over your lecture notes, readings, and assignments. Please keep appointments that you make for alternate office hours. If you cannot make an

appointment, please notify me as early as possible prior to the meeting.
4. If you miss a class, arrange to get the missed notes from a classmate. I do not post lecture slides and I will not give a condensed version of the lectures you have missed.
5. If you are too tired to stay awake or too distracted to focus in lecture, please stay home.
6. I will not inflate or curve grades during the semester or at the end of the semester. Please do not ask me to; work hard throughout the semester and you will receive the grade that you earned.

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED AT ANY POINT DURING THE SEMESTER. YOU MUST ATTEND LECTURE & CHECK THE COURSE SAKAI SITE & EMAIL.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due
Wed. Jan. 16	Course Introduction		
Mon. Jan. 23	What is a Family?	DiF Chapt. 1	
Wed. Jan. 25	What is a Family?	DiF Chapt. 1	
Mon. Jan. 30	Marriage & Cohabitation	DiF Chapt. 9 (until pg. 173); DiF Chapt. 13 (pg. 261-265)	
Wed. Feb. 1	Marriage & Cohabitation	DiF Chapt. 9 (until pg. 173); DiF Chapt. 13 (pg. 261-265)	
Mon. Feb. 6	Divorce & Remarriage	DiF Chapt. 12	
Wed. Feb. 8	Divorce & Remarriage	DiF Chapt. 12	
Mon. Feb. 13	Parenthood & Childhood	DiF Chapt. 10	
Wed. Feb. 15	Parenthood & Childhood	DiF Chapt. 10	
Mon. Feb. 20	**EXAM 1**		
Wed. Feb. 22	Preindustrial Families	DiF Chapt. 2 (start at pg. 28)	
Mon. Feb. 27	Families & New Economy	DiF Chapt. 4	
Wed. March 1	Families & New Economy	DiF Chapt. 4	
Mon. March 6	Families & Work	DiF Chapt. 7 (until pg. 131)	
Wed. March 8	Families & Work	DiF Chapt. 7 (until pg. 131)	Family Narrative
Mon. March 13	**SPRING BREAK ENJOY!!!**		
Wed. March 15			
Mon. March 20	Diversity in Families – Race/Ethnicity	DiF Chapt. 6 (pgs. 94-107)	
Wed. March 22	Diversity in Families – Race/Ethnicity	DiF Chapt. 5 (pgs. 65-77)	
Mon. March 27	Diversity in Families – Socioeconomic Status	DiF Chapt. 3 (pgs. 42-47)	
Wed. March 29	Diversity in Families – Socioeconomic Status	DiF Chapt. 6 (pgs. 86-89)	
Mon. April 3	Diversity in Families – Gender and Sexuality	DiF Chapt. 6 (pgs. 108-109)	
Wed. April 5	Diversity in Families – Gender and Sexuality	DiF Chapt. 13 (pgs. 265-268)	
Mon. April 10	**EXAM 2**		
Wed. April 12	Violence in Families	DiF Chapt. 11	
Mon. April 17	Violence in Families	DiF Chapt. 11	
Wed. April 19	Family Policy	DiF Chapt. 14	
Mon. April 24	Family Policy	DiF Chapt. 14	
Wed. April 26	Family Policy	DiF Chapt. 14	
Mon. May 1	Family Policy	DiF Chapt. 14	
TBD	**FINAL EXAM**		