Sociology 3638-090 (3 credit hours)
Sociology of Marriage and Family
Spring 2010

General Course Information

Time and Location: On-line only. 2 meetings per week with flexibility for student schedules.
Instructor: Carrie LeFevre Sillito, M.S.
Office: BEHS 317
Email: carrie.sillito@soc.utah.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment, telephone, email or WebCt
Website: webct.utah.edu
No Prerequisites required

Course Description: This course addresses the institution of family in terms of the nature and functioning of family and the social context of family. It examines the diversity of families in the U.S. and other societies, conceptualizing the institution of family through a variety of sociological perspectives and theories. Research is presented that illuminates the nature of family and the ways in which families are influenced by social context and social change, and, in turn, the ways in which changes in family composition, roles, and relations influence society and social change. The changing nature of family and the relationship between family, ethnicity, and class are important subjects of study. Related topics include dating, marriage, cohabitation, divorce, childbearing, parenting, child development, family violence, love, intimacy, sexuality and aging.

Course Objective: To encourage students to consider the extent to which our own family experiences are related to larger social forces such as gender, race and ethnicity, social class, and changes in the economy, social institutions and cultural attitudes. Teaching and learning methods will include: lecture, film, on-line assignments, discussion, small group activities, written analysis, critique and synthesis, and examinations.


Important note: All assignments, lectures, exams, and quizzes are to be completed on WebCT in this course. Students in the course will be expected to have computer proficiency and computer access to complete these assignments, lectures, exams, and quizzes. If you have any problems with your WebCT account, please contact the campus help desk. Students are responsible for having access to WebCT before assignments or exams are due as NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS, OR EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Code of Conduct & Accommodations

• Faculty and Student Responsibilities: All University policies and procedures will be followed. Please refer to the University of Utah Faculty Handbook (http://www.admin.utah.edu/fhb/ ) and Student Code (http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html ).
• Plagiarism: Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean. The penalty for cheating is an automatic failing grade for the course, in addition to other potential penalties decided by the Dean's Office.
• ADA Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

• Disabilities: Please inform me of disabilities with written documentation from the CDS within the first 2 weeks of class so appropriate accommodations can be made.

• Accommodations: Some of the writings, lectures, films or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if this course is one you are committed to taking. If you have concerns, please discuss it with me within the first 2 weeks of class.

• Athletics: If you are a member of a university athletic team, you must provide me with a schedule of games and team commitments during the first two weeks of the semester.

• Student Assignments: I will retain unclaimed student exams and papers only until January 1st, 2009. Please make a note of this for your records.

• Syllabus and Course Event Schedule: This syllabus is a tentative schedule only. All dates and assignments are subject to change. I will notify class via WebCT email or in class prior to any changes. It is your responsibility to check WebCT on a regular and frequent basis to keep track of the course schedule, and for information regarding changes to the schedule.

Course Requirements & Grading:

• Exams (65% of grade): There will be two exams in this course. The midterm exam will be 30% of the final grade; the final exam will account for 35% of the final course grade. **Exams are open note, open book. However, exams are to be completed individually; there is to be NO collaboration on exams between class members and other class members or other people. Exams will be available to complete on WebCT on the day of the exam from 1:01 AM until 12:59 PM. Exams are timed, and you will have 90 minutes to complete each exam. Answers submitted after time expires will not be accepted. You may take the exam on a personal computer or at any opened computer lab on campus. *Exams are found under “assessments” on WebCT*

• Thought Paper assessments (15% of grade) throughout the semester, you are required to complete THREE thought papers. Thought papers will involve students writing essays, approximately 2 pages in length, that incorporate thoughtful reflection, analysis, critique and synthesis of course readings or films. Thought papers are to be submitted under “Assignments” on WebCt before the individual thought paper due dates. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Each thought paper is worth 5% of your final course grade. Students may elect to complete a fourth thought paper for extra credit. **ALL THOUGHT PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT TURNITIN.COM and ON WEBCT.**

• Class Participation, and on-line Assignments (20% of grade): Class participation will come from a variety of on-line assignments, such as polls, ungraded quizzes, and discussion forums. During the semester, assignments will be required to be completed on WebCT. Some of these are in the syllabus and others will be announced in online lectures. All will be posted on WebCT. It is essential that students check the class WebCT website weekly for assignments updates. **On-line assignments and lecture for on-line lectures will be found under “Learning Modules” on WebCT.**
**Point Allocation:**

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<th>Number Required</th>
<th>Percent Each</th>
<th>Total allocation to Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thought Paper Quizzes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>midterm: 30%</td>
<td>final: 35%</td>
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<td>Class Participation and</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

- 94% - 100%       A         80% - 83.9%  B-       65% - 69.9%  D+
- 90% - 93.9%      A-        77% - 79.9%  C+       60% - 64.9%  D
- 87% - 89.9%      B+        74% - 76.9%  C        55% - 59.9%  D-
- 84% - 86.9%      B         70% - 74.9%  C-       Less than 54.9% E