

# **DATING, RELATIONSHIPS & FAMILIES**

**SOC 255**

5 credits

WINTER 2015

daily 12:30-1:20 in A206

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{ *No matter how many communes anybody invents, the family always creeps back.* }  
~Margaret Mead

## **TEXT**

Wright, R., Mindel, C. H., Tran, T. V., & Habenstein, R W. (2012) *Ethnic Families in America* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) New York, NY: Pearson  
(isbn#: 978-0-13-091839-0)

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

All of us are familiar with the family in the USA from observing families (our own and/or other people's), from talking to other people about families, and from information given to us by the news and entertainment media. This class will give you a chance to analyze the family in the USA from a sociological perspective. We will examine different ethnic groups in the USA and see how their family is shaped by the dominant culture, what they contribute to family in the dominant culture, and how they differentiate their family from that of the dominant culture.

Class exercises and applications—an interactive class, with your questions, comments and participation—are not only fun, they are productive. Active learning challenges you to get involved in the learning process, to enjoy learning for its own sake, to abandon the traditional passive student role, and to help teach each other. Your input, questions and comments will improve all of our learning. Get involved!!

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course you should understand how to:

- think sociologically about the family in the USA
- distinguish between factual statements and value judgments regarding the family
- put aside personal ethnocentric attitudes and become culturally relativistic regarding what constitutes a family
- understand the connection between the family and other institutions in the USA
- critically evaluate commonly accepted ideas of what family is

- utilize objective criteria for evaluating the family
- apply sociological concepts and knowledge of the family in the USA to real-life situations

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### **OF ME:**

- *A sincere effort to help you learn the course material.* Since my ultimate goal is to help you succeed, I intend to spend enough time and effort on class preparation to make the material as understandable and as interesting as I possibly can.
- *Accessibility.* I am available to you outside of class should you desire help. I encourage you to contact me, via email, on the phone, or by stopping by my office, whenever you have a question or concern. I am more than happy to help.
- *Learning.* You can expect me to be a learner with you. While I know sociology and it is my job and my goal to teach you the subject matter, you bring things to the class (perspective and experience) that I don't which contribute to the learning for us all.

### **OF YOU:**

- *Preparation.* You should come to class having done the assigned readings and homework, and you should always bring the proper supplies with you. That includes the readings (textbooks) and supplies for note taking. Note that the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each hour spent in class. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you know you cannot make it to class, and the assignment is due in class, rather than online, you may email assignments to me. The assignments must be emailed before the start of class and you must bring a hard copy with you upon your return to class. If there is a true emergency (computer problems do not qualify as emergencies) and you cannot get an assignment in, call or email to let me know the situation as soon as possible. Doing this, along with providing relevant documentation, will allow me to work out a reasonable accommodation with you.
- *Currency:* It is your responsibility to keep current in class. This means attending class sessions and taking notes. If you have to miss class for any reason you must find out what was done and get notes from a classmate. You can find the calendar, assignments, and handouts on the Canvas site.
- *Respect:* We will have many discussions in which you are expected to participate by asking questions, answering questions, and making relevant comments and observations. During a discussion (planned or spontaneous) it is important that we all respect each other's right to participate and use manners and language appropriate for a college classroom. That means no side talking, no interrupting, no monopolizing the conversation, and no offensive language (swearing, crude language, racial/ethnic/gender slurs). Disagreement is fine, healthy, and makes life more interesting, but be sure that when you disagree you are disagreeing with the ideas and not the other person. People who are disrespectful, either to fellow students or to the instructor, will be asked to leave the class. Serious violations



will be reported to the Dean of Student Services. Note that timeliness (being on time to class) is also needed to demonstrate respect towards your classmates.

- *Honesty:* If you cheat, you fail. No excuses will be taken into account. Your work must be your own, except when asked to work with other students. Furthermore, you are required to acknowledge in your papers if you have borrowed any ideas, terms, or phrases, even if you have borrowed from a classmate. Working together is fine and even encouraged. Just be sure to turn in work that is clearly original. Be careful to cite your sources properly as plagiarism will result in a score of zero for the assignment, and possibly an F for the class depending on the severity of the offense. If you would like information on how to avoid plagiarism, the writing lab (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/> or D-204D) is an excellent resource online and in person.
- *Communication:* If an issue arises that will impact your class work, let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out a solution together. After assignments have been missed may be too late. If you don't understand a concept or the expectations of an assignment, please ask. I want you to succeed in this class. If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information that needs to be shared with me in the event that the building needs to be evacuated, please contact me during the first week of the quarter. If you require accommodations due to a diagnosed disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center in B132. Phone: 425-564-2498 (Voice) TTY: 425-564-4110.
- *Willingness to listen:* Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded acceptance of ideas and modes of expression which might conflict with one's personal ideas and/or values. By being exposed to such ideas and expressions, you are not expected to endorse or adopt them but rather understand that they are part of the free flow of information upon which higher education depends.

Contact information is on the first page.

Writing Lab!  
D204

### WRITTEN WORK

Computers and printers are available in N250 onen

- All written work, with the exception of work done in class, **must be typed and stapled** with your name, the date, and the assignment title at the top.
- All sources must be cited in APA format. Any information gathered from outside sources, and this includes the text books, must be cited and referenced. For information on citations and references see the writing lab online at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/> or in person in D-204.
- Since this is a social science class, written work should consist of analysis rather than opinion. This means connection the information, whether it is from a movie, a text or a speaker, to sociological concepts and themes presented in class. This does not mean you cannot connect things to your own life and experiences, but it does mean the sociological context needs to be there as well and that your ideas are backed up by the appropriate source(s).
- Keep all work returned to you until after final grades for the quarter are posted. This will provide you with documentation should there be a discrepancy in the grade received and the grade recorded for a particular assignment.
- Any grade appeals (beyond a recording mistake) must be submitted in writing.

You can find a stapler in the library or buy a portable one in the book store.

**GRADING****ITEM****NUMBER****POINTS****TOTAL**

(subject to minor redistribution)

<b>reading log</b>	22	10	200 (lowest 2 dropped)
<b>news article assignment</b>	2	25	50
<b>discussion question</b>	3	10	30
<b>sociological imagination essay</b>	1	100	100
<b>movie/speaker analysis</b>	3	25	75
<b>media presentation</b>	1	100	100
<b>final</b>	1	100	100
<b>attendance/participation</b>	n/a	based on %	200

**855 points possible**

***grading scale***

*(see canvas for current grade)*

**A:** 94-100% **A-:** 90-93% **B+:** 87-89% **B:** 84-86% **B-:** 80-83%  
**C+:** 77-79% **C:** 74-76% **C-:** 70-73% **D+:** 64-69% **D:** 60-63% **F:** <60%