FAMILIES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY SOC 255

5 credits SUMMER 2014

instructor: Sue Cox phone: (425) 564-6167 office: A100F office hours: by appointment

email: sue.cox@bellevuecollege.edu mailbox: D110

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* (5th 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!!

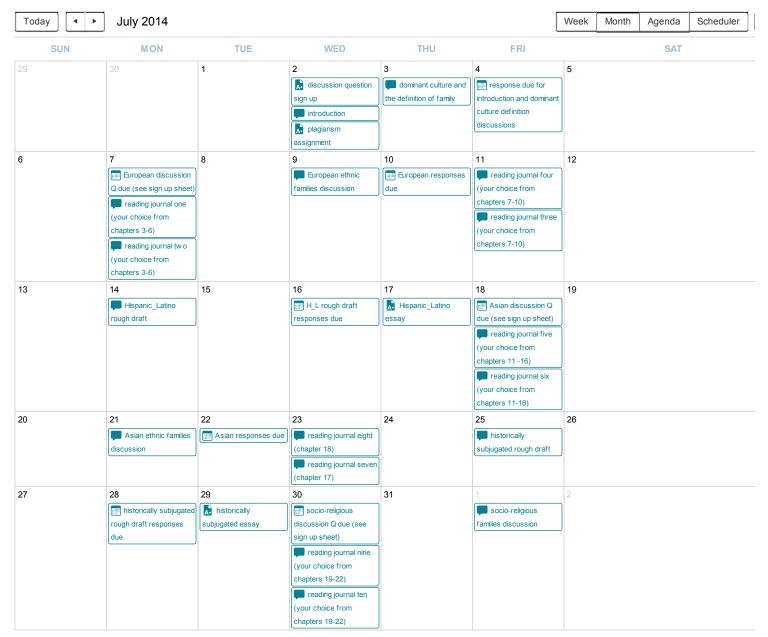
COURSE OBJECTIVES

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 					

7/1/2014 Calendar



7/1/2014 Calendar

