

# **FAMILIES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY**

## **SOC 255**

5 credits

SUMMER 2014

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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

Today

July 2014

Week

Month

Agenda

Scheduler

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2 <div>discussion question sign up</div> <div>introduction</div> <div>plagiarism assignment</div>	3 <div>dominant culture and the definition of family</div>	4 <div>response due for introduction and dominant culture definition discussions</div>	5
6	7 <div>European discussion Q due (see sign up sheet)</div> <div>reading journal one (your choice from chapters 3-6)</div> <div>reading journal two (your choice from chapters 3-6)</div>	8	9 <div>European ethnic families discussion</div>	10 <div>European responses due</div>	11 <div>reading journal four (your choice from chapters 7-10)</div> <div>reading journal three (your choice from chapters 7-10)</div>	12
13	14 <div>Hispanic_Latino rough draft</div>	15	16 <div>H_L rough draft responses due</div>	17 <div>Hispanic_Latino essay</div>	18 <div>Asian discussion Q due (see sign up sheet)</div> <div>reading journal five (your choice from chapters 11-16)</div> <div>reading journal six (your choice from chapters 11-16)</div>	19
20	21 <div>Asian ethnic families discussion</div>	22 <div>Asian responses due</div>	23 <div>reading journal eight (chapter 18)</div> <div>reading journal seven (chapter 17)</div>	24	25 <div>historically subjugated rough draft</div>	26
27	28 <div>historically subjugated rough draft responses due</div>	29 <div>historically subjugated essay</div>	30 <div>socio-religious discussion Q due (see sign up sheet)</div> <div>reading journal nine (your choice from chapters 19-22)</div> <div>reading journal ten (your choice from chapters 19-22)</div>	31	1 <div>socio-religious families discussion</div>	2

Today		August 2014		Week	Month	Agenda	Scheduler
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
27	28 historically subjugated rough draft responses due	29 historically subjugated essay	30 socio-religious discussion Q due (see sign up sheet) reading journal nine (your choice from chapters 19-22) reading journal ten (your choice from chapters 19-22)	31	1 socio-religious families discussion	2	
3	4 socio-religious responses due	5	6 sociological imagination rough draft	7	8 soc imag rough draft responses due	9	
10	11 sociological imagination essay	12 definition of family extra credit - 10 points	13 def of family responses due	14 discussion question posting final assessment	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	