Course Information
Meeting Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:50 – 10:00 a.m.
Room: PPHAC 232
Prerequisites: none

Required Reading


Course Objectives
- To introduce concepts, theories, and research sociologists use to analyze families
- To help the student understand the study of the family as a social institution, including its development in the United States, contemporary patterns, and future trends.
- To expand the student’s own cultural awareness as we compare contemporary America to other cultures.
- To show the complexity of family life, especially how family experience is shaped by and shapes race, ethnicity, social class, gender, and sexual preference.
- To examine patterns of coupling, marriage, division of labor, parenting, intimate violence, and divorce within families.

Instructor Information
Miss Misty Curreli
Telephone number: 610-625-7600, Press 2
Email: mcurreli@moravian.edu
Office Location: Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex, Room 318
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Course Rules & Procedures
Class Attendance
Attendance is expected at ALL classes and exams. Repetitive absences WILL affect your grade. If you are unable to come to class on an exam day, you must contact the instructor via email or telephone as soon as possible. At this point, we will determine IF and when the exam can be rescheduled. For an absence to be excused, documentation (medical excuses, mortuary record, court documentation, towing/car repair invoices) must be provided to instructor as soon as possible. Lateness will not be tolerated without a valid excuse and will therefore count as half of an absence.

Class cancellations will be posted on the door of the classroom. Announcements about school closings due to hazardous conditions can be reached at the inclement weather hotline, ext 7995.
Classroom Etiquette
You are expected to be respectful, tolerant, open-minded, and courteous to each person in the classroom. This includes behaving in a way that does not distract others’ learning. Remember to keep “sidetalk” to a minimum and turn cell phones OFF when entering the classroom.

Assignments
All reading materials (textbook, reader, and handouts) are integral parts of the course and are mandatory. You are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss the readings due that week.

Writing assignments will be an important part of this course. They will be graded on content, writing ability, presentation, format, and timeliness of submission. Students are responsible for completing all assignments on time. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments will be accepted up to ONE WEEK after the due date, however they will be downgraded 5 points for EACH DAY that they are late.

If a student is absent from class, it is his or her responsibility to obtain the assignment, complete it, and turn it in by the due date. In case of illness, assignments may be emailed to mcurreli@moravian.edu (Word documents ONLY).

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is expected regarding all exams and written assignments. Specifically, students should cite sources both within the body of the paper and in the bibliography for written assignments. Any and all forms of plagiarism (including failure to properly paraphrase your work) WILL result in a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade/dismissal from the course. Students must abide by the Academic Honesty Policy as set down by the Moravian College Student Handbook. Take time to review this policy at http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm.

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs
Students with documented disabilities or special needs who believe that they may need accommodations for this course should contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Grades
Final grades will be calculated as follows:
Exam 1 (Issues 1&2, Chapters 1, 2, & 3)  15%
Exam 2 (Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7)  15%
Exam 3 (Chapters 8, 10, 11, & 13)  15%
Family Journal Assignment  20%
Family Transformation Research Paper  25%
Class Participation & Group work  10%

Grading Scale:
B+  87-89
B  84-86
C+  77-79
C  74-76
D+  67-69
D  60-66
A-  90-93
A  94-100
B-  80-83
C-  70-73
F  <59
# Sociology: Marriage and the Family – Course Schedule

Subject to change. Additional readings and handouts will be added when necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of:</th>
<th>Reading Assignment:</th>
<th>Graded Assignment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 11th – 13th</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Thinking Sociologically About Families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18th – 20th</td>
<td>Issue 1: What is Family? &amp; Issue 2: Is the Family Breaking Down? (Coontz Introduction and Chapters 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 25th – 27th</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Gender &amp; Families (Coontz Chapter 3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1st – 3rd</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Race, Ethnicities &amp; Families (Coontz Chapter 4)</td>
<td>Research Introduction &amp; Methodology Due – Tues. Feb. 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 8th – 10th</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Wealth, Poverty &amp; Families (Coontz Chapter 5)</td>
<td>Exam 1 – Thurs. Feb 10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 22nd – 24th</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Couplehood &amp; Marriage (Coontz Chapter 7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1st – 3rd</td>
<td>No classes held – Spring Break (Finish Coontz text)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8th – 10th</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Work Life &amp; Family Life</td>
<td>Exam 2 – Thurs. March 24th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15th – 17th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22nd – 24th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional Literature Review Due - Tues. April 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29th – 31st</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Parenthood &amp; Parenting</td>
<td>Completed Journal Due – 8 Entries - Thurs. April 14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5th – 7th</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Intimate Violence</td>
<td>Research Paper Due – Thurs. April 21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12th – 14th</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Divorce &amp; Remarriage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19th – 21st</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Families in a Changing Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26th – 28th</td>
<td>Bring the semester to a close!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam (Exam 3) – To Be Announced**
Family Journal Assignment

As a requirement of this course, you will be expected to keep a journal of family-related reflections. For the majority of the chapters that we will cover in the course, you will address the topics within in two ways:
1. a thoughtful reflection of class discussion and readings and
2. the integration of current news into your knowledge base.

1. Thoughtful Reflection
For each journal entry, address any, some, or all of the following ideas:
- Reflections of the week’s topics
- Application of the week’s material to your own family life, or the family life of someone else that you have observed
- Application of course material to mass media images of families (books, tv shows, cartoons, songs…)
- Answering the questions at the beginnings or ends of the chapters
- Other family-related topics that you’ve been thinking about

2. Current News
From credible print news sources (The Morning Call, U.S.A. Today, Time, U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, New York Times, etc…), you will locate articles about your topics. You may find these sources in print format, or online. At least one news article is required for each journal entry (you may include more if you wish). Print or copy the article in order to include it with your journal entry.

Briefly explain the general idea of the article and incorporate what you have learned from it into what we have covered in class. How does the material in the article compare to what our text/class discussions have dealt with? What significance does this article have for families, i.e. what is its impact?

Due Dates & Submission Information

The first half of the journal will be due February 24th. We will have covered six separate topics in this time period. You must turn in four journal entries for evaluation at this
time. From the remaining course material, you will then choose four more chapters to write about. The entire journal (four new entries in addition to the four original entries) will be due April 14th.

Each journal entry should be at least one page long, but no more than two pages long (typed, double spaced, regular fonts & margins). Create a cover sheet for the compiled journal articles, so that you may maximize the amount of space on each journal entry’s page. It is only necessary to write your name and chapter title at the top of each journal entry.

Be sure to include a Works Cited page that references all the sources that you have used.

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. It will be assessed on thoughtfulness and effort more than writing ability and presentation, although these items are important as well.

Family Transformation Research Assignment

Frequently we hear friends, relatives, or mass media images comment upon the change in families from previous generations until today, many times pointing to a downfall in family togetherness, morals, or structure. Your duty is to design a research project that attempts to determine what people’s perceptions are of family, change, and to what change is attributed. This assignment has derived from and is very closely related to our text, The Way We Really Are by Stephanie Coontz.

After reading from our texts and consulting other research papers on this topic, you will design your data collection tool. You should create five to six questions (excluding demographic social characteristics) and ask them to people in the form of a survey questionnaire (10 respondents) or an interview (5 respondents). It is up to you to design the questions in a nonbiased, effective, and creative way. Likewise, you will want to survey people who fit the needs of your research.

Upon compiling your results, you will look for trends in the data (grouping people by their social characteristics who respond similarly to your questions). Lastly, you will discuss how your results compare to the literature that you’ve previously reviewed (Coontz and Newman) and speak about the implications that your results have on public policy.
Due Dates & Submission Information

*Research Introduction & Methodology (Including Data Collection Tool): **Tuesday, February 1st**

Following the guidelines on the next page, you will propose a research topic and methodology to me. This requires a lot of prior thought! I will read over your submission to make suggestions about research procedure or format.

*Literature Review (Optional): **Tuesday, April 5th**

The purpose of the literature review is to compile information about current research and perspectives on your topic. In this course, we will focus on the book, *The Way We Really Are* by Stephanie Coontz. However, you may incorporate other authors to display a more diverse explanation of family change. If you so choose, you may turn in a copy of your literature review to me before the final submission. Like the previous section, this will allow me to make suggestions/corrections to your work.

*Completed Research Paper Due (and all previous drafts!!): **Thursday, April 21st**

This assignment is worth 25% of your final grade. It will be evaluated on your illustrated knowledge & comprehension of the Coontz text, your understanding of social research (as displayed by your research method. and results), proper research paper format as well as writing ability and presentation.
## Research Paper Format

### Introduction (1-2 pages)
- Explain the topic and why it is important.
- What are its issues and arguments?
- What is your research question?
- What is your hypothesis?

### Focused Lit. Review (3-4 pages)
- How does Coontz explain the change in American families over the past 50 years? Provide specific examples of research and data provided in the book.
- What research methods does Coontz use to collect data?
- What is the perspective that Coontz takes regarding contemporary families?
- Include an explanation of any other data or research studies that you have used in your research process.

### Methodology (1-2 pages)
- Which methodology have you chosen?
- Was this a good methodology to use?
- Who did your sample consist of (specifically)? How did you choose them?
- What questions did you ask (in general, include the actual survey in the Appendix)?

### Results (1-2 pages)
- What did the people say? (Straightforward responses)
- Make generalizations about their answers, looking for trends in the demographic social characteristics (age, race, class, gender, parent/nonparent...).

### Discussion (1-2 pages)
- How does this compare to the reviewed literature?
- What implications does this have for social policy?
- What are your general conclusions of the research and Coontz’s text?

### Bibliography
- Cite our two texts and any other credible resources that you have used.

### Appendices
- Include a copy of your data collection tool
- Include the completed consent forms from your participants