
Blackboard Course at:  http://blackboard.moravian.edu/

Course Objectives:
1. To obtain an understanding of basic family forms and functions;
2. To become familiar with the historical, cultural, economic and political factors that shape the structure of families;
3. To use sociological principles to analyze contemporary family issues;
4. To experience data collection and analysis through a simple research project.

Course Expectations:
Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If you cannot make it to class, I expect you to notify me of the reason for the absence. I will mostly lecture at the beginning of the course. However, there will be considerable discussion from then on. Student participation is extremely important to the learning process.

Course Evaluation:

There will be 3 exams:
- Sept. 18  (15%)
- Nov. 6  (15%)
- Final Exam (15%)

There will be 2 papers:
- Oct. 2  Focus on gender  (15%)
- Nov. 20  Research Report  (25%)

Class Presentation on Research Report  (5%)

Class Participation (Attendance and Discussion)  (10%)
Course Schedule (v2 on Oct. 26)

8/28  Introduction to the Course and Course Materials
8/30  Defining Family
       Reading: Issue 1 – pp. 2-17
9/4   Is the Family Unit Disappearing?
       Reading: Issue 2 – pp. 18-37
9/6   Cont’d.
9/11  Theoretical Constructs for Studying Families
       Reading: Ch. 1, pp. 83-94
9/13  Research Methods for Studying Families
       Reading: Ch. 1, pp. 94(bottom) - 108
9/18  EXAM # 1
9/20  Gender Issues
       Reading: Ch. 2, pp. 110-126 (middle)
9/25  (Cont’d.)
       Reading: Ch. 2, pp. 126 (middle) - 138
9/27  Racial/Ethnic Issues
       Reading: Ch. 3, pp. 141-164
10/2  (Cont’d.)
10/4  Economics and Family Life
       Reading: Ch. 4, pp.
10/9  NO CLASS  -  Fall Break
10/11 Dating and Mating
       Reading: Ch. 5
10/16 Cont’d.
10/18 Cont’d.
10/23 Marriage Rituals
       Reading: Ch. 6
10/30 Cont’d.
11/1  Household Management Issues
       Reading: Ch. 7
11/6  EXAM # 2
11/8  Data Collection
11/13 Becoming Parents
       Reading: Ch. 8
11/15 Parenthood
11/20 Family Violence
       Reading: Ch. 10 and Issue 3 – pp. 38- 51
11/22 THANKSGIVING – No class
11/27 Divorce and Remarriage
       Reading: Ch. 11
11/29 The Family Lifecycle
       Reading: Ch. 12
12/4  Research Presentations
12/6  Research Presentations and Closure