

**MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY  
SPRING 2018**

Prof. Rebecca M. Loew, PhD  
SOC 210/CRN 1201  
Office: Snow Hall Room 508

*RLoew@mxcc.edu*  
860.343.5813  
Office Hours: Tu. 11:30- 12:30 &  
2- 2:30; Fri. 11:45- 12:45

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An examination of the evolution of contemporary relationships such as dating, cohabitation and marriage. The implications of changes in relationships and their effect on the individual, family and society will be analyzed.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:**

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Identify the factors that have contributed to current high divorce rate among Americans.
2. Identify and explain gender division of labor in different cultures.
3. Analyze the family problems of violence and divorce.
4. State why the traditional image of the family no longer describes American families.
5. Understand the family from a global view, including patterns of mate selection and authority.
6. Analyze some of the changes in the American family, including the emergence of single-parent families, living together, and blended families.
7. Understand the social diversity of U.S. families.
8. Explore the future of the family as a social institution.
9. Examine the life-styles that are alternatives to the family such as staying single and living together.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Assigned readings must be completed on time, as they will be the bases for class Discussions.

Two exams will be given and must be taken on their assigned dates. No make-ups will be given for unexcused absences.

**REQUIRED TEXT: Cherlin, A.J. *Public & Private Families: An Introduction.* McGraw-Hill Publishing. 2017.**

**PARTICIPATION POLICY:** You are required to log on weekly and perform tasks and assignments online per the course outline in the syllabus. For weekly discussion **initial message responding to the questions is due midnight, Saturday of the week. The responses to two other students is due midnight, the following day (Sunday) of the week.** All other assignments are due according to the course outline. Credit will not be given for late submissions.

**CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY:** Not applicable

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Weekly discussions (15 discussion assignments; 10 points each)	150 points
<u>Exams (2 exams; 75 points each)</u>	<u>150 points</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300 points</b>

**Weekly Discussions**

Every week, you will be asked by the instructor to answer questions relating to assigned chapter on the week discussion board. You also need to respond to at least TWO messages other students posted. A weekly discussion assignment is worth a maximum of 10 points. The initial message responding to the instructor’s questions is due midnight, *Saturday*, of each week. The response to at least two classmates is due midnight, *Sunday*, of each week.

You will be graded on how completely you answer the assigned discussion questions and by the quality of your response to other students’ postings. ***Refer to the grading rubric for a specific explication of how points are assigned to discussion responses.*** Your use of critical thinking skills, conducting the research you conduct on the discussion board questions and your application of the readings will be assessed. You will have one week to conduct research and post. *No late postings will be accepted.*

**The exams** will draw from material in the text and readings, films, discussions, and instructor comments for the calendar period covered by the exam.

**Grading System:**

Letter Grade	Percent Grade	4.0 Scale (BOR Policy)
A	93.0 - 100.0	4.0
A-	90.0 - 92.9	3.7
B+	87.0 – 89.9	3.3
B	83.0 – 86.9	3.0
B-	80.0 – 82.9	2.7
C+	77.0 – 79.9	2.3
C	73.0 – 76.9	2.0
C-	70.0 – 72.9	1.7
D+	67.0 – 69.9	1.3
D	63.0 – 66.9	1.0
D-	60.0 – 62.9	0.7
F	Less than 60.0	0.0

**Additional Syllabus Information and College Policies:**

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, non-discrimination, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/)



**TAP COMPETENCY (Designated):**

**Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding** Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational or cultural means.

1. Explain social, organization, political, economic, historical, or cultural elements that influence and are influenced by individuals and groups.
2. Summarize different theories and research methods used to investigate social phenomena.
3. Explain ethical issues pertaining to social contexts and phenomena.
4. Explain issues of diversity within and across cultures.
5. Apply concepts or theories of social phenomena to real world situations, (e.g., service learning, group work, clubs, organizations, civic engagement, conflict resolution, and internships).

**SOCIOLOGY of the FAMILY COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Week, Discussions Due</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1, 1/20 & 21	Introductions	Welcome and Introductions
Week 2, 1/27 & 28	Defining “family”; theoretical perspectives; research methods	Chapter 1
Week 3, 2/3 & 4	Historical Perspectives on the Family	Chapter 2
Week 4, 2/10 & 11	Gender & Families	Chapter 3
Week 5, 2/17 & 18	Race, Ethnicities, & Families	Chapter 5
Week 6, 2/24 & 25	Social Class & Families	Chapter 4 -
Week 7, 3/3 & 4	Sexualities	Chapter 6
Week 8 , 3/10 & 11 [3/12- 18 Spring Break]	Cohabitation & Marriage	Chapter 7 EXAM 1 (Ch. 1- 6)
Week 9, 3/24 & 25	Work & Families	Chapter 8
Week 10, 3/31 & 4/1	Children & Parents	Chapter 9
Week 11, 4/7 & 8	Older People & Their Families	Chapter 10 -
Week 12, 4/14 & 15	Domestic Violence Divorce	Chapters 11 & 12
Week 13, 4/21 & 22	Stepfamilies	Chapter 13
Week 14, 4/28 & 29	The Family, The State, & Social Policy	Chapter 14
Week 15, 5/5 & 6	Topic Summaries	View & Reflect on Film on Demand assignment
** Test due on THURSDAY	<b>FINAL EXAM (Due midnight Thursday, May 10</b>	<b><i>Final Exam (Chapters 7- 14)</i></b>