

SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
Comprehensive Examination Reading List
School of Sociology, University of Arizona
Revised 2026

In each sub-section, readings are in chronological order to give you a sense of the historical development of the arguments and the questions within these subfields. Readings may fit in more than one module but are listed only once. Read with an eye on connections within and across sub-sections.

1. Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations

Engels, Friedrich. "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State." In *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978.

Parsons, Talcott. 1943. "The Kinship System of the Contemporary United States." *American Anthropologist* 45:22-38.

Bernard, Jessie. 1981. "The Good Provider Role: Its Rise and Fall." *American Psychologist* 36: 1-12.

Hartmann, Heidi. 1981. "The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class, and Political Struggle: The example of housework." *Signs* 6(3): 366-394.

Thorne, Barrie. 1982. "Feminist Rethinking of the Family: An Overview." In *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions*, ed. by Barrie Thorne with Marilyn Yalom. Longman.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1991. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge. Ch. 3.

Giddens, Anthony. 1992. "Love, Commitment and the Pure Relationship." Pp. 49-64 in *The Transformation of Intimacy*, ed. by A. Giddens. Stanford Univ. Press.

2. Historical and Demographic Trends

Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1978. "Approaches to Social Change and the Family." *American Journal of Sociology* 84(supplement): S1-S38.

Tilly, Louise and Joan Scott. 1978. *Women, Work and Family*. NY: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Ch. 1-3.

Coontz, Stephanie. 1992. *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*. NY: Basic Books. Ch. 1, 2, and 11.

Bianchi, Susan M. 2000. Maternal Employment and Time with Children: Dramatic Change or Surprising Continuity? *Demography*, 37(4), 401-414.

Goldscheider, Frances, Eva Bernhardt, and Trude Lappegård. 2015. "The Gender Revolution: A Framework for Understanding Changing Family and Demographic Behavior." *Population and Development Review* 41,2: 207-239.

Raymo, James M., Hyunjoon Park, Yu Xie, and Wei-jun Jean Yeung. 2015. "Marriage and Family in East Asia: Continuity and Change." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41: 471-492.

Ruggles, Steven. 2015. "Patriarchy, Power, and Pay: The Transformation of American Families, 1800-2015." *Demography* 52: 1797-1823.

3. Gender and Families

Williams, Joan. 2000. *Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What To Do About It*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 3, 4, 8.

Budig, Michelle J., and Paula England. 2001. The Wage Penalty for Motherhood. *American Sociological Review*, 66(2), 204.

Townsend, Nicholas. 2002. *The Package Deal: Marriage, Work and Fatherhood in Men's Lives* Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pp. 1-29 and 50-80.

Correll, Shelley J., Stephen Benard, and In Paik. 2007. "Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?" *American Journal of Sociology*, 112(5), 1297-1339.

Moore, Mignon R. 2008. "Gendered power relations among women: A study of household decision making in Black, lesbian stepfamilies." *American Sociological Review* 73(2): 335-356.

Zuo, Jiping. 2009. "Rethinking Family Patriarchy and Women's Positions in Presocialist China." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 71(3):542-557.

Hoang, Lan Anh, and Brenda SA Yeoh. 2011. "Breadwinning Wives and 'Left-behind' Husbands: Men and Masculinities in the Vietnamese Transnational Family." *Gender & Society* 25, 6: 717-739.

Killewald, Alexandra, and Margaret Gough. 2013. "Does Specialization Explain Marriage Penalties and Premiums?" *American Sociological Review* 78:477-502.

Rehel, Erin M. 2014. "When Dad Stays Home Too: Paternity Leave, Gender, and Parenting." *Gender & Society* 28,1:110-32.

Pedulla, David, and Sarah Thebaud. 2015. "Can We Finish the Revolution? Gender, Work-Family Ideals, and Institutional Constraint." *American Sociological Review* 80(1): 116-139.

Anderson, Nadina L. 2017. To Provide and Protect: Gendering Money in Ukrainian Households. *Gender & Society*, 31(3), 359-382.

Rao, Aliya H. 2022. "Relational Work in the Family: The Gendered Microfoundation of Parents' Economic Decisions." *American Sociological Review* 87(6): 1094-1120.

4. Families, the Economy, and Inequality

Stack, Carol. 1974. *All Our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community*. New York: Basic Books.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 1983. "Split Household, Small Producer, and Dual Wage Earner: An Analysis of Chinese American Family Strategies." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 45: 35-46.

Edin, Kathryn and Laura Lein. 1997. "Work, Welfare, and Single Mothers' Economic Survival Strategies." *American Sociological Review* 62(2): 253-266.

Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67: 747-776.

McLanahan, Sara and Christine Percheski. 2008. "Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 257-76.

Western, Bruce, Deirdre Bloome, and Christine Percheski. 2008. "Inequality among American Families with Children, 1975-2005." *American Sociological Review* 73: 903-920.

Dreby, Joanna. 2012. "The Burden of Deportation on Children in Mexican Immigrant Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74(4): 829-845.

Siwei Cheng. 2015. "The Accumulation of (Dis)advantage: The Intersection of Gender and Race in the Long-Term Wage Effect of Marriage," *American Sociological Review* 81:29-56.

5. Romantic Love, Sexuality, and Courtship

Bailey, Beth. 1989. *From Front Porch to Back Seat: Courtship in Twentieth Century America*. Johns Hopkins Press. Ch.1 and 2.

Carpenter, Laura M. 2002. "Gender and the Meaning and Experience of Virginity Loss in the Contemporary United States." *Gender & Society*, 16(3): 345-365.

Hamilton, Laura and Elizabeth Armstrong. 2009. "Gendered Sexuality in Young Adulthood: Double Binds and Flawed Options." *Gender & Society* 23,5:589-616.

Rosenfeld, Michael J., and Reuben J. Thomas. 2012. "Searching for a Mate: The Rise of the Internet as a Social Intermediary." *American Sociological Review* 77, 4: 523-547.

Lin, Ken-Hou, and Jennifer Lundquist. 2013. "Mate Selection in Cyberspace: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Education." *American Journal of Sociology* 119,1:183-215.

Lamont, Ellen. 2014. "Negotiating Courtship: Reconciling Egalitarian Ideals with Traditional Gender Norms." *Gender & Society* 28,2:189-211.

Choi, Kate H. and Marta Tienda. 2017. "Marriage-Market Constraints and Mate-Selection Behavior: Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Differences in Intermarriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 79(2): 301-317.

6. Marriage and Cohabitation

Lichter, D.T. McLaughlin, G. Kephart, G. and Landry D.J. 1992. "Race and the Retreat from Marriage: Shortage of Available Men?" *American Sociological Review* 57: 781-799.

Waite, Linda. 1995. "Does Marriage Matter?" *Demography* 32:483-507.

Brines, Julie, and Kara Joyner. 1999. "The Ties that Bind: Principles of Cohesion in Cohabitation and Marriage." *American Sociological Review* 64: 333-355.

Ferguson, Susan J. 2000. "Challenging Traditional Marriage: Never Married Chinese American and Japanese American Women." *Gender & Society* 14(1):136-159.

Sweeney, Megan M. 2002. "Two Decades of Family Change: The Shifting Economic Foundations of Marriage." *American Sociological Review* 67: 132-147.

Cherlin, Andrew J. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66: 848-861.

Harknett, Kristen, and Sara McLanahan. 2004. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Marriage after the Birth of a Child." *American Sociological Review* 69: 790-811.

Gibson-Davis, Christina M., Kathryn Edin, and Sara McLanahan. 2005. "High Hopes but Even Higher Expectations: The Retreat from Marriage among Low-income Couples." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67: 1301-1312.

Stanley, Scott M., Galena Kline Rhoades, and Howard J. Markman. 2006. "Sliding versus deciding: Inertia and the premarital cohabitation effect." *Family Relations* 55(4): 499-509.

Schneider, Daniel. 2011. "Wealth and the Marital Divide." *American Journal of Sociology* 117, 2:627-67.

Allendorf, Keera, and Dirgha J. Ghimire. 2013. "Determinants of Marital Quality in an Arranged Marriage Society." *Social Science Research* 42(1):59.

Allendorf, Keera, and Arland Thornton. 2015. "Caste and Choice: The Influence of Developmental Idealism on Marriage Behavior." *The American Journal of Sociology* 121(1):243.

Baker, Regina S. 2015. "The Changing Association among Marriage, Work, and Child Poverty in the United States, 1974–2010." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 77, 5:1166-78.

Yu, Jia, and Yu Xie. 2015. "Changes in the Determinants of Marriage Entry in Post-Reform Urban China." *Demography* 52(6):1869-1892.

Cherlin, Andrew J. 2020. "Degrees of Change: An Assessment of the Deinstitutionalization of Marriage Thesis." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82,1:62-80.

Chang, Paul Y., Jihye Oh and Young-Mi Kim. 2024. "Opting Out Or Left Out? The Gendered Determinants of Marriage in South Korea." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 86(1):132-153.

7. Divorce and Blended Families

Weitzman, Lenore J. 1980. "The Economics of Divorce: Social and economic consequences of property, alimony, and child support awards." *UCLA Law Review* 28: 1181.

Peterson, Richard R. 1996. "A re-evaluation of the economic consequences of divorce." *American Sociological Review* 61(3): 528-536. And reply from Weitzman, "The economic consequences of divorce are still unequal: Comment on Peterson": 537.

Amato, Paul R. and Juliana M. Sobolewski. 2001. "The Effects of Divorce and Marital Discord on Adult Children's Psychological Well-Being." *American Sociological Review* 66: 900-921.

South, Scott. 2001. "Wives' Employment, Marital Duration, and Divorce Rates." *American Sociological Review* 66:226-45.

Brown, Susan L. 2006. "Family Structure Transitions and Adolescent Well-being." *Demography* 43:447-461.

Matthijs, Kalmijn. 2007. "Gender Differences in the Effects of Divorce, Widowhood and Remarriage on Intergenerational Support: Does Marriage Protect Fathers?" *Social Forces* 85: 1079-1104.

Sayer, Liana, Paula England, Paul D. Allison, and Nicole Kangas. 2011. "She Left, He Left: How Employment and Satisfaction affect Women's and Men's Decisions to Leave Marriages." *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1982-2018.

Raley, R. Kelly, and Megan M. Sweeney. 2020. "Divorce, Repartnering, and Stepfamilies: A Decade in Review." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82,1:81-99.

8. LGBTQ Partnerships and Families

Stacey, Judith and Timothy J. Biblarz. 2001. "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?" *American Sociological Review* 66:159-83.

Stacey, Judith. 2006. "Gay Parenthood and the End of Paternity as We Knew It." *Sexualities* 9(1): 27-55.

Biblarz, Timothy and Evren Savci. 2010. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72:480-97.

Baumle, Amanda K and D’Lane R. Compton. 2015. *Legalizing LGBT Families. How the Law Shapes Parenthood*. New York: NYU Press. Ch. 1.

Ocobock, Abigail. 2020. “Leveraging legitimacy: Institutional work and change in the case of same-sex marriage.” *American Journal of Sociology* 126, 3: 513-544.

9. Parents and Children

Wright, James D. and Sonia R. Wright. 1976. “Social Class and Parental Values for Children: A Partial Replication and Extension of the Kohn Thesis.” *American Sociological Review* 41:527-537. And Kohn’s and Wright’s interchange. *American Sociological Review* 41:538-548.

Zelizer, Viviana A. 1981. The Price and Value of Children: The Case of Children’s Insurance. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 86(5), 1036–1056.

Hays, Sharon. 1996. *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Ch. 1, 5 and 6.

Fisher, Allen. 2003. “Still “Not Quite as Good as Having Your Own”? Toward a Sociology of Adoption.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 29: 335-361.

Hamilton, Laura, Simon Cheng, and Brian Powell. 2007. “Adoptive Parents, Adaptive Parents: Evaluating the Importance of Biological Ties for Parental Investment.” *American Sociological Review* 72: 95-116.

Wildeman, Christopher. 2009. “Parental Imprisonment, the Prison Boom, and the Concentration of Childhood Disadvantage.” *Demography* 46: 265-280.

Fentiman, Linda. 2017. *Blaming Mothers: American Law and the Risks to Children’s Health*. New York: NYU Press. Ch. 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9.

Haney, Lynne. 2018. “Incarcerated fatherhood: The entanglements of child support debt and mass imprisonment.” *American Journal of Sociology* 124, 1: 1-48.

Randles, Jennifer. 2018. ““Willing to do anything for my kids’: Inventive Mothering, Diapers, and the Inequalities of Carework.” *American Sociological Review* 86(1): 35-39.

Stewart, Mahala Dyer. 2023. “The Color of Homeschooling: How Inequality Shapes School Choice.” New York: NYU Press. Intro, Ch. 2-5, Conclusion.

10. Household Labor and Carework

Hochschild, Arlie (with Anne Machung). 1989. *The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home*. Viking Press. Ch. 1, 17.

Bittman, M., P. England, N. Folbre, L. Sayer, and G. Matheson. 2003. "When Does Gender Trump Money? Bargaining and Time in Household Work." *American Journal of Sociology* 109: 186-214.

Fuwa, Makiko. 2004. "Macro-level Gender Inequality and the Division of Household Labor in 22 Countries." *American Sociological Review* 69: 751-767.

Sarkisian, Natalia, and Naomi Gerstel. 2004. "Kin Support among Blacks and Whites: Race and Family Organization." *American Sociological Review* 69,6:812-37.

Grigoryeva, Angelina. 2017. "Own Gender, Sibling's Gender, Parent's Gender: The Division of Elderly Parent Care among Adult Children." *American Sociological Review* 82,1:116-146.

Daminger, Allison. 2019. "The Cognitive Dimension of Household Labor." *American Sociological Review* 84,4:609-33.

11. Fertility and Reproduction

Rothman, Barbara Katz. 1982. *In Labor: Women and Power in the Birthplace*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Ch. 1.

Luker, Kristin. 1984. *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 1, 7, 8.

Roberts, Dorothy E. 1997. *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Simonds, Wendy, Barbara Katz Rothman, and Bari Meltzer Norman. 2007. *Laboring on: Birth in Transition in the United States*. New York: Taylor & Francis.

Horne, Christine, F. N. Doodoo and Naa D. Doodoo. 2013. "The Shadow of Indebtedness: Bridewealth and Norms Constraining Female Reproductive Autonomy." *American Sociological Review* 78(3):503-520.

Brown, Eliza, and Mary Patrick. 2018. "Time, Anticipation, and the Life Course: Egg Freezing as Temporarily Disentangling Romance and Reproduction." *American Sociological Review* 82(5): 959-982.

Roth, Louise Marie. 2021. *The Business of Birth: Malpractice and Maternity Care in the United States*. New York: NYU Press.

Johnson, Katherine M. 2023. *Undoing Motherhood? Collaborative Reproduction and the Deinstitutionalization of US Maternity*. Rutgers University Press.

Inhorn, Marcia C. 2023. *Motherhood on Ice: The Mating Gap and Why Women Freeze their Eggs*. New York: NYU Press. Introduction, Ch. 1-3, 5.

12. Family Violence

Delsol, Catherine, Gayla Margolin, and Richard S. John. 2003. "A Typology of Maritally Violent Men and Correlates of Violence in a Community Sample." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 65:635-651.

Cherlin, Andrew, Linda Burton, Tera Hurt, and Diane Purvin. 2004. "The Influence of Physical and Sexual Abuse on Marriage and Cohabitation." *American Sociological Review* 69:768-89.

Atkinson, Maxine P., Theodore N. Greenstein, and Molly Monahan Lang. 2005. "For Women, Breadwinning Can Be Dangerous: Gendered Resource Theory and Wife Abuse." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67:1137-1148.

Sorenson, Susan B. and Kristie A. Thomas. 2009. "Views of Intimate Partner Violence in Same- and Opposite-Sex Relationships." *Journal of Marriage & Family* 70:337-352.

Brush, Lisa. 2011. *Poverty, Battered Women, and Work in U.S. Public Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Sweet, Paige L. 2019. "The paradox of legibility: Domestic violence and institutional survivorhood." *Social Problems* 66(3): 411-427.

Hardesty, Jennifer L., and Brian G. Ogolsky. 2020. "A Socioecological Perspective on Intimate Partner Violence Research: A Decade in Review." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 82,1: 454-477.

13. Families and the State

Orloff, Ann Shola. 1993. "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States." *American Sociological Review* 58: 303-328.

Hays, Sharon. 2003. *Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1-3, 7.

Reich, Jennifer. 2005. *Fixing Families: Parents, Power, and the Child Welfare System*. New York: Routledge. Ch. 1, 4-9.

Eunmi, Mun, and Jung Jiwook. 2018. "Policy Generosity, Employer Heterogeneity, and Women's Employment Opportunities: The Welfare State Paradox Reexamined." *American Sociological Review* 83(3):508-535.

Fong, Kelley. 2020. "Getting Eyes in the Home: Child Protective Services Investigations and State Surveillance of Family Life." *American Sociological Review* 85(4): 610-638.

Michaela, Christy S. 2020. "Becoming Wards of the State: Race, Crime, and Childhood in the Struggle for Foster Care Integration, 1920s to 1960s." *American Sociological Review* 85(2): 199-222.