

SOC 596A: ADVANCED TOPICS IN RESEARCH: THE FAMILY
Fall 2006

PROFESSOR:

Louise Marie Roth

Social Sciences 433

email: lroth@email.arizona.edu

Wednesday 9:00-11:30

Social Sciences 415

Office hours: Mon. 10:30-12 ABA

Course Description

The family is a core institution of all known societies and its study is a core area of sociology. Contemporary debates about the family express fears about changes in marriage, sexuality, and gender roles as a “breakdown” or “decline” of the family. Sociological research reveals that family forms vary historically and cross-culturally and must be viewed in relation to other social institutions. Accordingly, the sociology of family life addresses the relationship between the family as an institution and other social processes and institutions, such as the economy, the workplace, and the state. In doing so, this field addresses historical change, current trends in family life, and the relationship between the family and social inequalities of gender, race and class.

This course surveys the growing body of theoretical and empirical research in the sociology of the family with the goal of providing students with a theoretical grounding for studying families sociologically. In this course you will read some of the work that defines the contemporary field and is important for scholars who define the family as one of their areas of expertise. By semester’s end, you will have some solid theoretical and analytical tools for studying the large and growing topics in the sociology of family life. The readings for the course will also help students to prepare for comprehensive exams in this area. You are expected to always come to class prepared to participate in a discussion of the readings.

Non-Sociology Graduate Students: You must have permission from the instructor to take this course. Please contact me for a face-to-face meeting before the 2nd class.

Requirements

- (1) Submit two discussion questions each week. These questions can address conceptual ambiguities in the readings, interesting similarities or differences across readings, or the relevance of readings for other research. Questions are due by email by 2pm on Tuesday. These questions will be an important part of the agenda for each class meeting; come prepared to explain your question, why it is worth asking, and how you have begun to think of an answer. Discussion questions will be part of your class participation grade. You may also submit clarification questions with your discussion questions.
- (2) Each student will lead one week’s discussion with an analysis of one of the week’s readings.
- (3) Two 4-6 pages conceptual papers, due in weeks 5 and 9.

- (4) Final project, due during exam period. You have three choices:
1. You may write a proposal in which you design a research study that you could execute in the future, possibly as a Masters paper or dissertation proposal. After choosing a topic, you will need to find a data source or design a data collection procedure. You may find a statistical source in the statistical resources available through SBSRI, or your question may require some type of data collection. Regardless of which methodology you use, the data should fit the question that you pose and you should describe the data or data collection thoroughly. Also be sure to explain how you will analyze the data.
 2. You may use a research proposal that you have designed for another class that involves a family-related topic, and use the semester to refine the topic, sharpen its focus on families, execute the research and write it up as an empirical paper. Students working on a family-related MA topic may submit a draft of their MA paper as their final paper. ***If you have taken a graduate seminar with me in the past, I encourage you to submit a different paper for this class.*** If you want to submit a revision of a paper that I have already seen, you will need to seek my approval.
 3. You may substantially revise a paper that you have written in another class in order to submit it for publication. ***If the other class was with me, I encourage you to think about a new or related topic. It is usually beneficial to expand one's repertoire.*** If you want to submit a revision of a paper that I have already seen, you will need to seek my approval. The original paper must either involve a family-related topic, or you may add a family-related dimension if this will strengthen the central argument of the paper. You may also introduce an empirical data analysis to a paper that was formerly only a literature review. If you choose this option, you should have a paper suitable for journal submission by the end of the semester.

Choosing one of the second two options means that you will be writing a paper that analyzes empirical data.

A 1-2 page description of your intentions for the final assignment and the data source you plan to use or how you will collect data will be due in Week 3 (Sept. 6). The final proposal or paper is due on the Wednesday of the exam period (Wed. Dec. 13, 2006). Rather than reading new material, the last two class sessions will be devoted to assisting each other with proposals or papers.

Grade

30%	Two 4-6 page conceptual papers (15% each)
15%	Class participation (includes submitted questions)
5%	Description of final project
50%	Final project

Books

Coontz, Stephanie. 1992. *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalia Trap*. New York: Basic Books.

Hochschild, Arlie. 1999. *The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*. New York: Metropolitan Books.

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

Stack, Carol. *All Our Kin*. New York: Basic Books.

Swidler, Ann. 2003. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

All articles and other book excerpts will be available in scanned .pdf form or through electronic reserves at <http://eres.library.arizona.edu>. The password is alimony.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction

Aug. 23

WEEK 2: Family Change in the U.S.

Aug. 30

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

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

Matthews, Sarah H. 2005. "Crafting Qualitative Research Articles on Marriages and Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67 (November): 799-808.

WEEK 3: The Theoretical Importance of Love

Sept. 6

Submit description of final project research question and data

Goode, William J. 1959. "The Theoretical Importance of Love." *American Sociological Review* 24 (1): 38-47.

Swidler, Ann. 2003. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1, 2, and 9 (Conclusion). {Remove Ch. 9 and replace with 6 and 7 next time}

WEEK 4: Gender Inequality in the Family

Sept. 13

Parsons, Talcott. 1964. "Age and Sex in the Social Structure." Pp. 243-255 in *The Family: Its Structures and Functions*. Rose L. Coser (Ed.). New York: St. Martin's Press.

Polatnick, Margaret. 1973. "Why Men Don't Rear Children." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 18: 45-86.

Thorne, Barrie. 1992. "Feminist Rethinking of the Family: An Overview." pp. 1-24 in *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions*, 2nd edition, Barrie Thorne and Marilyn Yalom (Eds.). Boston: Northeastern University Press.

Tichenor, Veronica Jaris. 1999. "Status and Income as Gendered Resources." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 61, 3 (Aug.): 638-650.

Zuo, Jiping, and Shengming Tang. 2000. "Breadwinner Status and Gender Ideologies of Men and Women regarding Family Roles." *Sociological Perspectives* 43, 1 (Spring): 29-43.

Coltrane, Scott. 1989. "Household Labor and the Routine Production of Gender." *Social Problems* 36: 473-490.

WEEK 5: Families and Race

Sept. 20 **Conceptual paper #1 due**

Moynihan, Daniel Patrick. 1967. "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action." pp. 39-124 in *The Moynihan Report and the Politics of Controversy*. Lee Rainwater and William L. Yancey (Ed.). Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.

Stack, Carol. *All Our Kin*. 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 the Family* 45, 1 (February): 35-46.

WEEK 6: GLBT Families

Sept. 27

Weston, Kath. 1990. *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays and Kinship*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapters 2 and 5.

Stacey, Judith. 2004. "Cruising to Familyland: Gay Hypergamy and Rainbow Kinship." *Current Sociology* 52, 2 (March): 181-197.

Stacey, Judith and Timothy J. Biblarz. 2001. "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?" *American Sociological Review* 66, 2 (April): 159-183.

Meezan, William and Jonathan Rauch. 2005. "Gay Marriage, Same-Sex Parenting, and America's Children." *The Future of Children* 15, 2.

Wainright, Jennifer L., Stephen T. Russell, and Charlotte J. Patterson. 2004. "Psychosocial Adjustment, School Outcomes, and Romantic Relationships of Adolescents with Same-Sex Parents." *Child Development* 75, 6 (November/December): 1886-1898.

WEEK 7: Reproduction

Oct. 4

Roberts, Dorothy. 1997. *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Vintage Books. Intro, Ch. 2, 3, 5-7.

Rothman, Barbara Katz. 2000. *Recreating Motherhood*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. Part I, Part II, chapter 6 (Pregnancy as a Relationship), 9 (Fetal Rights), 10 (Medicalizing Motherhood).

WEEK 8: Infertility and Reproductive Technology

Oct. 11

Greil, Arthur L. 1991. *Not yet pregnant: Infertile couples in contemporary America*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Ch. 1 (Introduction), 2 (Bodies and selves).

Pfeffer, Naomi. 1987. "Artificial Insemination, In-vitro Fertilization and the Stigma of Infertility." Pp. 81-97 in *Reproductive Technologies: Gender, Motherhood and Medicine*. Michelle Stanworth (Ed.). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Rapp, Rayna. 1993. "Accounting for Amniocentesis." Pp. 55-76 in *Knowledge, Power, and Practice: The Anthropology of Medicine and Everyday Life*. Shirley Lindenbaum and Margaret Lock (Eds.). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Retsinas, Joan. 1987. "Nature Versus Technology: The Breast-Feeding Decision." *Sociological Spectrum*, 7: 121-139.

WEEK 9: Parents and Children

Oct. 18 **Conceptual paper #2 due**

Davis, Kingsley. 1940. "The Sociology of Parent-Youth Conflict." *American Sociological Review* 5: 523-35.

Amato, Paul R. 2005. "The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation." *The Future of Children* 15, 2.

Hansen, Karen, V. and Annita Ilta Garey, Eds. 1998. *Families in the U.S.: Kinship and Domestic Policies*. Chapters 4 (Adoption and Kinship), 15 (Children's Changing Access to Resources), 39 (Ideals of Care: Traditional, Postmodern, Cold-Modern and Warm-Modern).

La Rossa, Ralph. 1988. "Fatherhood and Social Change." *Family Relations* 37, 4 (October): 451-457.

Hays, Sharon. "The Mommy Wars: Ambivalence, Ideological Work, and the Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood." Pp. 432-448 in *Family in Transition*. 10th Edition. Arlene S. Skolnick and Jerome H. Skolnick (Eds.).

Somers, Marsha D. 1993. "A comparison of voluntarily childfree adults and parents." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 55, 3 (August): 643-651.

WEEK 10: Marriage, Divorce, and Cohabitation

Oct. 25

Nock, Stephen L. 2005. "Marriage as a Public Issue." *The Future of Children* 15, 2.

Bolte, Angela. "Do Wedding Dresses Come in Lavender? The Prospects and Implications of Same-Sex Marriage." *Social Theory and Practice* 24, 1 (Spring): 118-128.

Edin, Kathryn and Joanna M. Reed. 2005. "Why Don't They Just Get Married? Barriers to Marriage among the Disadvantaged." *The Future of Children* 15, 2.

Smock, Pamela. 2000. "Cohabitation in the United States." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 1-20.

Peterson, Richard R. 1996. "A Re-Evaluation of the Consequences of Divorce." *American Sociological Review* 61, 3 (June): 528-536.

Weitzman, Lenore. 1996. "The Economic Consequences of Divorce are Still Unequal: Comment on Peterson." *American Sociological Review* 61, 3 (June): 537-538.

Peterson, Richard R. 1996. "Statistical Errors, Faulty Conclusions, Misguided Policy: A Reply to Weitzman." *American Sociological Review* 61, 3 (June): 539-540.

WEEK 11: Family Violence

Nov. 1

Dobash, Russell, R. Emerson Dobash, Margo Wilson, and Martin Daly. 1992. "The Myth of Sexual Symmetry in Marital Violence." *Social Problems* 39: 71-91.

Korbin, Jill E. 2003. "Children, Childhoods and Violence." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32: 431-446.

Berk, Richard A., Alec Campell, Ruth Klap and Bruce Western. 1992. "The Deterrent Effect of Arrest in Incidents of Domestic Violence: A Bayesian Analysis of Four Field Experiments." *American Sociological Review*, 57 (October): 698-708.

Sherman, Lawrence W. and Douglas A. Smith. 1992. "Crime, Punishment, and Stake in Conformity: Legal and Informal Control of Domestic Violence." *American Sociological Review*, 57 (October): 680-690.

WEEK 12: Work-Family Issues

Nov. 8

Hochschild, Arlie. 1989. *The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home*. New York: Viking. Ch. 1, 17.

Blair-Loy, Mary F., and Amy S. Wharton. 2004. "Organizational Commitment and Constraints on Work-Family Policy Use: Corporate Flexibility Policies in a Global Firm." *Sociological Perspectives* 47, 3 (Fall):243-268.

Hochschild, Arlie. 1999. *The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*. New York: Metropolitan Books. (Chapters 3, 4, 14, 15)

Jerry Jacobs and Kathleen Gerson. 2001. "Overworked Individuals or Overworked Families?" *Work and Occupations* 28, 1 (February): 40-63.

WEEK 13: The Family and the State

Nov. 15

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

Hays, Sharon. 2003. "Work, the Family, and Welfare." Pp. 481-489 in *Families and Society*, Scott Coltrane (Ed.). Reprinted from *Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform* by Sharon Hays.

Hofferth, Sandra, Deborah Phillips, and Natasha Cabrera. 2001. "Public Policy and Family and Child Well-being." Pp. 384-408 in *The Well-Being of Children and Families*. Arland Thorton (ed.). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Guthrie, Douglas and Louise Marie Roth. 1999. "The State, Courts, and Maternity Policies in U.S. Organizations: Specifying Institutional Mechanisms." *American Sociological Review* 64 (February): 41-63.

Magid, Julie Manning. 2001. "Pregnant with Possibility: Reexamining the Pregnancy Discrimination Act." *American Business Law Journal* 38: 819.

Nov. 22

Class Cancelled

Nov. 23 – 26

Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 14: WORKSHOP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Nov. 29

WEEK 15: WORKSHOP RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dec. 6

Final Project due Wed. Dec. 13 at noon