Course Description:
What makes a family? How has the conception of kinship and the 'normal' family changed over the generations? From single moms (and dads) to tiger moms, how do race and gender intersect this institution? In this introductory class, we examine these questions, drawing on a variety of course materials ranging from classic works in sociology to contemporary blogs on family life. We will focus on diversity in family life, paying particular attention to the intersection between the family, race and ethnicity, social class, and sexuality.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The Department of Sociology and Anthropology has specified six student learning outcomes (SLOs) that we want students to acquire. In this course, our focus is on the following three:

- Learning how to connect information about historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena;
- Applying sociological theory to analyze socio-cultural phenomena;
- Drawing upon your understanding of historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena to engage the world.

Required Course Materials:
Several journal, magazine, and newspaper articles can be downloaded from the course’s Moodle page. The following four books are also required, and they can be purchased from the Carleton Bookstore:

Assignments and Evaluation:
Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response papers</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response paper 1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response paper 2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tell us more group project</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content (including mailing out reading)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Met with instructor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Paper</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family paper part 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family paper part 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family paper part 3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family paper part 4</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendance and participation</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Policy on late work:* The ten week term is short and falling behind is a recipe for disaster. Get your assignments done on time. In general, I do not accept late work and I do not give makeup exams.

Grades will be assigned according to the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt;90-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt;80-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt;70-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt;94-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt;84-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt;74-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt;68-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE Resources for Students**
Take advantage of the FREE resources that will improve your educational experience!

**For your presentation,** I strongly recommend that you make an appointment with the coaches from the Speakeasy to help you plan your presentation and delivery!
http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/speakeasy/

**Don’t forget about the Writing Center!** Again, go early and often to take advantage of these resources. Trust me, after college, you will have to start paying for these things out of pocket so soak up as much as you can now!
http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/writingcenter/
Get to know your professors! Carleton will pay for you to take two professors per term to lunch at the college dining hall. I imagine that this is an under-utilized perk of an average tuition dollar. Take advantage of it.

Academic Integrity

In line with Carleton’s policy on academic integrity, it is assumed that the student is the author of all coursework. Please refer to Carleton’s full policy for additional information or see me if you have questions. [http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/)

Please also see this helpful post on plagiarism from the blog *Everyday Sociology* [http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2011/05/writing-sociology-papers-how-not-to-plagiarize.html](http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2011/05/writing-sociology-papers-how-not-to-plagiarize.html)

Disability Services for Students

I am happy to work with students who need additional academic accommodations. Please let me know early in the semester so that we can work out a plan together.

Attendance/Class participation/Respectful use of electronic devices

Just showing up to class is not sufficient. You are encouraged to speak up, raise questions and take risks. *There is no such thing as a stupid question!*

Students who are consistently tardy or miss three or more classes will forfeit their participation grade. I am a reasonable person so should you have an extenuating circumstance and the documentation to verify it (i.e. a note from a doctor, class dean, etc.), we can work something out.

It should go without saying but in addition to being present, students should refrain from inappropriately using electronic devices during class time.

The “default” participation grade is 5 out of 10, so students who actively and productively contribute to class will substantially increase their grades. Egregious absenteeism and tardiness will significantly affect your grade beyond participation points.

Part 1: Conceptions of the Family

Monday April 1. What is a family?

Wednesday April 3. What makes a family in America?

- Selections from David Schneider’s, *American Kinship: A Cultural Account*
- Chapter 1 from *The Marriage Go Round: How American Family Life is Different*

Friday April 5: History of the American Family

- The Marriage Go Round Chapters 2 and 3

Three page (Times New Roman 12 point font, double spaced, 1” margin) write up of your family biography due at the START of class (no late papers accepted)
Monday April 8: Nostalgia for the Traditional Family
   • The Way We Never Were: Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2

Wednesday April 10: Family Values
   • The Way We Never Were: Chapters 4 and 5
   • The Decline of the Family: Conservative, Liberal, and Feminist Views, from Skolnick et al. (moodle)

**Part 2: Dating, Marriage and Divorce**

Friday April 12: Dating
   • Is Hooking up bad for young women?
   • [http://contexts.org/articles/summer-2010/is-hooking-up-bad-for-young-women/](http://contexts.org/articles/summer-2010/is-hooking-up-bad-for-young-women/)
   • Gendered sexuality in young adulthood: Double Blinds and Flawed Options (moodle)

Monday April 15: Marriage and Divorce
   • The Marriage Go Round: Chapters 4 and 5
   • From Family Inequality: Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood

Wednesday April 17: Library Visit
   • Meet in CMC (room to be determined)

Friday April 19: Stepfamilies
   • The Modern American Stepfamily: Problems and Possibilities, from Skolnick et al. (moodle)
   • Children and Parents, from Public and Private Families (Moodle)
   • From Family Inequality: Poverty, Single Mothers and Mobility

Response paper 1 due by Friday April 19 at the start of class

**Part 3: Poverty and the Family**

Monday April 22: Promises I Can Keep
   • Introduction and Chapters 1 -3

Wednesday April 24: In class movie:
   • Poor Kids from Frontline (Note: I will be out of class but you will watch a documentary that day)

Friday April 26: Promises I Can Keep
   • Chapters 4-6 and the Conclusion

Family Paper part 2 (annotated bibliography) due on April 26 at the START of Class
Part 4: Work and the Family

Monday April 29: The Second Shift
• Chapters to be determined
• Work and Families, from Cherlin (moodle)
• From Family Inequality: When there’s housework to do...
  o http://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2011/09/05/when-theres-housework-to-do/

Wednesday May 1: The Second Shift Continued
• Chapters to be determined
• Men’s Changing Contribution to Family Work, from Risman (moodle)

Friday May 3: Opting Out?
• The Rhetoric and Reality of Opting Out, from Skolnick (moodle)
• The Opt Out Revolution

Response paper 2 due by May 3 at the start of class

Monday May 5: No Class: Midterm Break

Part 5: Family Law Intersections

Wednesday May 8: Regulating Families
• Antimiscegenation Laws and the Enforcement of Racial Boundaries
• Families “in law” and Families “in practice,” from Risman (moodle)

Friday May 10: Tell Me More Presentation Day 1
• Domestic Violence in the family
• LGBT Families

Monday May 13: The Legal Debate over Gay Marriage
• Counted Out: Chapters 1-3
• NOTE: Depending on when the Supreme Court Rules, our discussion may shift

Family Paper part 3 (5 page rough draft) due on Tuesday May 14 in my mailbox by 4pm

Wednesday May 15: Cohabitation and the Family
• New Couples, New Families: The Cohabitation Revolution in the United States, from Risman (moodle)
Not Crossing the Extra Line: How Cohabitators with Children View Their Unions
• From Family Inequality: You’re Family Immediately
  o  http://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2010/06/23/your-family-immediately/

Friday May 17: Tell Me More Presentation Day 2
• Weddings
• Foster Care

Part 6: Race and Immigration in the Family

Monday May 20: Tiger Moms
• Excerpts from Tiger Mom (moodle)
• Immigrant Families in the US, from Coontz (moodle)

Wednesday May 22: Diversity in the family
• Diversity within Latino Families, from Coontz (moodle)
• Diversity within African American Families, from Skolnick (moodle)

Friday May 24: Tell Me More Day 3
• Interracial Unions
• Multiracial Children

Part 7: (In)Fertility and Families

Monday May 27: Assisted Reproductive Technologies
• Selected excerpts from Sex Cells by Rene Almeling TBD

Wednesday May 29: Movie Day
• We will watch a documentary that day on either adoption or surrogacy

Family Paper Part 3 (Final Version) due on Wed May 29 at the START of Class, all papers after 2pm will be consider late and docked a grade a day

Friday May 31: Tell me more day 4
• Surrogacy
• TBD

Monday June 3: Adoption
• Still Not as Good as Having Your Own: Toward a Sociology of Adoption (moodle)

Wednesday June 5: Last day of classes, evaluations, review for final

June 8-10: Self-Scheduled Final Exam