SOAN 114: Modern Families: Introduction to the Sociology of the Family  
Winter Quarter 2016

Professor: Monica Liu  
Office Hours: Thurs: 3:00-5:00pm
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Office Location: Leighton 228  
(Sign up: Moodle Calendar)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course explores the transformation of family life in the modern world through a social scientific lens. Specific topics we will cover include dating and mate selection, love and romance, sexuality, cohabitation, marriage, and divorce. We will examine how broader social forces such as globalization, modernization, and race/class/gender inequalities have affected intimate relationships. Some of the questions we will discuss include: How are seemingly personal matters such as love and sex shaped by social-cultural norms? Why did the rates of college hook-ups, cohabitation, and divorce in the U.S. rise sharply during the past 30 years? How has the detachment of sexuality from reproduction affected marital practices and beliefs? What are some of the new desires, pleasures, and emotions that have emerged in the global 21st century and through what processes are they circulated as commodities across cultural and geographical borders? The course will stimulate you to think critically about how broader social forces change intimate human relationships.

TEXTBOOKS:
The following books are available for purchase at the Carleton bookstore and on reserve at the library. All other assigned readings will be posted on Moodle.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:
Student Learning Objectives
The SOAN Department has specified six student learning outcomes. In this course, we will focus on the following three:

a. Articulate the complexity of contemporary socio-cultural phenomenon in their many dimensions (e.g. temporal, structural, spatial and symbolic).
b. Apply sociological theory to analyze socio-cultural phenomena.
c. Engage the world by drawing upon your understanding of historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena.
Attendance/Participation

*Excused Absences:*
Class attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend every lecture unless an extenuating circumstance prevents you from doing so. Valid excuses for absences include illness and emergencies. You will need to provide evidence in the case of an emergency and a signed doctor’s note for medical absences. Please contact me within 24 hours of your absence. In addition, you receive 1 free absence for the quarter, no questions asked.

*Unexcused Absences:*
Students who are consistently tardy or incur more than two unexcused absences (this does NOT include your 1 freebie) will forfeit their participation grade.

*Participation:*
To receive full credit for participation, please complete the assigned readings in a timely manner, contribute to in-class discussions by raising questions and comments, and listen carefully to others as they speak.

In addition, you are also encouraged to participate in our “Post Your Thoughts!” class discussion forum, found on Moodle. This is a voluntary forum where you can post your responses and questions to the assigned readings and any other course material. You are especially encouraged to post questions to readings that you'd like to see discussed in class. If you post your questions 24 hours before the readings are due, I may incorporate them into my lecture. You are also welcome to comment on other people's posts.

The “default” participation grade is 5/10, so students who actively and productively contribute to the class will substantially increase their grades.

Grade Breakdown

*Interview Assignment = 15%*
*In-Class Presentation = 10%*
*Midterm Exam = 25%*
*Class Skit = 10%*
*Final Exam = 30%*
*Participation = 10%*

**COURSE WEBSITE:**
https://moodle.carleton.edu/
To log in: Use your Carleton username and password.

**RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:**

*Writing Center*
Don’t forget to take advantage of the Writing Center! Located in 4th Libe, the Writing Center has peer writing consultants who can work with you during any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to final proofreading! http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/writingcenter/
If you are a second language writer and believe you might benefit from working individually with a writing consultant, email Renata Fitzpatrick, the Multilingual Writing Coordinator, call her at x5998, or stop by her office in 420D 4th Libe.

**Speakeasy for your Presentation**
To hone your presentation skills, make an appointment with the coaches from the Speakeasy to help you with your presentation planning and delivery!  
[http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/speakeasy/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/asc/speakeasy/)

**Accommodations for students with disabilities**
Carleton College is committed to providing accommodations to students with disabilities. Please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, Andy Christensen, at 222-4464 or anchrist@carleton.edu.

The Assistive Technology program brings together academic and technological resources to complement student classroom and computing needs, particularly in support of students with physical or learning disabilities. Accessibility features include text-to-speech (Kurzweil) software, speech-to-text (Dragon) software, and audio recording Smartpens. For more information, contact aztechs@carleton.edu or visit go.carleton.edu/aztech.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**
Please familiarize yourself with Carleton’s academic integrity policy:  
[http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity)

- Cheating (e.g. copying during an exam; using unauthorized aids; altering a graded exam and submitting it for a re-grade) will not be tolerated!
- You are welcome to collaborate while studying, but please complete all written assignments by yourself (group projects are the exception)!
- When writing, avoid plagiarism by properly citing any external source material used for your words, ideas, or concepts!

**LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1 (Jan 4-8) – Intimacy, Sex, & Marriage: A Theoretical Overview**

*Monday*
- Course Introductions
- Love IQ Test (not graded!)

*Friday*
- Readings Due:
  - Fisher, “Web of Love: Lust, Romance, and Attachment”
  - Diamond, “Emerging Perspectives on Distinctions between Romantic Love and Sexual Desire”
Week 2 (Jan 11-15) Intimacy, Sex, & Marriage: A Theoretical Overview (continued)

Monday
Readings Due:
- Hatfield, Rapson, and Martel, “Passionate Love and Sexual Desire”
- Coontz, “The Radical Idea of Marrying for Love”
- Coontz, “From Yoke Mates to Soul Mates”

Wednesday
Readings Due:
- Illouz, “All Consuming Love”
- Savin and Williams, “Dating and Romantic Relationships Among Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Youths”
- Schwartz and Rutter, “Sexual Desire and Gender”
- Swidler, “Love and Marriage”

Friday
Readings Due:
- Buss, “A Half Century of Mate Preferences: The Cultural Evolution of Values”
- Paul, “The Real Marriage Penalty”
- Sharpe, “New Research from Sociologists Finds the Racial and Educational Preferences of Internet Daters”
- Qian, “Breaking the Last Taboo”

Week 3 (Jan 18-22) – Dating & Courtship

Monday
Readings Due:
- Bolick, “All the Single Ladies”
- Jacob and Furgerson, “Writing Interview Protocols”

Wednesday
Readings Due:
- Bogle, Hooking Up: Sex, Relationship and Dating on Campus, Chap 2
- Armstrong, Hamilton, and England, “Is College Hook-Up Bad for Women”
- Schwartz, “Hooking Up Never Leads to a Relationship”

Friday
Readings Due:
- Bogle, Hooking Up: Sex, Relationship and Dating on Campus, Chap 7
- Williams, “The End of Courtship?”
**Week 4 (Jan 25-29) – Love, Sex, & Money: The Commodification of Intimacy**

*Monday*
Readings Due:
- Harper, “Conceptualizations of Masculinity among High-Achieving African American Male College Students”
- Iantaffi and Bockting, “Views from Both Sides of the Bridge? Gender, Sexual Legitimacy and Transgender People’s Experiences of Relationships”

*Wednesday*
Readings Due:
- Frederick and Fales, “Upset Over Sexual versus Emotional Infidelity Among Gay Lesbian, Bisexual, and and Heterosexual Adults”

*Friday*
Readings Due:
- Zelizer, “The Purchase of Intimacy”

***Interview Assignment Due***

**Week 5 (Feb 1-5) – Transnational Romance & Marriage**

*Monday*
Readings Due:
- Constable, “Cross-Border Marriages, Gendered Mobility, and Global Hypergamy”

*Wednesday*
Readings Due:
- Thai, *For Better or For Worse: Vietnamese International Marriages in the New Global Economy*, Preface and Chap 2-3

*Friday*
Readings Due:
- Johnson, *Dreaming of a Mail-Order Husband*, Intro and Chap 2

**Week 6 (Feb 8-12) – Midterm; Alternatives to “Traditional Marriages”**

*Monday*
No Class

*Wednesday*
Midterm

*Friday*
Readings Due:
- Green, “From Out-Laws to In-Laws: Gay and Lesbian Couples in Contemporary Society”
- Hertz, article on Assisted Reproductive Technology
**Week 7 (Feb 15-19) – Family & Work; Marital Dissatisfaction & Divorce**

**Monday**  
Readings Due:  
- Hochschild, *The Second Shift*, p.1-6, Chap 2,4,5

**Wednesday**  
Readings Due:  
- Townsend, “Employment as Fatherhood”  
- Myers, "Being 'The Man' without Having a Job and/or Providing Care Instead of 'Bread'"  
- Moore, "LGBT Families at the Start of the Twenty-First Century"

**Friday**  
Readings Due:  
- Coontz, “How to Stay Married”  
- Rutter, “A Case for Divorce”  
- Gottman, "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse: Warning Signs"

**Week 8 (Feb 22-26) – Class Skits**

**Monday**  
Skit Workshop

**Wednesday**  
Skits Performed in Class

**Friday**  
Skits Performed in Class

**Week 9 (Feb 29-Mar 4) – Poor Families & Immigrant Families**

**Monday**  
Readings Due:  
- Carbone and Cahn, *Marriage Markets: How Inequality is Remaking the American Family*, p.11-12, Chap 1,6,8

**Wednesday**  
Readings Due:  

**Friday**  
Readings Due:  
- Zinn, "Diversity within Latino Families"  

Film in Class – *Saving Face* (Alice Wu, 97 min)
**Week 10 (Mar 7-9) – Poor Families & Immigrant Families (continued)**

*Monday*

Readings Due:
- Chua, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" (selection)
- Film in Class – *Saving Face* (continued)

*Wednesday*

Film Discussion & Review