

US24 SOC 315: Family and Society

Summer Session 1: May 13 – June 27, 2024

Online asynchronous

Contact Information

Instructor: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller, M.A (she/hers)

Email and Availability: groeller@msu.edu, Monday-Friday except University breaks, 9am-4pm ET.

Always include course in the subject line

Office Hours: Wednesdays beginning in Week 2, 12pm-2pm ET and by appointment

Book your office hours meeting here: <https://calendly.com/katrinagroeller>

About the Course

This course provides an overview of the sociological understanding of families in the United States context. First, we will understand the historical and contemporary definitions of family, plus social identities and intersectionality in context of families. Next, we will explore both internal and external family relationships, structures, and dynamics. Throughout this course we will be using a family interview project to explore how researchers investigate families, informed by real researchers’ inquiries and other media(s) to strengthen our knowledge of the sociology of families.

By the end of this course, you will:

- Gain knowledge on how sociologists conceptualize families, family dynamics, and the role of families in a U.S. context
- Understand how demographic, political, economic, and cultural factors have influenced family structure and contemporary family issues
- Demonstrate a foundational knowledge of a qualitative research approach through conducting a family interview project
- Apply sociological concepts to a wide variety of topics related to U.S. families

To succeed in this course you will need to be an active learner, self-motivated, and organized. What you put into this course is what you will get out of it. **This course moves quickly!** Plan ahead accordingly. Some tips:

- Read the syllabus fully and stay organized with a personal planner, to-do list, or calendar.
- Keep ahead of deadlines and avoid procrastinating coursework.
- Check D2L daily for announcements and ensure notifications are forwarded to one’s MSU email.
- Make connections with instructor(s) and other students. Form study groups!
- Read and study actively. Highlight, take notes, do research about an article, topic, or author.
- Ask questions! There are no stupid questions – unless the answer is found on D2L or the syllabus. 😊

Course Materials

See materials used throughout the course in the *Course Schedule* at the end of this document. All materials will be provided to you via D2L, though physical or other electronic copies of readings may be available via MSU Library, located [here](#), via InterLibrary Loan, found [here](#), through a public library, find one [here](#), and for purchase or rent on e-commerce sites.

Students will also need a reliable personal laptop with high-speed internet connection. Only using a tablet, Chromebook, or cell phone does not suffice. See details on MSU’s Laptop Computer Requirement [here](#).

Students will also need a method to record and upload audio.

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Last Updated: May 8, 2024

Course Assessment

Writing Assignments

Written work is evaluated on your response to prompts, application of course content, and writing skills. You are expected to proofread and edit your work before submission. Pay attention to organization, grammar, syntax, citations, and source reliability. The Writing Center offers support in this area, available [here](#).

Weekly Response Journals (4 x 10 points each = 40 points)

Over the course of the semester you will encounter a variety of media and write 6 10-point journals. Your lowest two grades are dropped. The total number of response journal points a student can receive is 40 points (6x10 = 60, 60-20 = 40). See the assignment directions on D2L for more details.

Family Interview Project (10 points + 20 points + 20 points + 50 points = 100 points)

You will conduct a family interview project that includes a proposal (10 points), an interview with an older family member (20 points), and data analysis (20 points) that accrues into a final report (50 points). This project will incorporate key content from our course. See the assignment directions on D2L for more details.

Quizzes

Quizzes are cumulative and cover all content up to the quiz in the class. Quiz questions can be a mix of multiple choice, true or false, and short written response.

Syllabus Quiz (20 points)

The syllabus quiz verifies the understanding of essential elements for our course, such as deadlines, modes of communication, and class policies. Students must pass this quiz with 100% for access to the course.

Weekly Content Quizzes (4 x 10 points each = 40 points)

There are 6 10-point quizzes that open Mondays and are due Saturdays during the semester. These are designed to check your understanding of course content. Each quiz has a 30-minute timer and must be completed in one sitting. Your lowest two grades are dropped. The total number of quiz points a student can receive is 40 points (6x10=60, 60-20=40).

Extra Credit

Optional extra credit is available to demonstrate mastery of your learning in the course and for you to boost your grade. Extra credit is evaluated in an identical fashion to writing assignments.

Social Research Reviews (2 x 10 points each = 20 points)

These reviews help you develop your reading comprehension and critiquing skills. See the assignment directions on D2L for more details.

Course Policies

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, Cheating, and AI Usage

There is a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others, and submitting the work of another as if it were one's own.

Ignorance of citation and sourcing conventions is not an excuse for plagiarism, and students are responsible for preventing academic dishonesty across our course. Students can reference the resources available on our D2L course page, the MSU Library's Citation Guides [here](#), and Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) [here](#) for citation assistance.

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The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools must uphold academic integrity, so be conservative, mature, and responsible in its use. Permitted use of AI tools in this course includes brainstorming, finding general information on a topic, and checking writing conventions. Using AI to generate any course element then submitting it as if it were your own is a violation of academic integrity.

The first instance of academic dishonesty will result with an Academic Dishonesty Report (ADR) being filed, a failing grade for the assessment, and a 1.0 final grade deduction. Further incidents will result in additional ADRs, assessment failure, and an automatic 0.0 final grade for the course. See the *Academic Integrity* section under *University Policies*.

Attendance and Participation

As this course is an asynchronous, condensed version of a 15-week semester, attendance is reflected in regular engagement with course materials and the on-time submission of assessments. The pace of this course is thus double what students would expect during the fall or spring.

Assignment Submissions and Technology Failure

Submit all work, typed, in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format to the associated D2L dropbox. Other formats (.pages, images, external link, etc) will earn a zero. Students can submit new files up to the closure of the dropbox, after which the newest file will be used for grading. It is the students' responsibility to submit the correct file.

Students should plan for technology failure: **submitting work at the last minute is never a good idea**. Contact the D2L Help Desk by phone at 517-432-6200 or online [here](#), if students encounter issues. Only email me after the Help Desk confirms a system issue *and* it will disrupt on-time submission.

Communication

D2L and email are our main forms of communication and must always be polite, respectful, and efficient. Check both regularly and enable notifications. I make efforts to respond to email within 48 hours of my email availability. **Always include our course code and section in the subject line and check that the answer to the question cannot be found on the syllabus or on our course D2L page before emailing me.**

Extensions, Late Work, and Makeups

Short-term extensions are available up to two days after the original due date. Each additional day receives a 10% deduction in maximum points that can be earned. Short-term extensions begin immediately after deadlines: **yes, even one minute!** You do not need to notify me in advance or provide an excuse after the fact.

Further extensions past two days are not allowed unless there is an approved Grief Absence: see details below *University Policies*. All extensions cannot go past the last day of the course.

Grades and Grading Scale

Grades are updated regularly. To calculate a current course grade, use the formula and grading scale below. Efforts at grade-grubbing (requesting curves, rounding, extra extensions, resubmits, or regrades) are not allowed.

$$\frac{(\text{points earned}) + (\text{extra credit points earned})}{\text{points available}} = \text{percent} = \text{grade}$$

Points	Percent	Grade
>180	90-100%	4.0
170	85-89.99%	3.5
160	80-84.99%	3.0
150	75-79.99%	2.5
140	70-74.99%	2.0
130	65-69.99%	1.5
120	60-64.99%	1.0
<120	0-59.99%	0.0

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Mental and Physical Health

In addition to the ongoing pandemic, students can experience layered issues that may interfere with academic success. Mental or physical health problems, plus personal issues, work against even the most dedicated students. Students are strongly encouraged to seek support through many available resources.

- Contact instructor(s) via email or during office hours if you are struggling with this class.
- Speak with an academic advisor if you are struggling in multiple classes, unsure whether you are making the most of your time at MSU, or unsure of what academic resources are available at MSU. Students can find their academic advisor and make appointments [here](#).
- Schedule a doctor's appointment through Olin Health Center by calling 517-353-4660. Olin Health Center is located at 463 East Circle Drive with four campus neighborhood locations for student convenience, details [here](#). Students have three free medical office visits each academic year, more information [here](#). Contact the 24-Hour Phone Information Nurse at 517-353-5557 if medical advice is needed after 5pm. There is more information about after hours care [here](#).
- Seek out MSU Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) by phone day or night at 517-355-8270 or online [here](#). CAPS is located on the 3rd floor of the Olin Health Center at 463 East Circle Drive.
- If a student is a survivor of sexual violence and would like support, contact MSU's Center for Survivors by phone at 517-355-3551, or visit their website [here](#). In a crisis, reach out to the Center for Survivors using their crisis chat from 10am-10pm by clicking [here](#), or call the 24/7 crisis hotline at 517-372-6666. The Center for Survivors is in Room 207A of the Student Services building at 556 East Circle Drive.

Office Hours

Office hours are an open time for students to ask a question, further discuss a topic, learn more about the course, plus guidance for sociology-related careers, graduate school, and general academic skills.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

I expect students to abide by the standards of academic honesty and integrity as laid out in the Spartan Code of Honor and Academic Pledge:

“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor in ownership is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”

The principles of truth and honesty are fundamental to the educational process and academic integrity of any University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others, and submitting the work of another as if it were one's own. This includes unauthorized usage of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

Plagiarism and other forms of submitting non-original work as one's own is ethically wrong, morally corrosive, and undermines the development of one's critical thinking, writing, and professional skills. More information about academic integrity can be found [here](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Requests for accommodations may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or online [here](#). If eligible for an Accommodation Letter (AL), present this form to instructor(s)

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at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date. Requests received after this date may not be honored. Accommodations cannot be implemented retroactively.

As our course is online, it is the student's responsibility to explicitly notify the instructor of intent to apply their accommodation letter in a timely manner in regard to extended time on assignments and assessments. Contact me to do so during email hours before deadlines. Not doing so will not allow me to honor your request.

Change of Enrollment

The last day to add this course is **May 15, 2024**. The last day to drop this course with a 100% refund and no grade reported is **May 23, 2024**. The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is **June 5, 2024**. Make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped the course.

Grief Absences are available for students who have lost a loved one or experienced a serious tragedy. Review and follow the Policy, found [here](#). Students should submit a Student Grief Absence form, found [here](#), to the Associate Dean of their college within one week of knowledge of the event, provide appropriate verification, and complete all missed work on an agreed-upon timeline with the instructor.

Late Drops are available for students who wish to drop a single course after the middle of the semester. Withdrawals are the dropping of all courses regardless of time within the semester. See details on Late Drops [here](#) and Withdrawals [here](#).

Medical Leaves are available for students who, due to a catastrophic medical condition, cannot remain enrolled during the semester. See details on the Medical Leave policy [here](#).

Incompletes are available upon instructor judgement when a student has completed 6/7 (~85%) of the semester in a satisfactory fashion but are unable to complete the course or take the final exam because of illness or other compelling reason. See details on the Incomplete policy [here](#).

Commercialization of Lecture Notes

Students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

- Students **may** record lectures or any other classroom activities and use them only for their own course-related purposes. Recordings **may** be shared with other students enrolled in the class, if they also use them only for their own course-related purposes.
- Students **may not** post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.
- Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

Grade Dispute/Appeal Policies

To appeal or dispute a final course grade, see the University Ombudsperson guidelines located [here](#).

Limits to Confidentiality

I must report the following information to University offices and the MSU Police Department if students share:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when one was a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and

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- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with the student about the incident that they have shared. Most likely it will be the student's decision whether they wish to speak with that individual. To talk about these events in a more confidential setting seek out the MSU Center for Survivors, found [here](#), MSU Safe Place, found [here](#), or MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), found [here](#).

Course Schedule

We will follow this schedule closely though adjustments may be made at the instructor's discretion. All changes will be communicated to students.

Week 1 (5/13): Introduction to Families and Society

Content:

- Lecture: Introduction to Families and Society
- Podcast: Meiser, Ellen, Omar T. Bird, and Penn Pantumsinchai. 2018. "SOC115 – I Do (Not): Marriage and Family in the 21st Century." *The Social Breakdown*.
(<https://www.thesocialbreakdown.com/2018/01/24/soc115-not-marriage-family-21st-century/>)

Due by Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 PM ET:

- Syllabus Quiz
- Content Quiz #1
- Response Journal #1

Week 2 (5/20): Family and Identities

Content:

- Lecture: Families and Identities
- Reading: Lareau, Annette. 2011. "Chapter 8: Concerted Cultivation in Organizational Spheres: Stacy Marshall." Pp. 165-181 in *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. Second edition. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Reading: "Strategies for Qualitative Interviews"

Due by Saturday, May 25 at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #2
- Response Journal #2
- Family Interview Project: Proposal

Week 3 (5/27): Familial Relationships

Content:

- Lecture: Familial Relationships
- Film: Redfearn, Jennifer. 2020. *Apart*. New York, NY: Women Make Movies. Kanopy.

Due by Saturday, June 1 at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #3
- Response Journal #3

Week 4 (6/3): Nontraditional Families

Content:

- Lecture: Nontraditional Families
- Reading: Randles, Jennifer and Megan Carroll. 2024. "Do dads think children need both mothers and fathers? Why men's social position matters." *The Society Pages*.
(<https://thesocietypages.org/ccf/2024/02/20/do-dads-think-children-need-both-mothers-and-fathers-why-mens-social-position-matters/>)

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- Reading: Hsiung, Ping-Chun. 2010. “Conventions for Transcribing Interviews.” (<https://www.utoronto.ca/~pchsiung/LAL/interviewing/conventions>)

Due by Saturday, June 8 at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #4
- Response Journal #4
- Family Interview Project: Interview Transcript
- Extra Credit Social Research Review #1

Week 5 (6/10): Work Life and Family

Content:

- Lecture: Work Life and Family
- Reading: Carlson, Daniel L., Priya Fielding-Singh, Richard Petts, and Kristi Williams. 2024. “Between A Rock and A Hard Place: Lessons From The Covid-19 Pandemic About Health Concerns And US Mothers’ Employment.” *The Society Pages*. (<https://thesocietypages.org/ccf/2024/01/30/reprint-2/>)
- Saldaña, Johnny. 2016. “An Introduction to Codes and Coding.” Pp. 4-24 in *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. 3rd ed. London, UK: SAGE Publications.

Due by Saturday, June 15 at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #5
- Response Journal #5
- Family Interview Project: Data Analysis

Week 6 (6/17): Family Violence

Content:

- Lecture: Family Violence
- Reading: McNulty, Molly. 2016. “Intimate Partner Violence Reporting, Not the Same for Everyone.” *The Society Pages*. (<https://thesocietypages.org/ccf/2016/02/08/ipv-reporting/>)

Due by Saturday, June 22 at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #6
- Response Journal #6

Week 7 (6/24): Future of Families

Content:

- Lecture: Future of Families
- Podcast: Glass, Ira, Aviva DeKornfeld, and Alexi Horowitz-Ghazi. 2021. “The End of the World As We Know It.” *This American Life*. (<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/748/the-end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it>)

Due by Tuesday, June 25 at 12:00 PM ET:

- Family Interview Project: Final Report
- Extra Credit Social Research Review #2