

SOCA 221: Families and Society
Online Course Syllabus
Winter Intercession 2024

Instructor: Dr. Kristi Wood-Turner

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Office Hours: 8-10 am M-S I will be available immediately via text 304-680-7707

Course Description

This online course in Families and Society utilizes a historical comparative approach to understanding the changing structure and functions of the family. Specifically, this course examines the effect of economic, demographic, and cultural changes on relationships, gender roles, marriage, and childcare as well the variations among families by socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

Required Text is online only

Public and Private Families: An Introduction Cherlin, Public and Private Families: An Introduction

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should:

1. ***Develop an Informed Historical Perspective*** – Students should be able to understand the functions family first served when constructed as an institution to aid in socialization, the trajectory of the family as an institution, and how the family reached its current function in society. The rationale behind this is that students should understand how certain families develop the way they do, and why certain cultures practice certain family beliefs.
2. ***Apply Theory*** – Students will learn the many theories affecting family formation and learn how to apply theories to the current state of family formation. By doing so, students will develop a critical understanding of theory, evaluate family formation with the theoretical approaches, and be able to adjudicate which theoretical approach best suites particular family formations.
3. ***Develop an Openness to New Ideas*** – By the end of the course, students should be open to learning about families in different cultures without preconceived notions. In doing so, students will be able to use the skills learned to engage the many ways in which families are formulated, not hold any biases towards any type of family, and view each family type through the sociological lens.
4. ***Learn to Evaluate Methods and Materials*** – Learning to evaluate methods and materials will provide students the ability to critique articles, regardless of their source, within a sociological framework and question the validity of such articles. Obtaining this skill will allow students the ability to decipher faulty methods and whether or not the source of the article takes a biased stance.

Students' Responsibilities:

1. To study sociology as a participant and an observer.
2. To read all assigned texts and complete all assignments in a timely manner.
3. To read and understand the assigned text.
4. To ask questions (via email) about things you do not understand in the text or class.
5. To email me about any issues that arise related to your progress in the course.
6. To type all assignments in Word, proofread, and answer all questions thoroughly.
7. To keep all assignments that are returned to you for the duration of the semester.
8. To check your WVU e-mail on a regular basis (whether through a private provider or directly).
9. To know how to use:
 - a. ASA citation style for papers (where appropriate),
 - b. the library to do basic searches including journals, periodicals and microfilm,
 - c. the internet for research, and
 - d. the writing center for help with questions about word processing, e-mail or writing papers.

Professor's Responsibilities:

1. To prepare and teach students about families in society as outlined in the syllabus
2. To offer insight to sociological concepts that are unclear to students, especially when asked
3. To be available for students via email or other alternative arrangements such as telephone conferences
4. To maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning

Office Hours: I am available for zoom meetings at any point. You can text me for an appointment. If you find that you are having problems with any of the material, please contact me at once. I am here to help you, but I cannot help if I am unaware of the problem. Most questions can be resolved using email though I am available to meet via appointment.

Note about email: Other than office hours, I make every attempt to respond to student email within 18 hours. I will respond to text messages immediately.

Internet Connectivity: This is an online course; therefore, you should have a reliable internet connection in order to complete assignments and exams. WVU provides assistance for students enrolled in online courses. Please check the following link for useful information concerning accessing your online course(s): <https://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/support>

Listing of ITS Support Holiday Hours and Contact Information: For all areas of support, the first point of contact is the ITS Service Desk. Please visit it.wvu.edu, call (304) 293-4444 or email ITSHelp@mail.wvu.edu to create a ticket for your problem.

The ITS Service Desk is open 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday EST. The Service Desk will be closed on all weekends and will be closed in observance of University holidays on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024
- Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024
- Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024
- Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024
- Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025

POLICIES

Grades: Your grade in this course will be based on six components: First day introduction post worth 10 points. 3 Discussion post assignments worth 10 points each (total of 30 points) along with 12 Chapter assignments at 10 points each (total of 120 points), 12 smartbooks 10 points (120) and 3 multiple choice exams worth 100 points each (total of 300 points) **Total course points = 580**

Introduction post @ 10 points (10 total)
3 Unit Discussion Posts @ 10 points each (30 total)
12 Chapter Assignments @ 10 points each (120 total)
12 Chapter Smartbooks @ 10 points each (120)
3 Exams @ 100 points each (300 total)
Peer Project @ 70 points

Grading Scale
A = 522 - 580
B = 464 - 521
C = 406 - 463
D = 348 - 405
F = 347 or lower

Grades earned on exams, quizzes, assignments, discussion boards, will be posted to WVU

eCampus. NOTE: Grades are not negotiable, and you are responsible for keeping up with your total points earned throughout the semester.

Attendance: As an online course, your attendance is reflected in your completion of assigned work in a timely manner. You will have a discussion board posts and short assignments most weeks during the fall semester (see course outline for due dates). Additionally, you will have three exams and a final paper due over the course of the semester. The due dates for all assignments are located in the syllabus and on the course calendar. All exams, discussion board posts, quizzes, and assignments are due on the assigned date by **11:59 p.m.** Note: I do not accept late assignments except in the case of a documented extenuating circumstance (such as your hospitalization or the death of an immediate family member). Please note all due dates in an easily accessible location so you do not inadvertently miss a scheduled course activity.

Exams: Over the course of the semester, you will complete three online exams. Exams are in multiple choice/True-False answer format. Exam questions are drawn from the assigned chapters in the textbook.

All course examinations will be administered via WVU eCampus. All exams open two days prior to the exam due date. Exams may be opened at any time of the day once they are posted; however, exams are timed and can only BE OPENED ONE TIME. Therefore, make sure you open the exam when you have sufficient time to complete it. All examinations must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the assigned due date. Make sure you plan your time accordingly so that you do not miss an exam.

Exam Schedule

Exam 1 Due: Monday, December 30th

Exam 1 covers Chapters 1 – 4

Exam 2 Due: Sunday, January 5th

Exam 2 covers Chapters 5-8

Exam 3 Due: Thursday, January 9th

Exam 3 covers Chapters 10, 13, 14

Academic Misconduct: WVU policy states: Students of West Virginia University are citizens of a broader academic community. As such, the University expects that every member of its academic community share its historic and traditional commitment to honesty, integrity, and the search for truth. To meet these standards, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

The entire policy and associated definitions are available at:

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification/#academicintegritytext>

I am held to these same standards in my profession. I take academic misconduct seriously and will sanction it appropriately. The sanctions for the first offense of academic misconduct range from an

F in the course (from me) to expulsion from the University (from the Academic Honesty Committee).

Sexual Harassment Policy: WVU has policies concerning unequal treatment. Specifically, BOG Policy 44 concerns discrimination, harassment, sexual and domestic misconduct, stalking and retaliation. This policy is detailed at <http://diversity.wvu.edu/ea/policies/policy-44>. Inappropriate treatment of classmates will not be tolerated.

Respect for Other Students: WVU policy states: “The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful behavior that results in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Longer suspensions from a class, or dismissal on disciplinary grounds, must be subject to the appropriate Campus Student Code. The term “prohibited or unlawful behavior” would include behavior prohibited by a faculty member. It must be emphasized that this provision shall not be used to punish classroom dissent. The lawful expression of a disagreement with a faculty member is not in itself disruptive behavior. However, dissent must be presented in a manner consistent with the classroom environment set by the faculty. A student who believes that he or she has been treated in an arbitrary manner in this regard should contact his or her Dean of Students or the Campus Student Code Administrator.”

Inclusivity Statement: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans’ status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

<http://facultysenate.wvu.edu/r/download/155054> If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700).

The West Virginia University Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion’s Office of Accessibility Services handles any special needs that students have. Students must apply online, meet with an Accessibility Specialist, complete associated paperwork and provide appropriate documentation to have any accommodation. I cannot and will not make any accommodations that have not been approved through this process. These processes tend to take some time. If you are not registered with OAS and require special services, begin this process immediately. Additionally, meet with me (in person) to discuss your needs at least one week prior to the

necessary accommodations (e.g., test or assignment). Details are available at <http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/home>