

Laurie DeRose (Brooks)  
 Summer 2019  
 MTuWTh 10:45-12:45  
 Car Barn 302

Family Diversity in America: SOCI 224

**Course Description**

In this course, students will learn about the family as a social institution. Course materials will specifically focus on US families in all their diversity and students will apply a critical sociological perspective to analyzing the role of families in social life. Students will learn about the historical roots of the family, changing demographic trends in family composition and family formation, and family-related social problems and social policies. Specific topics include family of origin and socialization, sex and dating, partnering and marriage, parenting, family structure, gender and family, and work/family balance. Throughout the course students will develop critical understanding of the relationship between the family and social inequalities pertaining to class, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

**Required Readings**

Philip N. Cohen. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Either edition).  
 Naomi Chan and June Carbone. *Marriage Markets: How Inequality is Remaking the American Family*. Oxford University Press, 2014.  
 Other articles available online or posted on classroom Canvas site (links below).  
 Both of the main texts for the course are written from a progressive perspective. We will, however, keep one of G. K. Chesterton's famous quotes in mind: "progress is simply a comparative of which we have not settled the superlative."

**Course Requirements**

I expect you to do the reading listed for each day before class. For each of the 13 chapters of the Cohen book, I want you to take a quiz in Canvas before you do the reading. I'm not actually interested in what you know before you read, but I do want you thinking about the issues you will be reading about in an attentive way when you read: that is the purpose of the quizzes and they will be set up so that you always get a perfect score if you do them on time (no credit for doing them late).

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation (discussions, group activities)	cumulative	10%
In class presentation/discussion leading	TBD	6.5%
Pre-reading quizzes, Cohen's 13 chapters	Various, 8:00AM	6.5%
Short papers (500-1000 words)		
Technological change and family/gender inequality	Tuesday 7/16, 11:59PM	4%
Family inequality and income inequality: chicken/egg?	Saturday 7/20, 8:00AM	4%
Is Marriage an Outdated Institution?	Wednesday 7/24, 11:59PM	4%
Socialization for College	Saturday 8/3, 8:00AM	4%
Ideal work/family balance in sociological perspective	Monday 8/5, 11:59PM	4%
Final research paper		
Proposal	Tuesday 7/23, 11:59PM	4%
Rough draft	Monday 7/29, 11:59PM	10%
Feedback for others' drafts	Tuesday 7/30, 11:59PM	4%
Action plan for own revision	Friday 8/2, 8AM	4%
Final version	Thursday 8/8, 10:45AM	10%
Final exam	Thursday 8/8, 10:45AM-12:45PM	25%

**Weekly Topics and Readings**

As we go through the course, it may be necessary for me to alter its pace and add or subtract readings. I reserve the right to adjust the course to best promote student learning.

**Week 1:**

- Monday July 8            **Introduction**
- Tuesday July 9        **What Are Families?**  
                                  A Sociology of the Family (Cohen Chapter 1)
- Wednesday July 10    **The Family in History** (Cohen Chapter 2)
- Thursday July 11      **Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration** (Cohen Chapter 3)

**Week 2:**

Monday July 15

**The Puzzles of Today's Families** (Cahn and Carbone Section I, Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-47).  
<http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2018/01/how-cheap-sex-is-changing-our-lives-and-our-politics.html>  
 Paper: Technological change and family/gender inequality. Due Tuesday 7/16, 11:59PM.

Tuesday July 16

**Families and Social Class** (Cohen Chapter 4)  
 Disposable Ties and the Urban Poor, by Matthew Desmond, <https://www-jstor-org.proxy.library.georgetown.edu/stable/pdf/10.1086/663574.pdf?refreqid=excelsior:113057fe5e0d65c98f36229f7be775e5>

Wednesday July 17

**The New Terms** (Cahn and Carbone Section II, Chapters 5-8, pp. 49-105).  
 W. Bradford Wilcox and Anna Sutherland. 2016 (15 April). "Less Marriage, More Inequality."  
*National Review*. <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/434124/income-inequality-marriage-closes-gap>  
 Paper: Family inequality and income inequality: chicken/egg? Due Saturday 7/20, 8AM.

Thursday July 18

**Gender** (Cohen Chapter 5)**Week 3:**

Monday July 22

**Sexuality** (Cohen Chapter 6)  
 "No Way my Boys are Going to be Like That!' Parents' Responses to Children's Gender Nonconformity" by Emily Kane,  
<http://journals.sagepub.com.proxy.library.georgetown.edu/doi/pdf/10.1177/0891243205284276>  
 Final research paper proposal. We will work on these in class. Written version due 7/23, 11:59PM.

Tuesday July 23

**Love and Romantic Relationships** (Cohen Chapter 7)  
 DiDonato, Theresa D. "Are Same Sex or Heterosexual Relationships More Stable?"  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/meet-catch-and-keep/201710/are-same-sex-or-heterosexual-relationships-more-stable>  
 Paper based on data analysis: Is Marriage an Outdated Institution? Analysis demonstration in class. Write ups due 7/24, 11:59PM.

Wednesday July 24

**Legalizing Inequality: The Class Divide in the Meaning of Family Law** (Cahn and Carbone Section III, Chapters 9 &10, pp. 107-143.

Thursday July 25

**Marriage and Cohabitation** (Cohen Chapter 8)  
 In Class: Sliding vs. Deciding, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TpulWdy6aE>

**Week 4:**

Monday July 29

**Children**  
 Families and Children (Cohen Chapter 9)  
 Unmarried with Children, by Kathryn Edin & Maria Kefalas,  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1525/ctx.2005.4.2.16>  
 Final paper drafts due 11:59PM. Canvas will automatically assign you two other student's papers to provide feedback on. Your feedback is due to your peers tomorrow (7/30) at 11:59PM.

Tuesday July 30

**Children's Socialization in Families**  
 Annette Lareau. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67, no. 5 (2002): 747-76.  
<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.georgetown.edu/stable/3088916>.  
 Allison J. Pugh "Consumption as Care and Belonging: ECONOMIES OF DIGNITY IN CHILDREN'S DAILY LIVES." In *At the Heart of Work and Family: Engaging the Ideas of Arlie Hochschild*, edited by Garey Anita Iltta and Hansen Karen V., by Ehrenreich Barbara, 217-27. Rutgers University Press, 2011. <https://www-jstor-org.proxy.library.georgetown.edu/stable/pdf/j.ctt5hj88d.23.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A2d9f6f0949f04a0eb9ba563b5d900486>

Laurie DeRose, Teaching Children How to Manage Money,  
<https://ifstudies.org/blog/teaching-children-how-to-manage-money>  
 Paper: Socialization for college. Due Saturday 8/3, 8AM.

Wednesday July 31

**Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families** (Cohen Chapter 10)  
 Laurie DeRose. 2017. "Unstable Union History Linked to Higher Childhood Mortality Risk."  
<http://www.niussp.org/article/unstable-union-history-linked-to-higher-childhood-mortality-risk/#more-2175>  
 Action plan for final paper revision. Due Friday 8/2 8AM. I will provide feedback on your plan on Friday so that you can start on your final version then.

Thursday August 1

**Work/Family "Balance"**  
 Work and Families (Cohen Chapter 11)  
 Kathleen Gerson and Jerry A. Jacobs "The Work-Home Crunch." *Contexts* (3), no. 4, pp.29-37, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1525/ctx.2004.3.4.29>  
 Pamela Stone and Meg Lovejoy, "Fast-track Women and the 'Choice' to Stay Home." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (596), Nov., 2004, pp. 62-83. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4127650.pdf?refreqid=excelsior:6a5b1e4502452e48e13ed429a5054522>  
 Paper. Ideal work/family balance in sociological perspective. Due Monday 8/5, 11:59PM

**Week 5:**

Monday August 5

**Family Violence and Abuse** (Cohen Chapter 12)  
 Jeremy Uecker, Chapter 3, World Family Map Report 2018 (link to be provided)

Tuesday August 6

**Rebuilding Community: Inequality, Class, and Family** (Cahn and Carbone Section IV, Chapters 11-14, pp. 145-201).

Wednesday August 7

**The Future of the Family** (Cohen Chapter 13)

Thursday August 8

Final Exam  
 Final paper due at exam.