

SOCI 332.01: Sociology of the Family

Fall, 2019

Tu/Th 11:00am-12:20pm

McGill 210

Accessibility information for our room and building can be found here:

<https://map.umt.edu/place/48#18/46.86242/-113.98363>

Instructor and preceptor information

Instructor: Dr. Rayna Sage
Office: Corbin 244
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Phone: 406-243-5233
Office hours: Tuesdays, 12-30-1:30 and always available by appointment

Preceptor: Madison Meredith
Office: Social Sciences TBA
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Office hours: TBA

Course description

All of us experience the joys and struggles of being part of a family. Many of us understand our family life as a product of our choices. This class will ask you to look at how families work from a broader, sociological perspective. What kinds of choices do we really have about how to structure our families? How does history condition our understanding of the family? What does the economy have to do with family life? How do our work lives influence our family lives, for better and for worse? What demographic factors help explain the rates of marriage, cohabitation, stepfamily formation and divorce? Why does our society have problems like domestic violence and child abuse? In the study of sociology there is often not one clear answer to any of the questions I have posed, but in this class you will learn to form your own questions, examine the evidence, and come to your own **informed** conclusions. We will also look at how social policies influence the structure and stability of family life.

IMPORTANT! The organization of this class is based on a **collaborative learning model**. In large classes such as this, the “best practices” of learning are often ignored. This means that to be successful in this class, you will need to be present, interactive, and engaged. If you would rather be in a class where your grade depends on passive note-taking and exams, this class will stretch you. This process is very important to my teaching philosophy and therefore, this class will be organized in a fashion that allows for these ideals to be realized.

Learning Outcomes

In this class you will:

- ✓ acquire a general understanding of how the family is studied in sociology.
- ✓ build a foundation of knowledge regarding important topics in the study of the family as an institution.
- ✓ enhance your critical thinking skills.
- ✓ practice and improve your writing skills.
- ✓ develop and improve your ability to conduct your own research.
- ✓ improve your ability to state your informed judgment (not opinion) about how social problems are related to the family.

Required Readings

There is no book to purchase for this course. You will never be required to purchase materials for this course. All course material is linked on our Moodle page and is open source. See "Readings" tab on Moodle.

Additional Information

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

This course counts towards the major and the minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. If you enjoy this course and would like to know more about the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, please drop by the program office (LA 138A-B) or visit their website: <http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog/>.

Human and Family Development Interdisciplinary Minor

In addition to meeting a requirement for sociology majors, the material covered in this course constitutes a part of an interdisciplinary minor offered at UM. If you wish to find out more about the minor in Human and Family Development, it is described in the UM catalog and at the HFD Website: <http://www.cas.umt.edu/hfd/>. There are many courses focusing on human and family development at UM. A list of the current courses is available at this website.

Basic Needs

Sometimes the things that get in the way of academic success have nothing to do with academics. Being a "poor student" can be a major stressor. If you find yourself unable to pay your rent, purchase food, or in some other financial crisis, there are resources available. Please visit me or the Office for Student Success (<http://www.umt.edu/oss/>). Additional resources include:

Food Pantry Program. UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open on Tuesdays from 9 to 2, on Fridays from 10-5. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email umpantry@mso.umt.edu, visit the pantry's website (<https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php>) or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um_pantry on Instagram).

ASUM Renter Center. The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity here: <http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php> and here: <https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>.

- Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

TRiO Student Support Services. TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring.

- Students can check their eligibility for TRiO services online here: <http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php#Eligibility>.

If you are comfortable, please come see members of the teaching team. We will do our best to help connect you with additional resources.

Student Safety and Resources

The Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) provides free and confidential support to survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, hate crimes, harassment, or other forms of discrimination. Our services include counseling as well as medical, legal, and academic advocacy. SARC is a confidential resource – contacting us does NOT mean that you are making a report to law enforcement or Title IX. You deserve to be safe, supported, and treated with care and respect.

We also offer help to your friends, family, or partners. SARC is located in Curry Health Center, Room 108. Please visit us or call our office at 243-4429. Advocates are available on the 24-hour support line (406) 243-6559.

To Be Successful: Course Requirements

FIRST, read this syllabus! Make sure you understand course requirements, policies, assignments, and your responsibilities as a student. Ask questions if you are confused about anything on the syllabus. Bring your syllabus to class and check it often! Write your class assignments down in a student planner.

There are 2 ways to earn points in this course.

1. Thursday Discussions (90% of your grade)

You can earn up to 900 points in this class by preparing for, participating in, and completing quizzes related to in-class discussions. There are a total of 12 discussion opportunities and your lowest 2 grades will be dropped. See the Rural Sociology Discussion Guidelines for more details, but below is a brief description.

- ✓ Coming Prepared (20 points/discussion; 200 points total)
 - Complete readings
 - Bring typed materials associated with your assigned role
- ✓ Day of Discussion Tasks (40 points/discussion; 400 points total)
 - Share typed responses with others in your role
 - Share your expertise with your team and fulfill the expectations of your role
 - Participate in group discussion
 - Assist in writing two essay questions, highlighting key components in your answer
 - Complete the SWOT analysis
- ✓ Post-Discussion Quiz (30 points/discussion; 300 points total)
 - Complete online quiz made available at 5pm on discussion days

2. Final exam (10% of your grade)

This exam will include 10 short answer questions created during discussion sessions over the course of the semester. It will open on Monday of finals week and close at noon on Friday.

Grading Breakdown

Item	Points	% of total
Thursday Discussions		
Coming Prepared (20 pts/discussion)	200	20%
Day of the Discussion Tasks (40 pts/discussion)	400	40%
Discussion Quizzes (30 pts/discussion)	300	30%
Final exam	100	10%
	1000	100%

Grading

A	92.5-100%	C+	76.5-79.4%
A-	89.5-92.4%	C	72.5-76.4%
B+	86.5-89.4%	C-	69.5-72.4%
B	82.5-86.4%	D	59.5-69.4%
B-	79.5-82.4%	F	59.4% and below

Other Things You Need To Know: Guidelines and Policies

Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The [Code is available for review online \(https://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php\)](https://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

Exams

Be here on the day of an exam. If you miss an exam, you must take the comprehensive multiple-choice exam during finals week. Students who will miss an exam due to a university sponsored event must notify the instructor ahead of time and work with the instructor to make-up the exam within one week of the scheduled event. The score from this exam will replace the missing exam score. There will be no individually scheduled make-up exams during the semester.

Late Assignments

Assignments turned in after the due date will not receive credit.

Concerns with Grading

When it is a matter of simple math errors or mismarking a correct answer, write a brief email outlining the problem and turn it. If you have a problem with the content of an exam or the validity of the grading procedure, please wait 48 hours and submit an email outlining your grievance to the instructor and TA.

Attendance and Classroom Etiquette

In-class activities will be an indicator of your attendance. If you miss a day, please be sure to check in with a peer regarding what you missed and stay aware of your missed in-class activities. Your lowest three will be dropped from your grade.

Please be on time for class and prepared to participate in the full class session. Students who leave during the class interrupt learning activities and disrupt the focus of those around them. Schedule appointments at times when classes are not in session. Everyone benefits from your presence. It is very disruptive for everyone if you come into class late, or leave early.

Please be considerate of others by remaining quiet while your professor and others speak.

Laptops

You may use laptops in this class, but please do your best to stay present. Sometimes electronic devices make this difficult and you will miss important information.

Email Etiquette

All emails to the instructor and preceptor need to have the subject line that identifies your class number and section, and your name. This is VERY important so that we can address your concerns in a timely manner. Please include appropriate salutations, as well as a description of why you are emailing.

Course withdrawal

If at some time during the course you feel that a withdrawal would be in your best interest, I encourage you to review your options according to the Registrar's Office [here \(https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php\)](https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php) and also to come and discuss your situation with me. With early intervention, there are often ways to be successful.

Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students \(https://www.umt.edu/dss/\)](https://www.umt.edu/dss/). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Course Calendar (subject to change)

Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments and important dates
Unit 1: Introductions and Foundations			
Wk 1 8/27 & 8/29	Introductions and Thursday Discussions Guidelines	Thursday Discussion guidelines and materials	8/29: Harris Lecture EC opportunity
Wk 2 9/3 & 9/5	Intersectionality, gender, and defining the family	<i>Intersectionality101</i> <i>The Family in Question</i>	9/5: In-class discussion 9/5 @ 5pm: Quiz 1 opens 9/5: Extra credit photo due
Wk 3 9/10 & 9/12	Theory, studying the family, socio-historical influences on the family and demographic trends	<i>Evolution of the American Family</i> <i>LGBTQ Families</i>	9/9: Quiz 1 due by 5pm 9/12: In-class discussion 9/12 @ 5pm: Quiz 2 opens
Wk 4 9/17 & 9/19	Family structure and marriage promotion	<i>Family Structure and Poverty</i> <i>The Marriage Movement</i>	9/16: Quiz 2 due by 5pm 9/19: In-class discussion 9/19 @ 5pm: Quiz 3 opens
Wk 5 9/24 & 9/26	Debates about the benefits and drawbacks of marriage, to marry or not to marry	<i>We Can't Build our Social System around Marriage Anymore</i> <i>The Capacity to Live Alone</i>	9/23: Quiz 3 due by 5pm 9/26: In-class discussion 9/26 @ 5pm: Quiz 4 opens
Unit 2: Relationship and Family Transitions (new discussion teams)			
Wk 6 10/1 & 10/3	Singlehood, intimacy, dating, and partnering	TBA	9/30: Quiz 4 due by 5pm 10/3: In-class discussion 10/3 @ 5pm: Quiz 5 opens
Wk 7 10/8 & 10/10	When relationships end	<i>Separating</i> TBA	10/7: Quiz 5 due by 5pm 10/10: In-class discussion 10/10 @ 5pm: Quiz 6 opens
Wk 8 10/15 & 10/17	The transition to parenthood	<i>The Accidental Gay Parents</i> podcast TBA	10/14: Quiz 6 due by 5pm 10/17: In-class discussion 10/17 @ 5pm: Quiz 7 opens
Wk 9 10/22	Household with children & Parenting adult children No class Thursday	TBA	10/21: Quiz 7 due by 5pm No discussion
Wk 10 10/29 & 10/31	No class Tuesday	Same as above	10/31: In-class discussion 10/31 @ 5pm: Quiz 8 opens

Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments and important dates
Wk 11 11/5 & 11/7	Family in later life	<i>Intergenerational Relationships in Later Life</i> TBA	11/4: Quiz 8 due by 5pm 11/7: In-class discussion 11/7 @ 5pm: Quiz 9 opens
Unit 3: Special Topics			
Wk 12 11/12 & 11/14	Family and the Justice System	<i>IRP Parental Incarceration</i> TBA	11/11: Quiz 9 due by 5pm 11/14: In-class discussion 11/14 @ 5pm: Quiz 10 opens
Wk 13 11/19 & 11/21	Family and the Military	<i>Military Children and Families</i> , pp. 3-39 <i>Military Families</i> (NCFR Commentary)	11/18: Quiz 10 due by 5pm 11/21: In-class discussion 11/21 @ 5pm: Quiz 11 opens
Wk 14 11/26	No class Thursday Family, Disability, and Health	<i>The Ideology of Ability</i> <i>Taking a Walk with Judith Butler</i> <i>Intersections of Family, Disability, and Health</i>	11/25: Quiz 11 due by 5pm No discussion
Week 15 12/3 & 12/5	No class Tuesday	Same as above	12/5: In-class discussion 12/5 @ 5pm: Quiz 12 opens
Finals	Online Final		12/9: Quiz 12 due by 5pm 12/9: Online final opens 12/13: Final due by noon