

230.388 Sociology of the Family  
Spring 2008  
Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 – 2:45 PM

Prof. Andrew Cherlin  
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Office hours: 3:00 – 5:00 Tuesday.

The readings for this course will consist of the textbook, *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*, and the accompanying anthology, *Public and Private Families: A Reader*.

The Tuesday class will be devoted to lectures and discussions of the chapter assigned for that week. The Thursday class will be devoted to discussions of the assigned articles.

Two in-class essay examinations will be held: March 6 and April 17. Each will count for 30 percent of your grade. A take-home essay exam of 5 to 7 pages will be due on Wednesday, May 7, and will count for 20 percent of your grade. Class participation will account for the remaining 20 percent of your grade.

Jan 28 Introduction

1. Jan 31. Public and Private Families.  
Text Chapter 1
2. Feb 5 & 7. History of the Family.  
Text Chapter 2  
Reading 2.1. "What's Love Got to Do with It? A Brief History of Marriage."  
Reading 2.2. "Growing Up is Harder to Do."
3. Feb 12 & 14. Gender and Families.  
Text Chapter 3  
Reading 3.1. "Doing Gender."  
Reading 3.2. "Feeding as 'Women's Work'."
4. Feb 19 & 21. Social Class and Families.  
Text Chapter 4  
Reading 4.1. "Ain't No Middle Class."  
Reading 4.2. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families."
5. Feb 26 & 28. Race, Ethnicity, and Families  
Text Chapter 5  
Reading 5.1. "I'm Here but I'm There: The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood."  
Reading 5.2. "Breaking the Last Taboo: Interracial Marriage in America."
- 6.. March 4 & 6. Review and Examination I  
March 4: Review  
March 6: Examination I

\*7. March 11 [long class]. Sexualities.

Text Chapter 6

Reading 6.1. "Sexual Desire and Gender."

Reading 6.2. "Living Together Apart: A New Family Form."

[No class March 13].

[Week of March 17: Spring break]

8 March 25 & 27. Cohabitation and Marriage.

Text Chapter 7

Reading 7.1. "'Everything's There Except Money': How Money Shapes Decisions to Marry Among Cohabitators."

Reading 7.2. "Unmarried With Children."

9 April 1 & 3. Work and Families.

Text Chapter 8

Reading 8.1. "The Cost of Caring."

Reading 8.2. "Joey's Problem."

10. April 8 & 10. Divorce and Remarriage.

Text Chapters 12 and 13

Reading 12.1 "Life Without Father: What Happens to the Children?"

Reading 13.2 "The Modern American Stepfamily: Problems and Possibilities."

11. April 15 & 17. Review / Examination II

April 15: Review

April 17: Examination II

12. April 22 & 24. The Family, the State, and Social Policy

Text Chapter 14

Reading 14.1. "American Dream."

Reading 14.2. "Gay Marriage, Same-Sex Parenting, and America's Children."

\*April 29 [long class] Family and Society

Chapter 15

Take home essay exam assigned. Due Wednesday, May 7, at 5:00 PM.

[No class May 1]

Wednesday, May 7. Take-home essay exam due a 5:00 PM.

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. In addition, the specific ethics guidelines for this course are that the final paper represent original work done by you alone.

Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on "Academic Ethics for Undergraduates: and the Ethics Board Web Site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.