

Family Studies Across the Life Course
FCS 2400

Instructor: Melissa Dean
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Textbook: Cherlin, Andrew J., 2001, *Public and Private Families, an Introduction*, 4th Ed. New York: McGraw Hill.

Course Pack: Available in class from Empire publishing

Course Objectives:

-To introduce students to family studies by examining the sociological, psychological, economic, demographic, and gender role influences on family function and structure.

-To challenge students to critically consider how today's evolving family is affected by changes in societal attitudes towards the meaning of marriage and family, intimate relationships, and family life.

-To assist students in making connections between family theory and empirical evidence.

-To encourage students to reflect on their own family experience and actively set personal goals that will ensure their future well-being.

Course Requirements:

1. Class participation. Because of the discussion format of this class, attendance is particularly important. If you miss class, you are responsible for finding out what you have missed from another student in the class (including announcements and lecture material). I expect each student to contribute to class discussions and activities- it is more interesting if everyone gets involved. (5% of your grade)
2. Exams. There will be four exams offered. The lowest of the four test scores will be dropped. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. An alternative essay version of the exam will be provided for those who sign up in advance. Exams will cover guest speakers, videos, presentations, lecture material, and assigned readings (even if they are not discussed in class). If you need to miss an exam, that will be the exam you drop.(75% of your grade)
3. Reflection papers. Each week there will be an opportunity to write on a reflection paper topic selected from class material and guest speakers. You are required to write four separate reflection papers during the semester. Requirements for this assignment will be discussed more in a separate handout (20% of your grade).