

FCS 2400-002: Family Studies Across the Life Course
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Department of Family and Consumer Studies, University of Utah

Fall 2007

Professor Nicholas H. Wolfinger

Overview: Sociological, psychological, economic, and demographic perspectives will be used to explore the major issues facing today's families, with the ultimate goal of attempting to answer this question: "Is the family in crisis?" Some of the specific topics to be addressed include family economics, relationship formation, sexuality, divorce, children, and the elderly. Whenever possible real-life examples will be used to illustrate course content. This class fulfills social science general education requirements.

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:25-1:45 in JTB 310

Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

Office: 256 Alfred Emery Building

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Phone: (801) 581-7491

Mailbox: 228 Alfred Emery Building, the Department of Family and Consumer Studies office. If turning in an assignment make sure to sign the receipt verification log (ask at office).

Grading:

First midterm	25%
Second midterm	25%
Paper	25%
Final	25%

Text: *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*, 4th edition, by Andrew J. Cherlin (2004, NY: McGraw-Hill Inc.). Required.

Reader: Also required. To be sold in class by Empire Publishing (521-7090). I'll let you know when.

Attendance: Not required, but highly suggested.

Incompletes: None. Curve: Yes.

Website: Go to [www.fcs.utah.edu/faculty/wolfinger](http://www.fcs.utah.edu/faculty/wolfinger). Follow the links. Replacement syllabi and nothing else can be found here.

Required in class: A calculator. Any will do.

Kids, food, pets, cell phones and beepers: Quiet only.

Everything else: There is a long version of the syllabus available at the website and in the reader. You are required to read the long version, so please do so at your earliest convenience.

#### COURSE OUTLINE

Date Introduction, Course Mechanics, Definitions; text:  
xix-xxi, 1-21, 32-33

Date History of the Family; text: 35-50, 59-73

Date Gender Roles, Introduction to Cross Tabulations;  
text: 78-107

Date Social Class and Families, Women and Poverty, More  
on X-Tabs; text: 109-140; reader: 1, 2

Date Race, Ethnicity, and Families; text: 50-59, 144-178

Date Love and Sexuality, X-Tabs and Paper Topics;  
text: 181-211, 217-218

Date More Love and Sexuality

Date Family Formation, Union Interaction; text: 221-258;  
reader: 3

Date More Union Interaction, Research Report Design

Date Domestic Violence; text: 367-397

Date Divorce: Trends and History; text: 401-433; reader: 4

Date More Divorce, Remarriage; text: 435-463

Date Children; text: 293-328; reader: 5, 6

Date Aging and the Elderly; reader: 331-364

Date Family Policy; text: 467-523; Reader:  
7, 8, 9, 10

Date More Family Policy

#### IMPORTANT DATES

First midterm	Thursday, Date
Second midterm	Thursday, Date
Papers due	Thursday, Date
Final, 10:30-12:30	Thursday, Date

### IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- 1) Please provide written documentation if you need special accommodations on account of a disability. This can be obtained at the Center for Disabled Student Services, 160 Union Building, 581-5020.
- 2) An FCS resource guide can be found on the Web at <http://www.lib.utah.edu/ResGuides/fcs.htm>.

### THE RIOT ACT

#### Exams

- 1) You must speak with me **before** the scheduled date if you anticipate missing an exam. Retroactive (i.e., after the exam) notification is acceptable only if you or a family member is in the hospital or in jail. Should this be the case please provide written documentation.
- 2) You have received a set of guidelines defining cheating, plagiarism, and other capital offenses. Learn them. Don't do it!
- 3) Do not take copies of multiple-choice tests from the classroom. Turn them in.
- 4) For exams I will have sign-in sheets at the front of the room. Be sure to sign one at some point during the exam period. This is for your protection and mine.
- 5) **Space allowing**, please sit every other seat during exams.
- 6) Do not wear headphones during exams.
- 7) No calculators, computerized date books, palm pilots, etc. allowed during exams.
- 8) Please remove course materials (papers, books, etc.) from your desk during exams. Other stuff (tissues, food, etc.) is fine.
- 9) Please retain all returned tests and papers.

#### Papers

- 1) It is fine (and even recommended) to work together while doing your research papers. All that I ask is that you write your own paper.
- 2) Turn in your paper on or before the listed due date in class or at the FCS main office (228 Emery) by 4pm. Don't fax or e-mail them to me. Don't put them under my office door. Don't nail them to my door.

- 3) Papers arriving any time between the due date and the end of the universe are subject to arbitrary and severe penalties.
- 4) Double space. One inch margins all around. Do not right justify. Single side of the paper only. Number pages. Ten to twelve point font. Avoid binders, sheet protectors, etc.
- 5) Keep a copy of your paper when you turn it in.
- 6) Do not submit papers written for other classes without first discussing it with me.

#### General

- 1) Unless otherwise announced, there are no extra credit assignments. Please don't ask!
- 2) The schedule of readings, tests, and topics may change. I will announce any changes in class. You are responsible for being aware of them.
- 3) Uncollected tests and papers will be discarded after December 31, 2007.