

Sociology 325: Couples, Family and Friendship
The University of New Mexico
Spring 2018

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Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 - 12:15 PM
Dane Smith Hall, Room 325
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Description:

This course is an overview of our sociological knowledge of the strongest social relationships and primary social groups: those of love, family and friendships. It could also have been titled **The Sociology of Strong Ties & Primary Groups** or **The Sociology of Personal Life**. We'll begin by considering how couples are formed, and then turn to the institution of marriage, then child-raising and family structures, and finish the course examining friendship, community and non-family personal life. Social life in the U.S. today will capture much of our attention, but will be contrasted with more global and historical perspectives on each topic.

Requirements:

Grades for the course will be determined by 2 papers, 3 exams, and class participation.

Library Research Paper	22.5%
Interview Paper	22.5%
3 Exams	45%
Class Participation	10%

Late papers will be penalized severely (1/7th of a letter grade deducted per day late).

Library Research Paper: The first paper of the class will be a report on the structure of family and personal life in a specific society. You will be able to choose which society you research from a list, but no two students may choose the same society, so your choice will be somewhat limited. I'll give you a specific format for the report, including what information you need to include. We'll set aside one of our classes for a librarian to instruct us on how to use library resources to find the books and articles you'll need to complete the assignment (see the schedule below).

Interview Paper: The second assignment for the course will be a paper based on an interview you conduct with an elder member of your community (65 or older), on the changes they've observed in friendships and associations in their community over their lifetime. You'll audio record the interview, and write a paper detailing your findings (and you'll turn in the recording to me with your paper). We'll spend some class time learning how to conduct an intensive interview, as well as how to analyze the results (see the schedule below).

Exams: We'll have 3 exams, spread out through the semester. These exams will cover material from both the readings and my lectures. This material doesn't completely overlap, so you'll need to do all of the reading as scheduled, and take notes on every lecture, to ensure that you have what you need to answer the questions on the exams. All three exams count an equal amount towards your final grade (15% each).

Missed Exams will count as a zero towards your final grade. I will offer a makeup, during our final exam time, that can replace one of your other exam grades. It will be comprehensive of the entire course's material, and more difficult than the original exams.

Class Participation: This grade is based on being a good course citizen. Bonus points for asking relevant questions in class, or answering questions I ask the class. Minus points for missing class, showing up late, leaving and returning during class, chatting with other students during class, using your phone, using your computer for anything but taking notes, etc.

Readings:

There are no books to purchase for this course. We will be reading selections from a variety of books and articles, most of which are in a course reader you should get at the UNM Copy Center on the first floor of Dane Smith Hall (room 124). Other articles will be posted to the UNM Learn website for this course for you to download (these are marked as “(online)” below).

Course Schedule (This is preliminary, and will change. See course website for updates)

January 16	Class Overview
January 18	Introductory Lecture Read <i>A Society without Fathers or Husbands</i> by Cai Hua
January 23	Sexual & Romantic Pairing Read “The Decline of the Date and the Rise of the College Hookup” by England & Thomas (online) Read “Searching for a Mate: The Rise of the Internet as a Social Intermediary” by Rosenfeld & Thomas (online)
January 25	Library Research Workshop
January 30	Couple Formation Read <i>Marriage, a History</i> by Stephanie Coontz
February 1	Who Couples with Whom?
February 6	Cohabitation & Marriage Read <i>The Marriage-Go-Round</i> by Andrew Cherlin
February 8	Cohabitation & Marriage
February 13	Breaking Up & Divorce
February 15	Exam 1
February 20	Division of Household Labor Read “Family and Social Network” by Elizabeth Bott (online)
February 22	Division of Household Labor
February 27	Raising Children Read <i>The Forest People</i> Ch 7 and <i>The Mountain People</i> Ch 6 by Colin Turnbull
March 1	Raising Children

Read *Unequal Childhoods* by Annette Lareau

- March 6 Raising Children
March 8 Extended Family & Kinship
Read “Marriage: The Good, The Bad, & The Greedy” by Gerstel & Sarkisian (online)
Library Research Paper Due
- March 13 **NO CLASS (Spring Break)**
March 15 **NO CLASS (Spring Break)**
- March 20 **Interviewing Workshop**
March 22 Extended Family & Kinship
- March 27 **Exam 2**
March 29 Intro to Friendship
- April 3 The History & Meaning of Friendship
Read “Friendship & Trust as Moral Ideas” by Allan Silver (online)
April 5 Friendship as Influence
Read the “The Spread of Obesity” and “Dynamic Spread of Happiness” by Christakis & Fowler (online)
- April 10 Friendship Hierarchies
Read Ch 1 Pts 1 & 2 from *Street Corner Society* by William F. Whyte
Read Ch 1 from *Queen Bees and Wannabes* by Rosalind Wiseman (online)
April 12 **Interview Analysis Workshop**
- April 17 Friendship Segregation
Read Ch 1 from *Slim’s Table* by Mitchell Duneier
April 19 Friendship Segregation
Read “Sources of Friendship and Structurally-Induced Homophily Across the Life Course” by Reuben J. Thomas (online)
- April 24 Community & Association
Read Ch 4 from *Made in America* by Claude Fischer
April 26 Community & Association
- May 1 Course Wrap-up
May 3 **Exam 3**
- May 8 **Interview Paper Due**
May 8 **Makeup Exam 12:30pm-2:30pm**

Additional Notes:

Academic Dishonesty: All students are required to read and abide by UNM's policies on academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments as well as claiming credit for work not done or done by others. Violations of these policies will result in disciplinary action. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will result in the student failing the course. If you have a question about what constitutes plagiarism or how to properly cite research, your best bet is to contact me and ask. Additional information is available at: <https://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/academic-dishonesty.html>

Special Needs: Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UNM will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities. For further information, contact the Accessibility Resource Center at (505) 277-3506.

Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Assault & Misconduct: Full and accurate reporting of all sexual violence and sexual misconduct that occur at or related to UNM is important as UNM strives to be a safe and hospitable place for everyone. You should be aware that all UNM employees (other than some counselors at SHAC, CARS and other licensed medical providers) are required to report any incidence of sexual misconduct or violence within 24 hours of learning about it to the Office of Equal Opportunity. This means that all of your instructors are mandatory reporters, so any discussion of such an incident in class, in an assignment, or in private with an instructor will trigger a report.

Sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated with force or coercion against a person's will; or where a person has not given consent as defined in the policy (link below) or is unable to consent due to his or her use of alcohol or drugs, or disability, or age. Sexual violence is a crime.

Sexual misconduct incorporates a range of behaviors, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, stalking, voyeurism, and any other conduct of a sexual nature that is nonconsensual, or has the purpose or effect of threatening, intimidating, or coercing a person.

https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html#_Toc414642672

https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html#_Toc414642678

Remember that you can seek help with any emotional distress at Student Health & Counseling (SHAC): (505) 277-3136 (select option 3 for after-hours crisis counseling). The first two visits are typically free to students, with small fees per session afterwards.