

SOCI 3000.900/950: Marriage and Family

Spring 2022

Course Instructor: Deborah Fessenden

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-4 via Zoom, or in-person by appointment

Zoom Link (Office Hours): <https://unt.zoom.us/j/3114346681>

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“Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and a better future. It is part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family.”
— Ban Ki-Moon

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore the interpersonal dynamics of marriage and family life. We will discuss our social roles in the family, and explore how outer social forces influence the family, as both a powerful primary group and as a social institution.

Learning Objectives:

1. Articulate and debate sociological ideas of the family
2. Critically analyze arguments presented in the text and course materials
3. Identify larger social constructs that impact the family, including race, gender, social class, the economy, and other social forces.

Required Textbook:

1. The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change (3rd Edition):
<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393537314>

***Note:** Please reach out to me if you need a copy of the text! I will send you the PDF version of the 2nd edition (the 2nd and 3rd editions are incredibly similar)

Teaching Philosophy:

My personal approach to teaching this course involves creating an online atmosphere where students can broaden their perspective on the changing structure of marriage and family life in the United States. I wish to facilitate your understanding of the increasing diversity, increasing

inequality, and long-term social changes which have occurred over the last 100+ years in the United States. To do this, students must cooperate by embracing the material in the assigned text so that they can engage one another in fruitful discussions about the changing shape of marriage and family life in our country.

Land Acknowledgement:

In recognition of the history and ongoing processes of colonialism by which the land where our class and the University of North Texas exists, I would like to acknowledge that this space is the occupied/unceded/seized territory of the Wichita, Caddo, Commanche, and Cherokee tribes. These tribes have stewarded this land through several generations and we pay our respects to elders, both past and present. Note: Land Acknowledgement Statement adapted from the UNT Division of Institutional Equity and Diversity.

Technical Assistance:

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. At UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. Here is information about how to contact them.

Student Helpdesk:

UIT Helpdesk - Sage Hall 130

940-565-2324

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Links to Miscellaneous Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- **Student Health and Wellness Center:**
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- **Counseling and Testing Services:**
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- **UNT Care Team:** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- **UNT Psychiatric Services:**
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)

- **Individual Counseling:**
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Other Student Support Services Offered by UNT

1. **Registrar:** (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
2. **Financial Aid:** (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
3. **Student Legal Services:** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
4. **Career Center:** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
5. **Multicultural Center:** (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
6. **Counseling and Testing Services:**
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
7. **Pride Alliance:** (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
8. **UNT Food Pantry:** (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)
9. **Academic Success Center:** (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
10. **UNT Libraries:** (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
11. **Writing Lab:** (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
12. **MathLab:** (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

How the Course is Organized

This course is composed of an introductory post, 5 comparative essays, 6 short answer quizzes, an interactive paper, family tree assignment, guest lecture response paper, and a final research paper on your topic of choice (as it pertains to the sociology of marriage and family).

Coffee Office Hours (Extra Credit!)

This semester, I will hold coffee office hours every week on Wednesdays from 3-4pm. Please grab a latte or favorite beverage and attend my Zoom office hours to discuss the chapters, modules, and course content assigned for that week. The point of coffee office hours is to offer students opportunities to engage with the course through live discussions. Come prepared to share your thoughts and questions! Each time you attend *and* participate in discussions, you will earn 5 extra credit points towards your course grade :)

Grading

Grades will be determined according to the total **points** earned in the course.

Assignment	Total Points
Introductory Post	100
Comparative Essays	400 (100 x 4)

Sociological Family Tree	100
Interactive Paper	100
Guest Lecture Reflection	100
Research Paper	100
Course Total	900

Course Grading Scale

A = 900 – 810 Points

C = 719 – 630 Points

F = 539 – 0 Points

B = 809 – 720 Points

D = 629 – 540 Points

Assignment

“Ideal” Due Dates (*See Late/Missing Work Policy*)

Introduction Post:

January 22

Comparative Essay 1:

January 30

Sociological Family Tree:

February 10

Comparative Essay 2:

February 21

Interactive Paper:

March 7

Comparative Essay 3:

March 28

Guest Lecture Reflection	April 8
Comparative Essay 4:	April 22
Research Paper	May 7
Last day to submit assignments (with -10 point penalty per each assignment turned in late)	May 8

Late/Missing Work Policy:

I understand that these times are frustrating and chaotic. COVID-19 has impacted our lives in many unfortunate ways. Many of us are overwhelmed with a plethora of new responsibilities that make it hard or nearly impossible to finish assignments on time. **Therefore, I've decided to eliminate deadlines. You may turn your work in whenever you'd like to without penalty, up until May 7th.**

However, it is ideal that you try your best to stick to the recommended turn-in dates for assignments so that you do not fall behind in the course. My hope is that being flexible with assignment due dates will allow students the time necessary to submit quality work.

1. Comparative Essays

For each comparative essay, you will watch and compare/contrast two TedX Talks I've selected which relate to the sociological study of marriage and family. Each essay must be a minimum of 500 words. Please respond to the prompts I provide, and pull quotes from the Cohen book and Ted Talks to support your comparison. These assignments will require you to think critically about sociological phenomena related to marriage and family, analyze how these issues relate to society at large, and use critical thinking skills to compare, contrast and connect ideas together to form one cohesive (and sociological) argument.

2. Sociological Family Tree

To understand how societal trends impact family life, this first assignment will connect familiar sources—our families, personal histories, biographies, and other interesting social criteria—and tie them to the larger social structure. The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate how our families are not only connected generationally, but also through varied social processes. This assignment should tell us not only about your social situation, but also about the overarching

social structure that you grew up in. Answer the questions in detail to demonstrate your knowledge of familial patterns and their relation to over-arching societal trends.

3. Interactive Paper

The goal of this assignment is to examine the Coronavirus pandemic through the lens of sociology and to explore how the virus has particularly impacted the family, for better or worse. Have an unscripted, 30 minute conversation with a family member or friend about how their family life has been impacted by COVID-19. The idea is to discover more about how your relative/friend has coped with the limitations of COVID-19. The conversation may take place in person, on the phone, or via Zoom.

Next, write a 800 word essay about the conversation you had with your interviewee. Using third person, describe your respondent's experience and discuss what you learned about their family life during the pandemic. Last, write a 200 word reflection on your main takeaways from the assignment. For example, what did you discover from your respondent that you didn't know before? Connect your reflection section to the text/class materials and include at least 2 in-text citations.

4. Guest Lecture Reflection

Sociologist Celeste Graham will discuss marriage, families, family theories, and relationships. Specifically, she will incorporate the issues that single mothers face, as well as stigmas against non-traditional or conventional families.

For this assignment, please attend the live lecture and write a 750 word reflection on what you learned during the presentation. What were the main take-aways? How does this lecture connect with the content we've learned in class so far? Include two in-text citations from the text to support your response.

Note: If you are unable to attend the live lecture, a recording of the lecture will be posted shortly after the live lecture.

5. Research Paper

For the last assignment in this course, you are asked to write a 6-8 page research paper over a sociological topic of your choice, as it relates to the study of marriage and family. If you wish to create your own topic, it must be approved before you start writing.

More Information About Other UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy:

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or

sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.

ADA Policy:

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

Emergency Notification & Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect:

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates:

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention:

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination

or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.