DRAFT SYLLABUS FOR SOC. 205, Family and Social Change
LAST TAUGHT AS Sociology 285C, Winter Quarter 2001
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/01W/soc285c-1/

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Subject Matter: This seminar examines sources of change in family and household organization. A major focus is the relationships among economic institutions, family structure, and the content of family life. The seminar considers concepts, theories, and data about kinship. It uses examples from historical research on Western European and U.S. families as well as cross-cultural research to examine family variation. Readings are drawn from sociology, anthropology, economics, and history. Seminar discussion will consider classical debates in family sociology and their application to empirical research and contemporary policy-related topics.

Course Requirements: There are three requirements in addition to active participation in the weekly sessions: (1) help lead seminar discussions of the readings; (2) write three short critical summaries of selected readings to be circulated to all participants before the relevant seminar meetings; (3) write a short research proposal or report of research in progress. These are described below.

(1) Each student is responsible for leading the discussion for two of the weekly seminar sessions. Depending on enrollment, discussion leaders may collaborate to organize the weekly discussions. I encourage discussion leaders to circulate a short memo in advance to alert participants to common themes and conceptual and methodological issues to be addressed in the discussion. However, a preliminary memo is not required. For those who decide to circulate memos in advance, these should be posted on the class discussion board: http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/01W/soc285c-1/wwwboard/. To facilitate discussion, please post these memos by noon on Monday before our Tuesday morning seminar meeting.

(2) Three times during the quarter, students who are not discussion leaders for a particular week will sign-up in advance to write 1 or 2 page reviews of readings that are not part of the core assignments. The reviews should include a brief summary of the selection as well as critical commentary. These must be posted on the discussion board by noon the Monday preceding the Tuesday seminar meeting to allow everyone an opportunity to read the material before the session. The discussion board is: http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/01W/soc285c-1/wwwboard/

(3) The quarter project for the seminar is either a short research report on work in progress or a research proposal. A paragraph describing the topic must be submitted to the instructor for approval by Tuesday, Jan. 23. For students who choose to write a proposal, the proposal should include a statement of the research question and a rationale for posing the question, a brief review of the relevant literature, and a description of the data and methods that will be used to address the question posed. Both the research report and research proposal are statements about work in progress, either toward a conference paper or journal article or as a draft plan for a master’s paper or dissertation proposal. The research report or proposal is due no later than Tuesday, March 20.
Grades: Students have the option of taking the course as “satisfactory/unsatisfactory.” Seminar presentations and class participation contribute 60% to the final course grade. Critical reviews contribute 15%. The research paper or proposal counts 25% of the seminar grade.

To complete the course, students must finish all of the assignments. *The grade of "incomplete" will not be given.*

Readings: The reading list for this course draws from literature in a variety of social science disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, history, and economics. A goal of the seminar is to expose students to a variety of approaches to studies of family and kinship. The reading list is not comprehensive in breadth or depth. Seminar discussion will help identify and synthesize common themes and criticisms across readings.

I will provide information on access to the readings at the first seminar meeting. Some readings will be available through JSTOR at: [http://www.jstor.org/jstor/](http://www.jstor.org/jstor/)
**Topic Schedule and Readings**

Jan. 9, **Introduction and Overview**

SUG: Huber, Joan and Glenna Spitze, "Trends in Family Sociology"
*Journal of Marriage and the Family, Nov. 2000, decade review articles*

Jan. 16, **Definitions and Universals**

REQ:
- Collier, Jane, Michelle Z. Rosaldo, and Sylvia Yanagisako, "Is There a Family? New Anthropological Views"
- Gough, Kathleen, "The Origin of the Family"
- Harris, C.C., *The Family and Industrial Society*, chapters 1-3
- Malinowski, Bronislaw, "Parenthood, the Basis of Social Structure"
- Reiss, Ira, "The Universality of the Family: A Conceptual Analysis"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
- Epstein, Cynthia Fuchs, "The Bio-Social Debate"
- Murdock, George Peter, "Structures and Functions of the Family"
- Seltzer, Judith A. and Suzanne M. Bianchi, "Children’s Contact with Absent Parents"
- Smith, Daniel Scott, "The Meanings of Family and Household: Change and Continuity in the Mirror of the American Census"

Jan. 23, **Marriage and Other Unions**

REQ:
- Caldwell, John C., Pat Caldwell, and Pat Quiggin, "The Social Context of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa"
- Goode, William J., "The Theoretical Importance of Love"
- Gough, E. Kathleen, "The Nayars and the Definition of Marriage"
- Kalmijn, Matthijs, "Shifting Boundaries: Trends in Religious and Educational Homogamy"
- Lee, Gary R., "Marital Structure and Economic Systems"
- Risseeuw, Carla, "State Formation and Transformation in Gender Relations and Kinship in Colonial Sri Lanka"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
- Black, Dan et al., "Demographics of the Gay and Lesbian Population in the United States: Evidence from Available Systematic Data Sources"
- Daly, Martin and Margo I. Wilson, "The Evolutionary Psychology of Marriage and Divorce"
- Goody, Jack, "Inheritance, Property and Women: Some Comparative Considerations"
- Calves, Anne-Emmanuelle and Dominique Meekers, "The Advantages of Having Many Children for Women in Formal and Informal Unions in Cameroon"

*Research paper or proposal topics must be turned in for approval by Tuesday, Jan. 23.*
Jan. 30, Some Theories about Family Change

REQ:
Finch, Janet, “Are Kin Relationships ‘Special’?”
Goode, William J., “World Changes in Family Patterns” and "Conclusion" in World Revolution and Family Patterns
Mason, Karen Oppenheim and An-Magritt Jensen, “Introduction” in Gender and Families in Industrialized Countries
Parsons, Talcott, "The Kinship System of the Contemporary United States"
Risman, Barbara, “Gender as Structure”
Thornton, Arland and Thomas E. Fricke, “Social Change and the Family: Comparative Perspectives from the West, China, and South Asia"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
Blumberg, Rae Lesser and Robert F. Winch, "Societal Complexity and Familial Complexity: Evidence for the Curvilinear Hypothesis"
Folbre, Nancy, “Feminist Theory and Political Economy”
Goode, William J., "The Theory and Measurement of Family Change"
Riley, Nancy E., "Interwoven Lives: Parents, Marriage and Guanxi in China"

Feb. 6, Economic Perspectives on Families

REQ:
Becker, Gary S., "A Theory of Marriage"
Pollak, Robert A., “Theorizing Marriage”
Sawhill, Isabel V., "Economic Perspectives on the Family"
Rosenzweig, Mark, "Welfare, Marital Prospects and Nonmarital Childbearing"
Willis, Robert J., “What Have We Learned from the Economics of the Family?”

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
Becker, Gary S., "Division of Labor in Households and Families” in A Treatise on the Family
Becker, Gary S., "Imperfect Information, Marriage, and Divorce” in A Treatise on the Family
Bergstrom, Theodore C., “A Survey of Theories of the Family”

Feb. 13, Criticisms and Modifications of Economic Perspectives

REQ:
Caldwell, John C., "The Economic Rationality of High Fertility: An Investigation Illustrated with Nigerian Survey Data"
Goode, William J., “Comment: The Economics of Nonmonetary Variables”
Wolf, Diane L., "Daughters, Decisions and Domination: An Empirical and Conceptual Critique of Household Strategies"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
Blank, Rebecca M., “What Should Mainstream Economists Learn from Feminist Theory?”
Cherlin, Andrew J. “Toward a New Home Socioeconomics of Union Formation"
England, Paula and Barbara Stanek Kilbourne, "Markets, Marriages, and Other Mates: The Problem of Power"
Folbre, Nancy and Thomas Weisskopf, "Did Father Know Best? Families, Markets, and the Supply of Caring Labor"
Maher, Vanessa, "Work, Consumption and Authority within the Household"

Feb. 20, Child Bearing and Child Rearing

REQ:
Demos, John, "The Changing Faces of Fatherhood"
Guyer, Jane I. "Traditions of Studying Paternity in Social Anthropology"
Mason, Karen Oppenheim, "Multilevel Analysis in the Study of Social Institutions and Demographic Change"
Schulte, Regina, "Infanticide in Rural Bavaria in the Nineteenth Century"
Smith, Herbert L. "Integrating Theory and Research on the Institutional Determinants of Fertility"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
Eyer, Diane E., "The Bonding Research" and "Constructing Motherhood and Infancy"
Page, Hilary J., "Childrearing versus Childbearing: Coresidence of Mother and Child in Sub-Saharan Africa"
Pollak, Robert A. and Susan Cotts Watkins, "Cultural and Economic Approaches to Fertility: Proper Marriage or Mesalliance?"
Young, Kathryn T., "American Conceptions of Infant Development from 1955 to 1984: What the Experts are Telling Parents"

Feb. 27, American Families: Past and Present

REQ:
Hareven, Tamara K., "A Complex Relationship: Family Strategies and the Processes of Economic and Social Change"
Janssens, Angelique, "Family and Industrialization" [not on U.S. families, but useful summary of questions and debates]
Laslett, Barbara, "The Family as a Public and Private Institution: An Historical Perspective"
Rossi, Alice S. and Peter H. Rossi, "The Structure of Kinship Norms"
Ruggles, Steven, "The Origins of African-American Family Structure"
Watkins, Susan Cotts, Jane A. Menken, and John Bongaarts, "Demographic Foundations of Family Change"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
Cherlin, Andrew, "Changing Family and Household: Contemporary Lessons from Historical Research"
Gutman, Herbert G., "Afro-American Kinship before and after Emancipation in North America"
Hogan, Dennis P., Ling-xin Hao, and William L. Parish, "Race, Kin Networks, and Assistance to Mother-Headed Families"
Medick, Hans and David Warren Sabean, "Interest and Emotion in Family and Kinship Studies: A Critique of Social History and Anthropology"
March 6, Division of Labor and Resources

REQ:
- Bianchi, Suzanne M., "Maternal Employment and Time with Children: Dramatic Change or Surprising Continuity?"
- Blumberg, Rae Lesser and Marion Tolbert Coleman, "A Theoretical Look at the Gender Balance of Power in the American Couple"
- Gullestad, Marianne, Selections from *Kitchen Table Society: A Case Study of the Family Life and Friendships of Young Working-Class Mothers in Urban Norway*
- Magdol, Lynn and Diane R. Bessel, "For Richer, For Poorer, But Just for Now? Trust and Contingency in the Financial Arrangements of Cohabiting Couples"
- Pahl, Jan, "The Allocation of Money and the Structuring of Inequality within Marriage"
- Treas, Judith, "Money in the Bank: Transaction Costs and the Economic Organization of Marriage"
- Wolf, Margery, "Uterine Families and Women's Community," chapter 3 in *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
- Brines, Julie, "Economic Dependency, Gender, and the Division of Labor at Home"
- Greenhalgh, Susan, "Income Units: The Ethnographic Alternative to Standardization"
- Goode, William J., "Why Men Resist"
- Katz, Elizabeth G., "Gender and Trade Within the Household: Observations from Rural Guatemala"
- Singh, Supriya and Jo Lindsay, "Money in Heterosexual Relationships"

March 13, Marriage and Divorce in the Contemporary United States: Theory Development and Applications

REQ:
- Moffitt, Robert A., "Female Wages, Male Wages, and the Economic Model of Marriage"
- Oppenheimer, Valerie Kincade, "A Theory of Marriage Timing"
- Sellzer, Judith A., "Families Formed Outside of Marriage"
- Sweeney, Megan M., "Two Decades of Family Change: The Shifting Economic Foundations of Marriage"
- Weiss, Yoram and Robert J. Willis, "Children as Collective Goods and Divorce Settlements"
- Weitzman, Lenore J., "The Divorce Law Revolution and the Transformation of Legal Marriage"

SUG FOR REVIEWS:
- Bumpass, Larry, "What's Happening to the Family? Interactions Between Demographic and Institutional Change"
- Lilard, Lee A. and Linda J. Waite, "A Joint Model of Marital Childbearing and Marital Disruption"
- Oroposa, R. S. and Bridget K. Gorman, "Ethnicity, Immigration, and Beliefs about Marriage as a 'Tie that Binds'"
- Surra, Catherine A. and Christine R. Gray, "A Typology of Processes of Commitment to Marriage: Why Do Partners Commit to Problematic Relationships?"
- Sweet, James A. and Larry L. Bumpass, "Disruption of Marital and Cohabitation Relationships: A Social-Demographic Perspective"

*Research reports and proposals are due in hard copy by Tues., March 20*
Readings for Sociology 285C
Family and Social Change, Winter Quarter 2001


Gender," and "Breadwinning and Mothering." Chapters 1, 2, and 7, respectively, in Who Supports the Family? Gender and Breadwinning in Dual-Earner Marriages. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.


Willis, Robert J. 1987. "What Have We Learned from the Economics of the Family?" American Economic Review 77:68-81. [JSTOR]

