Sociology 376
Families: A Global Approach

Class Time: Monday & Wednesday, 2-3:30
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5pm, 1812 Chicago Avenue, Rm 208

Course Overview

How is family life changing around the globe? How are globalization and global migration affecting family life?

This class will consider changes in marriage, housework, childrearing, and intergenerational relationships in a comparative perspective. We will read and discuss recently published scholarly books and articles that examine how and why family life is changing around the world. The course is designed to provide students with an introduction to contemporary scholarship on family change in diverse countries, but it is not an exhaustive survey of family life around the globe.

Course Goals and Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to
1) describe some of the ways that family life is changing across the globe;
2) explain some of the hypothesized explanations for family change;
3) critique social science research on families;
4) conduct an independent research project using social science research methods and drawing on the scholarly research literature.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to do all required reading and engage deeply with the subject material. Class attendance is expected. Grades will be calculated as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and class participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Reading responses</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Research project and presentation</td>
<td>45%</td>
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**Attendance and class participation:** This course is designed as a seminar course. To fully participate, students should complete all readings, bring copies of the readings and their notes on the readings to class, and spend time contemplating the readings in advance of the class meetings. During class meetings, students are expected to engage in constructive conversation about the course material. A set of expectations for class participation will be posted on Canvas and distributed in class. Students should note that they may miss two classes without penalty, but that further absences (barring extreme circumstances such as hospitalization) will result in a lower grade.

**Discussion questions:** Students will post two discussion questions based on the readings to the designated Canvas forum by 11am on class days. Students are expected to do this in advance of at least one course meeting per week; students are welcome to post questions before both class meetings.

**Reading Responses:** Students will write four 1.5-2 page (double-spaced, 12 point font) reading responses over the term. Students may choose which dates to write a response. Responses are due at 11am on the day of class via Canvas, and late responses will not be accepted. At least two of these writing assignments must be completed by May 2.

**Research project and presentation:** This project is an opportunity for students to conduct independent research on family life in a country of their choice. Directions will be posted on Canvas and distributed in class. Parts of the research project, such as a “Country Fact Sheet” and a preliminary bibliography/reference list, will be due in advance. Students will present preliminary findings from their project during the last week of class meetings and will turn in a final, written paper by Wednesday, June 8 at 3pm. Late papers will not be accepted.

Written work is expected to be grammatically correct and without typos. Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Place and to seek and give help to classmates. Students are welcome to discuss the assignments and work cooperatively provided that they include a note at the end of the assignment acknowledging that they worked with a classmate. Example: “Note: I acknowledge writing advice from Sue Jones at the Writing Place. Classmate Jose Hernandez commented on a draft of this paper.”

**Required Books:**


Course packet (CP), available at Quartet
Reading Assignments

March 29, Class 1
1. Introduction, International Family Change.

March 30, Class 2

April 4, Class 3
**Due: One paragraph about your country and topic for the final project.

April 6, Class 4
1. “Family Change in Iran,” International Family Change.

April 11, Class 5

April 13, Class 6
**Due: “Fact Sheet” about the country you have chosen to research for the final project.
See Canvas for directions.

April 18, Class 7

April 20, Class 8

April 25, Class 9
April 27, Class 10
**Due: A preliminary list of sources for the final project.**

May 2, Class 11

May 4, Class 12
1. Pages 3-8, 19 to the top of page 26, and pages 34-36 of Chapter 2 in *Dividing the Domestic*.
2. Chapter 5 (“Can State Policies Produce Equality”) in *Dividing the Domestic*.

May 9, Class 13
2. Chapter 4 (“The Politics of Housework”) in *Dividing the Domestic*.

May 11, Class 14

May 16, Class 15
**Due: A preliminary outline or annotated bibliography for the final project.**
1. Chapters 1 and 2 in *Divided by Borders: Mexican Migrants and their Children*.

May 18, Class 16
1. Chapters 3 and 7 in *Divided by Borders: Mexican Migrants and their Children*.

May 23, Class 17
1. Chapters 8 in *Divided by Borders: Mexican Migrants and their Children*.

May 25, Class 18
Class Presentations

Final Project: Wednesday, June 8 at 3pm
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Respectful Dialogue: Some of the topics that we discuss in this course may resonate closely with our own personal experiences, may challenge closely-held personal, moral, or political beliefs, or may be controversial. I will do my best to create an intellectually vibrant and respectful atmosphere. I request that you contribute to this by acknowledging the diversity of experiences and opinions related to the course topics, refraining from the use of slang or pejorative terms, treating others with respect and civility, and honestly communicating with me and your classmates if you feel that we are not treating a particular perspective with respect. Please make me aware of any concerns that you may have, and I will do my best to address them.

Additionally, students are requested to turn off their CELLPHONES and COMPUTERS. If you have to leave early or arrive late, please do so quietly.

Communication: The best way to contact me is through email. Please include an informative subject line such as “Soc 376 Assignment Question” and sign your full name.

Academic Integrity: Northwestern has strict policies regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include passing off other people’s work as your own, cheating on exams or other in-class assignments, collaborating with other students on assignments where collaboration is prohibited, and not giving others (students, faculty, writers, and scholars) credit for their ideas or words.

Respecting the academic integrity of yourself and others means always citing sources correctly and never contributing to or benefiting from any activities that further academic dishonesty (e.g. selling or buying term papers, etc.). Additionally, you may not reuse papers or portions of papers from a previous class for an assignment for this class. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask me. Students may be required to submit their work electronically. All student work may be analyzed electronically for violations of the university's academic integrity policy and may also be included in a database for the purpose of testing for plagiarized content. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated! All suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Per university policy, any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD; 847-467-5530) and to me as early as possible in the quarter. All discussions will remain confidential.

Absences: Please let me know by the second week of class about anticipated absences for religious holiday observances. Students who are absent for illness or family emergencies and miss an assignment are required to contact me as soon as the situation arises.