SOC 0438: Sociology of Marriage and Intimacy
Spring 2013 (April 1 – June 10)
Mondays, 5:30 p.m.-9:10 p.m., Cramer 271

Instructor: Carolyn Zook
Email: zook@pdx.edu
Office hours: By appointment only

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the Sociology of Marriage and Intimacy, with an emphasis on the family unit. We will take an alternative approach to the traditional nuclear family model, focusing on the different forms modern families take and the societal issues couples and families face today. Issues covered include welfare and policy, love, sex, and sexuality, marriage and divorce, parenting and childhood, singlehood and dating, family and work, stratification, and men in families. Students will engage with key theories, questions, and debates relating to modern couples and the modern family through class readings, exams, discussions, lectures, films, and group projects.

Course Goals
Upon completing the Sociology of Marriage and Intimacy course, you should be able to:
- Identify and describe key issues and theories pertaining to modern couples and the modern family.
- Synthesize, assess, and critique current debates and discussions of modern couples and the modern family.
- Examine and evaluate key issues modern couples and families face aside from those discussed in class.

Class policies
Respect in the Classroom
I see the classroom as a safe environment to explore new or difficult ideas and expand on our existing knowledge. I learn from you as you learn from me. Thus, I will require at all times the utmost of respect for opinions and ideas expressed in the classroom. Keep in mind that everyone has a different background and comes from a particular perspective or experience. You do not have to always agree with one another, but you must always be respectful.

Attendance
I do not take attendance, however, please note that this class only meets once per week. Missing “one class” is equivalent to missing an entire week of course material. In class assignments may not be made up.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes or announcements from a classmate. I do not respond to inquires asking for copies of my notes.

Cell Phones
The use of cell phones is not permitted in the classroom!! Please make sure your phone is on silent or shut off completely before class. No text messaging during class, films, or discussions! (This means I should not see your phone on your desk – if you aren’t using, you don’t need it out.). Offenders will lose points from their final grade.
**Course Materials**
There are required articles or book chapters, available under the appropriate folder on D2L.

**Grading Scale**
Assignments and participation add up to a total of 150 points. Grades are not curved. The grading scale for this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
<td>146-150 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-96%</td>
<td>141-145 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>135-140 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>131-134 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>126-130 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>120-125 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>116-119 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76%</td>
<td>111-115 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>105-110 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>101-104 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>96-100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63%</td>
<td>90-95 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or below</td>
<td>89 points or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignments and Descriptions**
This course relies heavily on readings, films, discussions, and group activities. Assignments are designed to help you think critically about what you are reading, watching, and class discussions.

Assignment Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (30 points each)</td>
<td>90 points</td>
<td>April 22, May 13, June 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Topic Assignment</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>Your choice, no later than June 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Pod Activity (5 points/week)</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150 points</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Exams – 30 points each (90 points total)
*Due: April 22, May 13, June 10*

Exam dates will not change, so plan accordingly. Exams are each worth 30 points and based on class readings, films, lectures, and discussions. Anything that is assigned or brought up in class is fair game for the exam. Exams will mostly be multiple choice, but may also include short answer, matching, or fill-in-the blank. Exams will test your knowledge and comprehension on material covered since the previous exam. Exams are not cumulative and will be given at the beginning of class.

*Make-up Exam Policy:* You must make every reasonable effort to attend class on exam days. You are responsible for allowing enough time to get to campus, park, get your coffee, and make it to class.

Copyright Carolyn L. Zook 2013
If you cannot make an exam due to an emergency, I expect an email acknowledging that you missed the exam and explaining why. In the rare event I offer a make-up exam, it will be all essay and more difficult than the original exam. **You must take all three exams to pass this course.**

**Note:** What constitutes an “emergency” is to my discretion, but generally does not include: transportation issues, work issues, roommate issues, or your best friend’s wedding.

*Current Topic Assignment – 10 points*
*Due: Your choice, no later than June 10*

For this assignment, you will connect what you are learning in class to “the real world.” Find an event or news story either currently happening or that recently happened (no older than 3 months), that relates to a topic covered in class (see “Schedule of Classes and Assignments” for topics covered). Type 1-2 double-spaced pages briefly summarizing the news story (no more than 1 paragraph) and making connections to the class (the remainder of the paper). You may draw from discussions, films, readings, or lectures. **Print and hand in the news story along with your write up.** You will be graded on content, grammar, and overall writing skills. **You must cite your sources, including class notes, properly (see Plagiarism, above)!!** You may hand in this assignment any time during the quarter, but no later than our final class meeting on June 10.

*Family Pod Activity – 5 points per week (50 points total)*
*Due: Weekly*

The Family Pod activity is a huge undertaking that divides the class into family “pods”. Each week, pods will be assigned certain tasks to complete or issues to handle. You can earn up to 5 points per week for active participation and engagement in the pods activity. Instructions will be given out on a weekly basis. Please note, in class assignments cannot be made up if you are absent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Assignment Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| WEEK 1 | April 1 | Introduction, Studying Families and the History of Families  
Read: *The End of Men; The Evolution of American Families; Families* |
| WEEK 2 | April 8 | Welfare and Policy  
Read: “Children” Having Children; What You Can Do; Families in Law and Practice |
| WEEK 3 | April 15 | Love, Sex and Sexuality  
Read: Scent of Another Woman; Gay Teens on TV; Hooking Up; Gender Politics and Teen Dating |
| WEEK 4 | April 22 | Exam 1 (covers material from Weeks 1-3, does not include material from Week 4)  
Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage  
Read: Marriage: What’s It Good For? |
| WEEK 5 | April 29 | Parenthood and Childhood  
Read: Are Fathers Necessary?; Parents Keep Child’s Gender Under Wraps |
| WEEK 6 | May 6  | Singlehood and Dating  
Read: Dynamics of Internet Dating; Singlehood Among Mormons; Love, Lies and What They Learned |
| WEEK 7 | May 13 | Exam 2 (covers material from Weeks 4-6, does not include material from Week 7)  
Families and Work  
Read: The Joy of Not Cooking; Go Ahead – Cry at Work; Families Facing Untenable Choices; Why is America the “No-Vacation” Nation?; State of U.S. Women |
| WEEK 8 | May 20 | Families and Stratification |
| WEEK 9 | May 27 | No class this week, Memorial Day |
| WEEK 10 | June 3  | Men and Family  
Read: Men’s Changing Contribution; Briefing Paper; Not Just Provide and Reside; All His Children |
| WEEK 11 | June 10 | Exam 3 (covers material from Weeks 7-10, does not include material from Week 11)  
Last day to turn in Current Topic Assignment  
Wrap up |