“As far as everyone knows we are a nice, normal family.”
Popular Saying

Instructor: Jen Moore
Office hours: Cramer Hall 217-O
Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:00 am and by appointment.
Please email to set up a time. We can also talk after class time.
Email: jlmo@pdx.edu

Course Description
This course provides a survey of current research in Sociology of the Family. Topics include marriage, cohabitation, divorce, parenthood, aging, and inequality (both in and across families). A major goal of the course is for students to become more confident in assessing social science research.

Learning Objectives
- Distinguish understandings of family that are based on social theory and sociological knowledge from those based on personal experiences and ideologies.
- Describe in broad outlines the changes in family life and family forms.
- Describe ways in which inequality impacts families, including our own.
- Analyze ways in which U.S. public policy, hegemonic belief, and political discourse impact the social and economic condition of U.S. families.

Starting Points
We are a college community enriched by the diversity of our students, staff, and community members. Each individual and group has the potential to contribute in our learning environment. Each has dignity. To diminish the dignity of one is to diminish the dignity of us all.

As a teacher, I (and hope you as students too) value the various types of knowledge: emotional, intellectual, gut instinct, intuition, as well as the different sources of knowledge: textbooks, novels, blogs, talking to friends, newspapers, magazines, lived experience...et cetera.

Instructor
In addition to teaching Sociology at PSU, I also teach Women’s Studies at Chemeketa Community College. I also teach online for Southern New Hampshire University. I received my Interdisciplinary Master of Science at Portland State University focusing on Women, Gender and Sexuality and Sociology. I live in Portland, Oregon with my son who is in the first grade.

Structure of Class Time
We will mix up our time together using a variety of strategies and pedagogical approaches including:

1. Interactive lectures
2. Student presentations
3. Small group discussions
4. Class discussion
5. Fish bowls
6. Films
7. Journal/free write
8. Guest lecture

Course Materials

Course materials and grades will be available online at https://d2l.pdx.edu. I may also use D2L to communicate with the class. Please let me know if you are unable to access D2L. It is your responsibility to maintain an updated email address with D2L so that you can receive emails and announcements. **PLEASE DO NOT email me through D2L** The best way to get in touch with me is by emailing me directly at my email listed on the first page. If you are having trouble accessing your D2L account or do not have an ODIN account please contact the OIT help desk (Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) 18) at 503-725-HELP (4357) or help@pdx.edu.


All other articles and book chapters will be available through the Portland State University library on Course Reserves.

Please bring your week’s articles and notes on the articles to every class because we will refer to them during our class discussions.

D2L

Course materials and grades will be available online at https://d2l.pdx.edu. I may also use D2L to communicate with the class. Please let me know if you are unable to access D2L. It is your responsibility to maintain an updated email address with D2L so that you can receive emails and announcements. **PLEASE DO NOT email me through D2L** The best way to get in touch with me is by emailing me directly at my email listed on the first page. If you are having trouble accessing your D2L account or do not have an ODIN account please contact the OIT help desk (Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) 18) at 503-725-HELP (4357) or help@pdx.edu.

Requirements

All students are expected to attend all classes. Your participation is essential to our classroom dynamic. Your unique insights from your life experience, your understandings of the readings, the questions posed to your colleagues—all are a valuable and important part of the rich discussion and learning that will take place. Without your full and active participation, we will be missing an important voice—yours.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK ME if you will miss something important if you left class early or failed to attend. The answer will always be yes. Why would I create a classroom experience that was unimportant and not worth your time? I consider it disrespectful (to me and your classmates) if you come late, leave early or fail to show up at all. Please make this class a priority in your schedule.

We will have an opportunity to learn from one another. This is less of a lecture/note-taking class and more of an experiential, learn-as-you-go classroom process that you, your colleagues, and the teacher co-create together. As such, it requires you to come to class each session, having read the materials thoroughly, ready to engage with it together.

You are responsible for all the materials we cover each class. If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to connect with a colleague and get yourself up to speed. You will lower your
participation grade by: being tardy; socializing instead of engaging with the material we are covering, not having your book and materials for the day’s work; keeping others from working/learning and being on your cell phone. Cell phone usage is not permitted in class. Please use break times to check email/text and make phone calls.

You will earn your grade in this course through:

1. **3 Pop Quizzes 20%**
   Three times throughout the term you will have a pop quiz about the readings. This means that each time you enter the classroom, you should be prepared having done your readings and have a clear understanding of the content of each reading. If you miss class on the day of the pop quiz you automatically earn a zero for that quiz. **No make-up quizzes available.**

2. **2 Short Papers 20%**
   You will receive detailed information about these short paper assignments. They will be 3-5 pages in length. The first paper will be on your family of origin and the role of gender, race and class in your family. The second paper will be creating and reflecting on your pre-martial checklist. A short paper rubric will be given to you a week ahead of time to help guide you in writing your papers.

3. **Outline 10% and Research Paper on Media Representation of the Family 30%**
   You will select a television series or film and analyze its depiction of family. Using course materials and your own researched articles you will analyze how your television series or film handles complex issues which might include gender, race, class, sexuality, dating, marriage, divorce and parenting (in all its forms: single parenting, co-parenting, step parenting, etc.). You will receive detailed information about this research paper assignment. Your outline should be between 2-3 pages and include detailed and thorough discussion of topics and include a works cited section. You will receive comments and guidance from me on your outline. Your research paper will be 5-7 pages in length and will delve deeply into the topics you’ve chosen in your outline. A research paper rubric will be given to you ahead of time to help guide you in writing your papers.

4. **Family Theory Small Group Research Project and Presentation 20%**
   There will be 5 small groups with each group researching and presenting their work on the family from the perspective of either sociobiology, structural functionalism, conflict perspective, social exchange theory or symbolic interactionism. You will receive detailed information about this small group research project and presentation assignment. A small group research project and presentation rubric will be given to you ahead of time to help guide you in research project and presentation.

### Responsibility

It is your responsibility to inform the instructor if you are out sick or have an emergency situation that comes up. It is a good idea to email the instructor right away if you know you will not be attending class time. The instructor does not reach out to students to find out why they are not attending class. **It is up to you to communicate with the instructor and let her know if you are struggling or need support.** Feminist pedagogy stresses the importance of student’s responsibility for their education.

### Late Policy

Life happens while in class. People get sick, have accidents, and sadly even lose loved ones. Over the years as a teacher I have tried many approaches to accepting late work and all have their flaws. For this course there will be no exceptions to late work. For each class time an assignment is turned
in late, 5 points will be deducted. For example, if an assignment is due on Tuesday and you turn it in on Thursday, 5 points will be deducted.

**Grading**

Letter grades will fall out this way:
- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F= 59% or lower

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is a serious offense than can result in a failing grade and other serious consequences, including expulsion. Plagiarism occurs when you utilize the ideas, expressions, phrases or words of another person without correctly citing that person or source. Make sure you understand how to correctly cite sources, including when and how to paraphrase and quote. I expect you to cite all sources used in all assignments assigned for this course. I am not picky about which format you use to cite sources; however, I do require that you choose one (e.g., MLA, APA) and use it correctly and consistently, integrating both internal and external (e.g., works cited/reference list) citations. There are many on-line sources that document proper citation format.

Academic dishonesty, which includes all forms of misrepresentation of one’s work (plagiarism of published works (including online sources) or passing off the work of another student as one’s own), will result in a 0 for the assignment. A second instance of plagiarism will result in course failure. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the college administration. Cheating on exams is not tolerated.

**Academic and Other Campus Support Services**

**Students with disabilities**, who may require accommodations, are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the professor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at drc@pdx.edu. Visit their site at [http://www.drc.pdx.edu/](http://www.drc.pdx.edu/).