



Class Location: Founder's Hall 413

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: FH 217H

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 AM - 1 PM and Wednesdays 10 AM - 2 PM.

Contact: roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu

Course Overview and description:

This course examines the diverse nature of intimate family relationships in today's society. The definition of family in the context of cohabitation, marriage, child rearing, and living apart but together is demonstrated as the focus of understanding traditional and unconventional aspects of social infrastructure. Family connotes strong emotional bonds, not simply for those born into the same bloodline, but also for those who choose to align their lives as a support structure, caring unit, and cultural guide. This course offers an objective analysis of the social concept of family.

Course Objective:

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will exhibit an understanding of the evolution of modern family sociology.
2. Students will demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of family interactions and social structure.
3. Students will examine how culture, gender, age, and sexual orientation affect social interactions in America and in global networks as related to family structure.

Competency Goals

Student Mastery:

1. Students will use critical thinking to evaluate interpersonal perspectives of families different from their original definitions.
2. Students will research various family structures and use social statistics to analyze similarities and differences between traditional and non-traditional families.
3. Students will build comprehensive dialogs with their peers through class discussions, group work, weekly journals, and a literature review.

Mode of instruction and course access: This course is a face to face course that also uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find certain information related to this course, including student grades and handouts. Monitor CANVAS for announcements every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change due to unforeseen circumstances (ex: network outage).

Contacting your professor:

The best way to contact me is through email (roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 9 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. I am on campus during my office hours should you need to talk to me in person. Also, the best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as “Professor Schoen” or “Dr. Schoen,” pronounced *SHANE*.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account. Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Required Reading and Textbook(s):

Chambers, D. (2012), *A Sociology of Family Life: Change and Diversity in Intimate Relations*. Polity Press.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7456-4778-4

Other required reading materials listed on the syllabus will be available through our course E-Reserve page. E-Res Password: kinship

Recommended Book(s):

ASA Style Guide, 5th edition. American Sociological Association.

Course requirements:

Below is a description of the six main activities for this course. They include (1) reading assignments, (2) class attendance, (3) journal reflections, (4) literature review, (5) presentations, and (6) two exams.

1. **Reading assignments and other materials:** Readings for the course are listed in the schedule below. Students should complete the weekly readings before attending class. Additional readings will be available online in the course E-Reserves folder. E-Reserve readings are just as important as the readings from your book. ****Our E-Reserve password is: kinship** (all lower case)
2. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class every week and will accrue points for doing so. Attendance will be taken during the first 15 minutes of class via sign-in

sheet. Each class period is worth 2 points. Students who arrive late or leave early can earn 1 point. Students who are absent or miss more than 45 minutes of class earn 0 points. **Two points x 15 classes = 30 points for attendance.**

3. **Journal reflections:** In order to reflect on course materials in a space that is separate from peer discussions, students will compose journal entries that reflect on the weekly topic. These journals will be private (i.e. can only be viewed by the student and instructor) and are your chance to analyze and reflect on the topics for the week. Journals should be approximately 500-900 words and should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have engaged in thoughtful consideration of the themes contained within. **Journals are due on Mondays at 11:59 PM CST. Each journal is worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points.**
4. **Literature Review:** Students will write a literature review on a topic of their choice, due on Monday, November 27th at 11:59 PM CST. Students will submit their proposed topic in class on Tuesday, September 26th. Detailed instructions will be posted to Canvas. Please mark your calendar now so that you will not be surprised by this important assignment and related deadlines. **The literature review is worth 100 points.**
5. **Presentations:** Students will each present on their literature review during the final two weeks of class. Expectations for in-class presentations will be discussed in class and posted to Canvas. **Presentations are worth 40 points**, with points assessed according to each of the following categories: speaker timing, volume, and presentation tone; clarity and organization of content; depth and accuracy of content; and quality of visual aids.
6. **Exams:** There will be two exams – one midterm and one final – that cover readings, discussions, and any other supplemental material we engaged with for class. The format will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. **Two exams x 100 points = 200 points total for exams.**

Coursework	Points
Attendance	30
Discussion board	30
Presentation	40
Journal reflections (10 @ 10 points)	100
Literature Review	100
Exams (2 @ 100 points)	200
Total:	500

Points	Percent	Grade
446 - 500	90 - 100%	A
396 - 445	80 - 89%	B
346 - 395	70 - 79%	C
296 - 345	60 - 69%	D
295 or below	0 - 59%	F

Posting of Grades:

- All student grades will be posted using the Canvas grade book and students should monitor

their grade status through this tool.

- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will usually be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments, like the literature review, require more personalized feedback. These assignments could take longer to grade and so you may need to be patient.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements.

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support.

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For issues with **Canvas**, select “chat with Canvas support,” submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Numbered chapters are from the Chambers book. Other reading assignments are available on the course E-Reserves (eRes) page. The password is *kinship* (lower case).

Week 1. August 29th Introduction

Syllabus + course introduction

Assignment: Complete Journal 1. Due before class on Tuesday, September 4th

Week 2. September 4th Traditional approaches

Read Chapter 1.

Read article: “The American Family” by Stephanie Coontz.

Assignment: Complete Journal 2. Due on Monday, September 11th

Week 3. September 12th Individualization, intimacy, and family life

Read Chapter 2.

Read “Why Won’t African Americans Get Married? Why Should They?” by S. Hill

Assignment: Complete Journal 3. Due on Monday, September 18th

Week 4. September 19th Parenting

Read Chapter 3.

Assignment: Complete Journal 4. Due on Monday, September 25th

Week 5. September 26th Childhood

Read Chapter 4.

Submit topic for literature review. *Please bring a hard copy of the following to class: Your topic, stated in one sentence, followed by a paragraph describing it in further detail.*

Assignment: Complete Journal 5. Due on Monday, October 2nd

Week 6. October 3rd Aging and the Family

Read Chapter 5.

Week 7. October 10th Midterm Exam

In-class midterm exam.

Week 8. October 17th Globalization, Migration, and the Family I

Read pages 114 – 121 in Chambers.

Read article “Shifting the Burden to Daughters” by R. Schoen

Assignment: Complete Journal 6. Due on Monday, October 23rd

Week 9. October 24th Globalization, Migration, and the Family II

Read pages 122 – 136 in Chambers.

Watch film: *Meet the Patels*

Assignment: Complete Journal 7. Due on Monday, October 30th

Week 10. October 31st Demography and Family

Read Chapter 7.

Assignments: (1) Make three or more posts to the discussion board, (2) Compose journal 8.

Both are due on Monday, November 6th.

Week 11. November 7th Reproductive Technologies I

Meet at 6 PM in the University Writing Center

Read pages 154 – 162 in Chambers.

Week 12. November 14th Reproductive Technologies II

Read pages 163 – 173 in Chambers.

Read “The Invisible Classes in High Stakes Reproduction” by M. Goodwin

Assignment: Complete Journal 9. Journal 9 is due on Monday, November 20th

Week 13. Nov 21st New Directions *Thanksgiving Week*

Read Chapter 9.

Assignment: Complete Journal 10. Journal 10 is due on Monday, November 27th

Week 14. Nov 28th Presentations I

Literature reviews due.

In-class presentations.

Week 15. Dec 4 – 10 Presentations II

In-class presentations.

Receive final exam questions.

Week 16. Dec 11 – 15 Final Exam

Final Exam is due on Tuesday at 6 PM.

Commencement is Friday, December 15th at 7 PM.

Final Grades will be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 19th.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Late assignments will receive a deduction of 10 points per day it is late. Per this formula, all 100 points for the literature review will be deducted after 10 days, so submissions will not receive instructor attention or a grade 10 days or more beyond the due date. Please pay attention to deadlines and work ahead to minimize the risk that your work will be late.

A student may only make up **an exam** if there is illness, injury, or another *documented* excuse. If a student misses an exam due to illness, injury, something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, etc), 2. Notify Dr. Schoen as soon as possible of intent to take a make-up exam, and 3. Prepare to take the make-up exam within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero for that exam. If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade.

Drop Policy. If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Registrar's Office and complete a Drop Request Form. Professors **cannot** drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be returned, completed and signed. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office and wait 24 hours, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid.

Academic Integrity. Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations. At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the

Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Diversity in the Classroom. Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts within the Social Sciences. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, educational backgrounds, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

Tutoring. Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored include Accounting, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, contact information, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Kim Wood at k.wood@tamuct.edu. Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Calculus, and Statistics. To access Tutor.com, click on <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/academicsupport/tutoring.php>

University Writing Center. Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 11am-6pm Monday-Thursday. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available). Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work

independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library. The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage: <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material, including lecture notes and teaching materials, is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Copyright. 2017 by Dr. Roslyn Schoen at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, College of Arts and Sciences; 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; Roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu.