



Texas A&M
University
Central Texas

SOCK 301-01
Sociology of the Family
Spring 2018

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Mode of Instruction and Course Access: *This course is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].*

Student/Instructor Interaction: *Please allow 48 hours for instructor response to e-mail inquiries. Office hours may be scheduled by e-mail for phone or Skype.*

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.

Course Overview

A comparative study of the family as a social institution with emphasis on formation, functions, maintenance, child rearing, and family disorganization.

Course Description

Everyone has some experience with families but most of us have not spent much time thinking about families as social institutions. This class will give you an opportunity to reflect on family life and especially the ways in which sociologists examine families. We will be paying special attention to the organization and relationships within families and how those apparently up close and personal experiences are shaped and sometimes even determined by the broader social context. In addition, we will look at the ways that families seek to cope with those conditions as well as to change the social contexts through policy change and social movements, in order to improve their family experience.

Course Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop knowledge as it applies to the full scope of the field of family sociology.
2. Students will examine the changing definitions of American families.
3. Students will learn how to apply frameworks to various types of family situations.
4. Students will learn how race, social class, gender, age, and sexual orientation affect people's experiences in families.

Competency Goals Statements:

1. Students will learn how to analyze family situations, including their own.
2. Students' critical thinking skills will be enhanced to the extent that they learn about themselves, and their social worlds.
3. Students will be able to interpret social statistics such as the refined divorce rate, sex ratio, and fertility rate.
4. Students will be able to use technical sociology vocabulary.
5. Students will use and develop writing skills by such projects as essay exams, reflection papers, a book review and writing a research paper.
6. Student's online skills will be enhanced via online discussions, postings, and uploading paper assignments.

Required Texts

Main Text

Chambers, Deborah. 2012. A Sociology of Family Life. Polity Press.

Other assigned readings will be provided by the instructor.

Course Requirements

- 1. Research Paper (100 points) – Due Monday December 10th by end of day:** You will choose one topic relevant to sociology of the family and complete a research project that addresses aspects of that topic that you find important.

- Your research project should be no less than 10 pages in length. This length requirement **does not include** your title page, abstract or your reference page.
- You must use no less than 7 - 10 **scholarly** references, but feel free to use more. Scholarly references are those found in social science journals or other scholarly journals. You can also utilize a book or two but the main focus should be on finding sources that have researched your topic.
- You must use ASA (American Sociological Association) or APA as your reference style. Please let me know if you have any questions.
- I will not accept references found on the internet, with the exception of websites ending in .gov. and/or .edu. If you use internet sources such as these, they must be properly referenced in the text of your paper and in your reference page. As I stated above, your references must be scholarly research articles or more specifically, peer reviewed articles. If you want to use a reference such as a website and you are unsure if it is acceptable, please feel free to discuss the reference with me.
- In addition, I **do not accept “recycled” papers or more specifically, papers that have been written for another class!**
- Please submit your double-spaced paper in Times New Roman using 12-point font.
- You will submit your papers through Canvas messages directly to me.
- The cover page shall include the following information, centered on the page:

An Examination of (the topic)

John Smith (student’s name)

Course

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

The words “An Examination of” may be omitted, in accordance with APA guidelines. The student shall use the “running head” feature of APA.

Multimedia Discussion Posts & Responses (200 points)-Due Saturdays at 11:59 p.m.: In this course, participation will take the form of postings on a multimedia discussion board. The class is oriented on a ‘Monday-Saturday’ schedule. Each student will be required to post a link to a relevant multimedia representation. These may include recent news articles or blog posts, songs, movie clips, stand-up comedy, interviews, artwork, etc., and you will explain how the multimedia dialogues with our course readings for that week in a minimum of two paragraphs. A new Multimedia Board will be available for each week’s unit. Your postings must demonstrate that you are reading the assigned material, and be a significant substantive contribution where you raise issues, ask a pertinent question, or reflect on contemporary developments in real life which bear on the topic of our reading. Be creative and have fun with this!

Within your posts, you will be required to include two critical thinking questions. These questions are intended to expand the conversation arising from our reading. You will then respond to two other students' questions with no fewer than two paragraphs. Your responses should be thoughtful and refer to your text. **Your questions must be posted no later than Wednesday at 11:59 p.m., and your responses no later than Saturday at 11:59 p.m.**

***** Off topic and inappropriate posts will receive no points. Postings which are not made within the week they are assigned will receive zero points.** A strong record of additional postings (beyond your two minimum posts) will be to your benefit if you have a borderline grade at the end of the semester. I have provided a guide to DB posts under Important Info that will give examples of inappropriate responses so you may avoid the pitfalls.

I will always grade your posts the week that they are due so that you can go back and respond to my comments and/or questions. **Please check back for my comments, providing an answer as appropriate. Responding to my posts and your classmates' posts enhances the learning process. Remember that discussions are not only about earning points but about learning the material. It is your education and you will get out of it what you put in! 😊**

Assignments (200 points):

In addition to the multimedia discussions and Critical Thinking Questions, you will have 10 assignments that will serve as enrichment to the text material. The instructions for each assignment are posted within the assignment link. .

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

****ALL GRADING RUBRICS ARE LOCATED AT THE END OF THIS SYLLABUS****

Grading Scale

- A = 450-500 (Excellent)
- B = 400-449 (Better than Average)
- C = 350-399 (Average)
- F = 349 and below (Failing)

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book and students should monitor their grading status through this tool. Grades will be posted within one week of submission date.

Texas A&M University Central Texas is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's, and specialist degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of A&M-Central Texas.

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material 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. (YEAR) by (FACULTY NAME) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, (FACULTY COLLEGE); 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-(FACULTY COLLEGE PHONE); Fax 254-(FACULTY COLLEGE FAX); (FACULTY EMAIL)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**Technology Requirements**

This course is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

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

Initial password: Your MyCT password

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. You will also need a headset with a microphone or speakers and a microphone to be able to listen to online resources and conduct other activities in the course. If you do not have frequent and reliable access to a computer with Internet connection, please consider dropping this course or contact me (your email and phone number) to discuss your situation.

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.

Technology Support

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](tel: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.

When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topics/Activities	Readings	Assignments Due
8/27	Introduction to Sociology of the Family	Syllabus, Introduction	Introduction post due by Saturday by 11:59 p.m.
9/4	Traditional Approaches to the Family	Chapter 1	MMDB 1 & Assignment 1
9/10	Individualization, Intimacy and Family Life	Chapter 2	MMDB 2 & Assignment 2
9/17	Parenting Practices and Values	Chapter 3	MMDB 3 & Assignment 3
9/24	The Changing Nature of Childhood	Chapter 4	MMDB 4 & Assignment 4
10/1	Families and Aging Societies	Chapter 5	MMDB 5 & Assignment 5
10/8	Globalization, Migration and Intimate Relationships	Chapter 6	MMDB 6 & Assignment 6
10/15	Families, Fertility and Populations	Chapter 7	MMDB 7
10/22	Families and New Reproductive Technologies	Chapter 8	MMDB 8
10/29	New Directions: Personal Life, Family and Friendship	Chapter 9	MMDB 9
11/5	Addressing Biases: Strengths-based Approach to Family	Supplemental Reading is the Assignment	MMDB 10 & Assignment 7
11/12	"Ideal" Family: An Examination	Supplemental Reading is the Assignment	Assignment 8
11/19	"Proper" Parenting and the Mommy Wars	Supplemental Reading is the Assignment	Assignment 9
11/26	Thanksgiving Break!!		
12/3	Family and Disaster	Supplemental Reading is the Assignment	Assignment 10
12/10	Finals Week		Research Paper due Monday December 10 at 11:59 p.m.

***Professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time.**

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](#)

[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

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 completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, 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 drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

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](tel: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.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].

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, 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, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at [254-519-5796](tel:254-519-5796), or by emailing Larry Davis at Imdavis@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 A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

The 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 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. 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) or by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 A&M-Central Texas 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 [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/)[https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at A&M-Central Texas, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Counseling Services ([254-501-5956](tel:254-501-5956)) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall.

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php)[https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Class Policies

Incomplete Grades: I DO NOT GIVE OUT INCOMPLETE GRADES. ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS ARE DUE ON THE DATES OUTLINED IN THE SYLLABUS.

Late Work: I will NOT be accepting late work under any circumstances. If you are turning in assignments, they must be submitted by the specified due date and time.

Additional Help: If you need additional help on assignments, papers, or any materials covered in class, you are more than welcome to set up an appointment with me. We can talk by phone or chat online. I am available equally to all of my students.

The Operation of the Online Course and Being an Online Student

Time Management

Research indicates that a distance education course will require a greater time commitment from students than a traditionally structured course. Therefore, do not underestimate the time commitment that you will have to make to be successful in this class. If this were a traditional course we would meet for three hours each week. You should expect to

devote at least twice this much time each week to reading, reflection, writing, working on your projects and posting.

In addition, distance education courses require a unique commitment in terms of time management. Because you will not be attending regular class meetings, you will not have the typical pressures of class meetings, face to face interaction and contact with the instructor to motivate you to complete assignments on time and to keep up with your readings. This means that you will have to exercise a greater degree of self-discipline than you would otherwise. Because you will not be meeting in a regular face to face format with the rest of the class, it may be easy to tell yourself that you can complete an assignment later or that you can wait until the last minute to complete your readings and/or project. Be very careful with yourself that while there are unique benefits to a distance education course, there are also unique challenges and you must resolve to accommodate them if you wish to be successful.

This course will operate on a Monday through Sunday schedule, with weekly discussion questions posted Monday, discussion response posts due Thursday at end of day, and weekly writing assignments due Friday. You will be expected to remain active and engaged in Blackboard in order to be successful in the course, and should visit the site a minimum of 3 times per week. *A&M-Central Texas has a license for a readiness assessment for online learning. You may gauge your readiness by taking this assessment (<http://tamuct.smartermeasure.com>). The link to information about Smarter Measures is included in the Online Resources portion of the Course Menu.*

16.0 Instructor's Personal Statement

Taking a Sociological Perspective: I encourage questions and discussion concerning course material and sharing personal observations and experiences. However, since you are enrolled in a sociology course, the main goal is to utilize a sociological perspective. This means that you should try to analyze various topics with an objective point of view. Objective point of view means looking through the lens of sociology. How does sociology utilize objectivity, you might be asking? Sociology is a social science – qualitative and quantitative research techniques are used to collect data about the social world. Sociologists must always strive to maintain an objective outlook when observing the social world. Therefore, in this course, you will be challenged to look within the layers of a social phenomenon or put another way, to look beyond what you see on the surface. In addition, you will not agree with everything you hear in class from the professor or your classmates. Part of becoming educated requires that your ideas are challenged. As a college-level student, you should be able to see different points of view of the same issue. I expect students to be respectful towards every person in this classroom, even if they disagree with certain viewpoints. It is a mark of wisdom to be able to entertain an idea without accepting it.

Grading Rubric for Final Research Paper

Name:

Date:

<i>Sections</i>	Poor	Minimally Acceptable	Good	Exceptional
Spelling, Grammar, & Sentence Structure 10%	<i>Many</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (0 pts) <i>Score:</i>	<i>Some</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (5pts) <i>Score:</i>	<i>Few</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (8 pts) <i>Score:</i>	<i>No</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (10 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Proper Referencing Format (ASA) 10%	Not used in text and reference page (0 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Used in text but not in reference page or used in reference page but not in text of paper (5 pts) <i>Score:</i>	ASA style utilized with few errors both within the text of the paper and in reference page (8 pts) <i>Score:</i>	No errors in reference page and in text citation (10 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Structure and Organization of Research Paper 20%	Does not clearly develop and organize introduction, body, and conclusion (0 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Minimal development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (12 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Average development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (16 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Accurate development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (20 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Content of Research Paper 60%	Information and evidence are not accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (0 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Information and evidence is minimally accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (40 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Information and evidence averagely accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (50 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Information and evidence is exceptionally accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (60 pts) <i>Score:</i>

Critical Thinking Questions Rubric

Name:

Posting:

Levels of Achievement

<i>Criteria</i>	Does Not Meet Criteria	Needs Improvement	Excellent
Substantive Response	<p>0-3 point</p> <p>Response too short, based on personal views only, with no references to the text or the concepts learned from the material covered</p> <p>Score:</p>	<p>4-8 points</p> <p>Response too short. Not a clear indication of an understanding of the readings</p> <p>Score:</p>	<p>8-10 points</p> <p>A substantive response, citing the textbook and demonstrating full understanding of the course content</p> <p>Score:</p>
Replies to Classmates	<p>0-2 points</p> <p>No or just one response, with no significant comments to improve the conversation</p> <p>Score:</p>	<p>3 Points</p> <p>Only two responses to others' entries with minimal contribution to the discussion</p> <p>Score:</p>	<p>4-5 Points</p> <p>Two or more substantive posts were responded to, with comments advancing the conversation</p> <p>Score:</p>