

SYLLABUS
Military Family (SOC 4301, Fall 2021)
Online

Dr. Jennifer A. Schlosser, PhD

Instructor: Dr. Schlosser
Office Hours: via email (*see top of page 2)
Email: jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu

Text: (REQUIRED)

Blaisure, Karen Rose, Tara Saathoff-Wells, Angela Pereira, Shelley MacDermid
Wadsworth and Amy Laura Dombro. 2016. *Serving Military Families: Theories,
Research, and Application*. New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 978-1-138-84125-3)

Course Description and Objectives:

This course covers the relationship between the work organization and the family in the armed forces of the U.S. This course will further analyze and discuss contemporary issues, situations, problems and policies relevant to military families utilizing a sociological perspective.

By the end of the course students will:

- Develop knowledge as it applies to the full scope of the sociological analysis of military families.
- Understand the relationship between work and family in the military with work and family relations in civilian society.
- Learn how race, social class, gender, age, and sexual orientation affect people's experiences in military families.
- Learn how to explain the relationship between work and family in the armed forces of the United States.

Mode of instruction and course access:

- . This course is 100% online and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. CANVAS is where you will find 100% of the information related to this course, including discussions, quizzes, and exams. 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).
- . **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.

Contacting your professor:

You should contact me via email at jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu. I check email every day, however, please allow up to 24 hours for a response though in most cases I will get back to you within an hour or so. I have many students in many different classes so I need to know your name and what class your in. I do not respond to emails that are not professional and courteous.

The best way to refer to your professor in email is: “Dear/Hello/Hi Dr. Schlosser, my name is,....., I am in your..... class, my question is,.....Thank you,/Sincerely,/Best,”

Expectations and Conduct:

- Students enrolled in this course are expected to complete all assignments, on time. They are expected to complete all assigned readings and assignments *before* the deadline and they are expected to be able to knowledgeably discuss the readings during class discussions.

Class Discussion and Participation:

- Students are *required* to be respectful of their classmates during the entirety of this course. Although many of you will disagree with one another and perhaps even be offended by some of the material we will cover, any personal attack against another student of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Because open discussions are encouraged, it is inevitable that personal beliefs and philosophies will be challenged, however, students *will not* use political leanings, religious beliefs, gender, race, class, ethnicity or sexuality as fodder for attack.
- Students can find in this syllabus a schedule of all topics and assignments that will be covered during the semester. Some of these topics may entail the use of explicit language, violence, sexuality or other potentially offensive material. If you feel that you will not be able to deal with this type of material, it is suggested that you drop the course now. Always remember that if you have questions or concerns, I am available for discussion.

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) [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 Academic 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.

Assignments and Grading:

1. Discussions, 80 pts:

Students will engage in discussion boards with their classmates worth 10 points each for 8 weeks this semester.

Grading Criteria:

- Discussion boards will open at midnight on the Monday of the week they're **due and close at 11:59 pm that next Sunday**. All posts and replies must be completed within this window or the student forfeits those discussion points.
- You will:
 - 1) post a question about something you DID NOT UNDERSTAND or would like more help on, from the week's readings or videos.
 - 2) Your question **must** use information from the reading/video material and be specific. **Citing page numbers in your post is required.**
 - 3) Every post you make should be SEVERAL paragraphs (not just two or three sentences).
 - 4) **First posts are due by Thursday each week.**
- Students will read others' posts and must:
 - 1) REPLY to at least **two** other people's posts that week (but feel free to respond to more).
 - 2) **Responses are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday each week.**
 - 3) Responses must be engaging, thoughtful, and in-depth (again, several paragraphs, not just 1 or 2 sentences). Address the question that was asked and answer it using your own ideas.
 - 4) These responses aren't JUST your opinions, they must also be grounded in the readings **with page numbers citing your source from the reading.**
- Personal experiences that support your answer are totally acceptable! Just make sure that the bulk of your answer is grounded in facts and data from the book.
- ***NO OUTSIDE SOURCES are allowed – use book or video material from this class only***

Example question:

“On page 215, the authors state that women in the military are 25 times more likely than men to experience sexual assault. They

state that one of the reasons may be that women have less developed social and peer networks. I understand that this is a social fact because the military is predominantly male, but can someone please explain to me what some of the other reasons why women may have a less developed peer network in the military might be? What are some things the military could do to help this?"

Examples of INAPPROPRIATE discussion board responses:

"The authors of the book are wrong. I think women don't experience much sexual assault in the military because I've served 20 years and have never heard of or seen anyone sexually assaulted."

"Good question! I agree!"

"The government sucks."

Examples of GOOD discussion board responses:

"Great question, Bob! On that same page (215) the authors mentioned that because the military is predominantly male, women are therefore a numerical minority, making it more difficult for them to form peer networks because there are fewer of them to connect with. According to the book, some things the military is doing to help ease the risk and burden of women's sexual assault experiences in the military is to provide victim services, continued access to medical and mental health resources, and allowing them to remain on active duty after filing a sexual assault report."

***there is no partial credit – you must complete all the required elements (1 original post by Thursday and 1 response post by Sunday, several paragraphs with page numbers cited), or receive no points.**

***Note: use my comments and feedback on your Discussions for what to do differently next time, as a way to improve your grade for the following week.**

2. Test #1, 100 pts:

The first exam will be comprised of 25 questions worth 4 points each. It will consist of multiple choice and true/false. The first test is subject to cover ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING discussed in the **assigned readings, videos or supplemental assignments** you may receive since the first day of class. Thus, everything is game. You will have 90 minutes to complete the test once you begin, answers cannot be changed after you complete a question, and you will receive your grade automatically after submitting your test.

No student will be awarded a make-up test FOR ANY REASON other than for a **documented** University sanctioned activity provided the student informs the instructor PRIOR to the missed test AND provides proper and adequate documentation.

3. Test #2, 100 pts:

Test two is NOT comprehensive; however, you will need to be familiar with topics and concepts discussed before mid-semester so you have a strong foundation for answering questions on the final. It will be the same format as the first test (25, 24 pt questions). The final may cover ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING discussed in class, in the assigned readings, or supplemental assignments you may receive since the first test. You will have 90 minutes to complete the test once you begin, answers cannot be changed after you complete a question, and you will receive your grade automatically after submitting your test.

No student will be awarded a make-up test FOR ANY REASON other than for a **documented** University sanctioned activity provided the student informs the instructor PRIOR to the missed test AND provides proper and adequate documentation.

4. Final Project, Visual Sociology 20 pts: DUE NOVEMBER 29TH

Students will choose one topic, concept, issue or theory discussed this semester and complete a Visual Sociology project. They will create a PowerPoint using images that illustrate that concept and upload the final PowerPoint as a .ppt file to Canvas by the due date listed on the syllabus.

Grading Criteria:

Each PowerPoint project will consist of FIVE slides ONLY (no more, no less)

- **The first side will include:** your name, the name of the class, and the name of a concept or theory you chose (or some type of title indicating what your project is about).
- **The second slide will include:** the name of the concept/theory you chose, its definition (with book citations) and sentence or two about why this is an important concept to you.
- **The third slide will include:** at least one screenshot of an image from a **NEWS SOURCE** that represents the concept you chose. For instance, if your concept is crime and immigration, you will go to a reputable news source (i.e. not InfoWars or BuzzFeed News) and find an image that represents immigration and crime. You'll screenshot it so that I can see the source and insert it into Slide 3 on your PowerPoint (more than one is fine, but there must be at least one image). Then, you'll write at least a paragraph, on that

slide, explaining why this image (or images) represents the concept in relation to the definition.

- **The fourth slide will include:** at least one screenshot of an image from **SOCIAL MEDIA** that represents the concept you chose (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.). You'll screenshot it so that I can see the source and insert it into Slide 4 on your PowerPoint (more than one is fine, but there must be at least one image). Then, you'll write at least a paragraph, on that slide, explaining why this image (or images) represents the concept in relation to the definition.
- **The fifth slide will include:** an image **YOU TOOK YOURSELF** that represents the concept you chose. This will be a photo you actually took somewhere around town that represents the concept. For instance, this could be a picture of a bumper sticker, a sign, a building, a business, etc. Then, you'll write at least a paragraph, on that slide, explaining why this image (or images) represents the concept in relation to the definition.

*Note: screenshots are important here. Do simply right click and save an image. Take an actual screenshot for your news or social media image so I can see the context and source. If you don't know how to take a screenshot, Google it.

No student will be awarded an extension FOR ANY REASON other than for a **documented** University sanctioned activity provided the student informs the instructor PRIOR to the missed deadline AND provides proper and adequate documentation. ALL other requests (including but not limited to: funerals, illnesses, weddings, arrests, jury duty, court dates, family vacations, hangovers) *will be denied without discussion.*

Grading:

There are a **total of 300 points** available in this class. Final grades will be calculated depending on all points you've acquired on all assignments. All points will be added together and divided by 300 to get a percentage. I do not grade on a curve so the final percentage is your final grade. The scale below shows the percentage to letter grade comparison. If the third decimal place in the final percentage is a 5 or greater, **AND** the percentage is on the cusp of going up a letter grade, I will round up. For example, if your final percentage is .89533 (89%, B), because the third decimal place is a 5 **AND** the grade is on the verge of going up a letter, I will round up and your final grade for the class would become an A. These are the only conditions under which I will increase a final grade; all other requests will be denied.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

- By remaining enrolled in this course and after having read the syllabus, you agree that you understand all the terms and conditions expressed therein. If you have ANY questions or concerns please feel free to contact me any time.
- **Disability Statement:** If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.
- **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Schedule:

Each of the 16 weeks corresponds with a matching module on Canvas where you will upload your work and complete discussion boards.

WEEK ONE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Aug 23-29	Chapter 1: An Introduction to Military Culture and Military Families	Discussion 1: Self Introductions (10 pts)

WEEK TWO:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Aug 30-Sept 5	Chapter 2: An Overview of Military Personnel and their Families	

WEEK THREE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 6-12	Chapter 3: Defining Features of Military Life	Discussion 2 (10 pts)
WEEK FOUR:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 13-19	Chapter 4: Children and Youth in Military Families	
WEEK FIVE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 20-26	Chapter 5: Ways of Thinking About Family Stress and Resilience	Discussion 3 (10 pts)
WEEK SIX:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Sept 27-Oct 3	Chapter 6: Individual and Family Development in the Military	
WEEK SEVEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 4-10	Chapter 7: The Effects of War on Service Members	<p>Discussion 4 Test Review (10 pts)</p> <p>Your chance to ask questions about <u>anything</u> of your classmates and me about the material so far. You must post and respond.</p>
WEEK EIGHT:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 11-17	Review all readings	Test 1 (100 pts)
WEEK NINE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 18-24	Chapter 9: Women in the Military and Women Veterans	

WEEK TEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Oct 25-31	Chapter 10: Veterans and Families	Discussion 5 (10 pts)

WEEK ELEVEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 1-7	Chapter 11: Policies and Programs that Support Military Families	Discussion 6 (10 pts)

WEEK TWELVE:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 8-14	Chapter 12: Civilian Organizations that Support Military Families	

WEEK THIRTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 15-21	Chapter 13: Involving Families in Systems and Strategies of Care	Discussion 7 (10 pts)

WEEK FOURTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 22-28	NO CLASS	NO CLASS

WEEK FIFTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Nov 29-Dec 5	Chapter 14: Serving Military Families	Discussion 8 Test Review (10 pts) Final Projects Due By 11:59pm Nov 29th (20 pts)

WEEK SIXTEEN:	READINGS TO DO:	ASSIGNMENTS DUE:
Dec 6-10	Review all readings since Test 1	Test 2 (100 pts, due by midnight on Dec 10th)

FAQs

1. What should I call you?

I received my PhD from the University of Missouri many years ago, so you should call me Dr. Schlosser. Lots of students also call me Dr. S, which is just fine, too!

2. What should I do if I have questions?

You should look at the syllabus. MOST questions you have are probably already addressed on the syllabus. However, if you do have other questions, you can email me.

3. If I want to email you, how should I address it?

When you email any professor, the correct way to do so is to address them professionally. For instance, you can say: "Dear Dr. Schlosser," or even just "Hi, Dr. Schlosser," Then, state what class you are in (I have many students in several classes) and your specific question. Close the email with your name and contact information. I tend not to respond to emails that are not courteous and professional.

4. What if I have to miss a deadline?

Seriously rethink the event that will cause you to miss a deadline. I do not allow make-ups for any reason other than documented, University activities. You have a full week to complete assignments, so if you think you're going to be out of town or not have access to a computer on the due date, simply turn it in early.

5. What if I'm confused or struggling with the class?

Email me!!!! Do this EARLY and OFTEN. I can help you understand the material, organize your notes, and give you study tips. You are responsible for your grade, but that also means you need to inform me if you're struggling so we can address issues you may be having early.

jennifer.schlosser@tamuct.edu