

SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

100% Online

Semester: Summer 8-week session

[PDF of Syllabus here!](#)

Instructor

Professor: Roslyn Fraser, PhD

Office: HH 204B

Office Hours: Email for a virtual appointment.

Contact: roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu

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 sometimes on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 8 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. The best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as "Professor Fraser" or "Dr. Fraser."

COURSE INFORMATION

Catalog Course Description

Study the family as a social institution with emphasis on formation, functions, maintenance, child rearing, and family disorganization.

Course Overview

This course examines the diverse nature of intimate family relationships in today's society. We will explore the ever-changing definition of family in the context of cohabitation, marriage, child rearing, ageing, and living apart but together. At times we will focus on the tension between so-called "traditional" and "unconventional" aspects of family forms and social life. Family connotes strong emotional bonds, not simply for those born into the same bloodline, but also for those who choose to align their lives into a support structure, caring entity, and cultural unit. In many ways, who we call family is both a matter of lineage and of who we choose to care for and to care for us. This course offers an objective analysis of the social concept of family. At times it may be difficult to remain objective because you have spent your life in the subjective experience of your own families. Try to keep that challenge at the forefront of your mind as you learn throughout this course.

Course Objectives

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 common assumptions about the family.
3. Students will build comprehensive dialogs with their peers through discussions, peer review, and a literature review.

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 all information related to this course, including assignments, student grades, and handouts. Monitor CANVAS every day, not just on the days things are due/assigned, since due dates occasionally may change due to unforeseen circumstances (ex: network outage).

Books and Materials

Required books

Ferguson, Susan J. (2023). *Shifting the Center: Understanding Contemporary Families, 6th edition*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

ISBN-13: 978-1-5063-6827-6

Nanda, Serena (2019). *Love and Marriage: Cultural Diversity in a Changing World*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4786-3755-4

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

Recommended book

ASA Style Guide, 7th edition. American Sociological Association.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Below is a description of the main activities for this course. They include (1) readings and engagement, (2) discussion boards, (3) quizzes, (4) essays, and (5) presentations.

Reading and engagement

Readings for the course are listed in the schedule below. Completing all readings is of paramount importance; your success in this course depends on it. Engaging multiple times a week is necessary for successful progression through the course. Students who only log in on Sundays to complete the assignments are rarely successful. Students who engage more often tend to score higher on all course assessments.

Discussions

Students will participate on our course discussion board, with graded discussion taking place during 5 of the 8 weeks this semester. Your primary/initial postings will address my discussion question(s) and should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday**. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers' primary posts. Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by **midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday**.

Quizzes

Students will take 5 quizzes at regular intervals throughout the course. Quizzes are each worth 20 points, or 100 points in total (25% of your grade). Quizzes will cover the readings and other material assigned for the same week. On weeks when you have a quiz, you should first complete the readings and take notes. Prepare and manage your time wisely; you will not be able to re-take a quiz, nor can you re-open a quiz once you have started it. Quizzes will be **available from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday at 11:59 PM CST. There are no makeup quizzes.** The Sunday night deadline is final.

Mini essays

Instead of a major term paper, students will compose mini essays that reflect a course topic. These essays are your chance to analyze and reflect on the readings for the week. Essays should be approximately 600-900 words and **should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have engaged in thoughtful consideration of the themes contained within**. Mini essays are due on Sundays at 11:59 PM CST. Each essay is worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points.

Presentation

For this course, students will use Canvas Studio or an application of their choice to create a *5-Minute Speed Presentation* video to showcase what they wrote in one of their essays. Students may use Canvas Studio (available via Canvas) or download and use something like the free version of [ScreenPal](#), which is similar but creates links and other formats easy to upload to Canvas. Presentations are worth 50 points.

Distribution of points and letter grades

COURSEWORK	POINTS
Discussions 5 @ 20 points	100
Quizzes 5 @ 20 points	100
Video Presentation	50
Mini essays	150
<i>Total:</i>	400

Points	Percent	Grade
360 - 400	90 – 100%	A
320 - 359	80 - 89%	B
280 - 319	70 – 79%	C

240 - 279	60 – 69%	D
Below 240	0 – 59%	F

CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

Class Schedule

Start dates below are every Monday of the relevant week. Assignments will be due via Canvas the following Sunday at 11:59 PM Central Time. For example, assignments for week 1 are due on Sunday, June 11th just before midnight.

Week	Start date	Topic	Chapters in Ferguson	Chapters in S. Nanda	Complete
1	June 5	Introduction to the study of families	1, 2, 3	1 and 2	Discussion 1 Wk 1 Quiz
2	June 12	The changing family: history and diversity	4, 5, 6	3 and 4	Discussion 2 Mini essay on the changing family
3	June 19	Courtship and dating	7, 8	5, 6, 7	Discussion 3 Wk 3 Quiz
4	June 26	Marriage	11, 12, 13, 15, 30	--	Discussion 4 Wk 5 Quiz
5	July 3	Alternatives to marriage	9, 10, 14, 22	8	Mini essay on alternatives to marriage
6	July 10	Parenting and Caregiving	16, 18, 19, 21, 27, 38	--	Wk 6 quiz
7	July 17	Family Violence	32, 33, 34	9 and 10	Discussion 5 Mini essay on family violence
8	July 24	Families and Poverty	41, 42, 43, 44	11	Wk 8 Quiz Presentations due

Important Dates and Deadlines for Summer 2023 8-Week Session

The university calendar is available at <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

June 5	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 8-Week Classes. \$25 fee assessed for late registrants.
June 12	Deadline to Drop 8-Week Classes with No Record
June 19	Juneteeth (University Closed)
July 4	Independence Day (University Closed)
July 7	Deadline for Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation
July 14	Deadline to Drop 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
July 28	Classes End for 8-Week Session
August 1	Deadline for Faculty Submission of 8-Week Session Class Grades

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari browsers. Canvas will run on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, android, or any other device with a modern web browser. **Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>] by clicking on the "TAMUCT Online Canvas" tile. You will then log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk.

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

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio requires use of the Chrome web browser with their custom plug-in installed.

Other 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): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

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

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas), [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53t0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions 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 Records and Admissions 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.

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations

A&M-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of [Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights](#), the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the [Pregnancy & Parenting webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-]

students.html]. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

[Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html) specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html].

Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities

A&M-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Please be aware that that under [Title IX, Texas Senate Bill 212](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), and [System Regulation 08.01.01](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), [https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the [Student Wellness & Counseling Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html], 254.501.5955, or swacc@tamuct.edu, located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or ssa@tamuct.edu, located in founder Hall Room 317D.

Tutoring and Success Coaching

Tutoring and success coaching services are available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person.

To schedule tutoring sessions or view tutor availability, please contact Warriorcenter@tamuct.edu or visit Warrior Hall, 111.

If you have questions about these or other academic support services or are interested in becoming a tutor, please contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, email us at WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu. You are welcome to visit the Warrior Center at Warrior Hall, suite 212.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 631,525 eBooks and 75,149 journals, in addition to the 97,443 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 24 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](#)

[https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments]. 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 workspaces, 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/index]

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: For the summer semesters, all University Writing Center (UWC) tutoring services are entirely online. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday with additional hours Monday through Thursday nights from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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 UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

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 TAMUCT, 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 Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

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/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas>].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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