

**HDE 110 – Contemporary American Families  
Summer Session 1 2018  
Department of Human Ecology  
University of California, Davis**

**Instructor:**

James McCauley

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., or by appointment

**Class time:**

Mondays - Thursdays 12:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., June 25<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Final Exam – Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.*

**Classroom:** 1130 Bainer

**Required text & readings:**

Park, R. D. (2013). *Future Families: Diverse Forms, Rich Possibilities*. Malden, MA: John Wiley & Sons

Other readings will be posted on the class website or put on reserve at Shields Library.

**Class Description & Objectives:**

This course is designed to increase your knowledge about the important topic of couple and family relationships. The emphasis of this course is on the development of families across the life cycle, the relationships of individuals within families, and the changes within contemporary families. We will consider how family processes contribute to individual development and how individuals can impact family dynamics. This course will first discuss theories used to study families and methods used to study families. We will then examine the current research on the relationship dynamics within sibling relationships, parent-child relationships, couple relationships, and extended relatives.

**Course Objectives:**

- Learn about the diversity in composition of families in contemporary American life and how common views of families have changed
- Understand the functions families serve in the role of child development
- Learn about different theories that help to frame questions surrounding families, development, and society

- Learn about how families adapt to changes and stress throughout development
- Learn about differences and similarities among various ethnic minority families as well as these differences and similarities within the dominant U.S. culture.
- Understand how external forces, such as economic hardship, work/family conflict, laws & regulations, and social policy impact family life
- Learn about how families are measured and how researchers look at families as units or individuals within families

**Format:**

There will be four lectures per week. Students are expected to read the assigned readings and attend lectures. Materials covered in this class will include information from the text and other assigned readings, from current research and current events. Students are expected to think about (rather than simply memorize) the concepts and materials presented in lectures, readings, and text.

It is extremely important that you read the assigned readings, as the lectures will not cover all the topics presented in the assigned reading material. In addition, the in-class assignments will be based on the lectures and readings. The readings are designed to supplement the information you receive in class as well as provide opportunities to process what you have learned.

**Course Requirements:**

- Attend class and participate in class discussion. Lectures will not be recorded or uploaded online.
- Contribute to a respectful class environment, which includes no talking with classmates during lecture, turning off phones, and postpone studying until the end of lecture.
- Read assigned readings. Students are encouraged to review assigned readings before and after class to fully understand the materials. Please note that students are responsible for all reading assignments and not all topics will be covered in depth in lecture.
- Complete three exams, in-class assignments, Canvas discussions, and a written assignment.

**Class Communication:**

- Please check your campus e-mail and Canvas regularly for announcements, resources, and important information as well as posting of lecture information, study guides, revised syllabus (as needed), and grades.

- You are responsible for all announcements made in class whether you are present or not. If you miss class, please contact another person for notes.
- I will make every effort to respond to email correspondence within 2 working days. In your e-mail, include "HDE110" and a brief subject in the subject line.
- *Disability Accommodations:* If you need disability accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. All information regarding disabilities is confidential.

### **Examinations:**

There will be 2 exams during class time; these exams will include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. There will be a final exam during the last day of class (Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, @ 12:10 p.m.), please plan accordingly. Questions will be derived from assigned readings, lecture material, and class discussions. Each student is responsible for bringing a UCD 2000 scantron and a pencil for each exam.

- Please be on time for exams. If you arrive after one student has completed the exam, per university policy, you will not be allowed to take the exam and will receive a zero.
- *No make-up exams will be scheduled or accepted without a certified medical or documented family emergency excuse.*

### **In-class assignments:**

There will be 5 assignments given at random during class throughout the course. These assignments are opportunities to facilitate participation and critical thinking as well as to assess understanding of key concepts. Students are responsible for all assignments administered in the course. In order to get credit on assignments, you must be in class when they are given.

- The lowest assignment score will be dropped from the calculation of your final grade for the course.
- *No make-up assignments are possible.*

### **Canvas Discussions:**

There will be 10 discussions posted on Canvas (2 per week) regarding the lecture and reading assignments. Students will be expected to post their comments and observations to each discussion before midnight on Sunday each week to receive credit.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be based on the following:

<b>Assessment – Due date</b>	<b>% of final grade</b>
Midterm exam – July 10 <sup>th</sup>	20
Midterm exam – July 20 <sup>th</sup>	20
Final Exam – August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	25
Written Assignment	15
Canvas Discussions (10 total)	10
In-class assignments (5 total)	10

The letter grade will be based on the total percentage obtained for all assignments. The grades will be given according to the following distribution:

97-100%=A+    87-89.99%=B+    77-79.99%=C+    67-69.99%=D+    <60%=F  
93-96.99%=A    83-86.99%=B    73-76.99%=C    63-66.99%=D  
90-92.99%=A-    80-82.99%=B-    70-72.99%=C-    60-62.99%=D-

**Code of conduct:** It is expected that all students will abide by the UCD Code of Academic Conduct, i.e., the policies and procedures regarding academic honesty and integrity. *"Existing policies forbid cheating on examinations, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. (see below). Academic dishonesty is contrary to the purposes of the University and is not to be tolerated. A code of conduct for the campus community must exist in order to support high standards of behavior."* Any student who cheats on an assignment or exam will be referred to the Office for Student Judicial Affairs.

Examples of academic misconduct include:

- Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on examinations
- Using unauthorized materials during an examination
- Plagiarism—using materials from sources without citations
- Altering an exam and submitting it for re-grading
- Fabricating data or references
- Using false excuses to obtain extensions of time

**Working Syllabus:**

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as necessary. You are responsible for all changes to the syllabus and information presented during class time.

**Resources for Students:**

Center for Advocacy Resources and Education (CARE) 752-3299; <http://care.ucdavis.edu/>  
 Counseling Services 752-2349;  
<https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/counseling-services>  
 Division of Student Affairs 752-2416  
 Student Health and Wellness Center <https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/medical-services>

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<i>Week 1</i>		
Monday, June 25	Introduction, Syllabus Review, US Census	
Tuesday, June 26	Theories, Studying Families across time & place	Chapter 1
Wednesday, June 27	Family, Society, and Policy	
Thursday, June 28	Family research methods	
<i>Week 2</i>		
Monday, July 2	Work – family balance	Dodson & Lattrell, 2011
Tuesday, July 3	Gender socialization; Gender roles in the family and society/Review for midterm	Chapter 2
Wednesday, July 4	<b>**HOLIDAY**</b>	
Thursday, July 5	<b>*No Class - Read Chapter 6*</b>	
<i>Week 3</i>		
Monday, July 9	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	Study!
Tuesday, July 10	Establishing couple relationships: living, loving, dating, and partnering	Gerstel & Sarkisian, 2006
Wednesday, July 11	Cohabitation & civil unions	Chapter 3
Thursday, July 12	Separation & divorce; Remarriage & Stepfamilies	Chapter 3
<i>Week 4</i>		
Monday, July 16	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender families	Chapter 4
Tuesday, July 17	Marriage & Communication +	Chapter 5

	Planning on Children: Challenges, choices and constraints	
Wednesday, July 18	Parent-Child Relationships/Review for midterm	
Thursday, July 19	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	Study!
<i>Week 5</i>		
Monday, July 23	Families of Individuals with Disabilities	
Tuesday, July 24	Racial & Ethnic Families	Chapter 7
Wednesday, July 25	Domestic violence, Child abuse & Parent Mental Health	Egeland et al., 1988
Thursday, July 26	Guest Lecturer: Lindsay Forte - PC-CARE	<b>Written Assignment Due</b>
<i>Week 6</i>		
Monday, July 30	Sibling Relationships	Conger 2010
Tuesday, July 31	Families in later life	Chapter 8
Wednesday, August 1	Review Session	
Thursday, August 2	<b>FINAL EXAM – 12:10 p.m.</b>	Study & be on Time!