

COURSE SYLLABUS
Contemporary American Families
HDE 110
Winter 2019

Course Section (CRN): 001
Meeting Time: Monday & Wednesday 10:00am – 11:50am
Meeting Place: Scrub Oak Auditorium 160
Course Credit Hours: 4

CONTACT INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Patricia N. E. Roberson

OFFICE HOURS: Appointment

EMAIL: proberson@ucdavis.edu

TA: Amanda Lawrence; alawrence@ucdavis.edu

OFFICE HOURS: 1:30 – 2:30 T, in 3410 Hart Hall

POST-DOC: Dr. Seonwha Lee; shwlee@ucdavis.edu

OFFICE HOURS: 3:00 – 4:30 W, in 212 Sprocket Bldg

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

I. This course is designed to be an examination of the interpersonal processes that take place within family contexts. Emphasis will be placed on family dynamics and the linkages between family processes and the broader social environment. Basic components of the research process will be introduced. This course therefore provides a research-oriented overview of the theoretical perspectives of interpersonal relationships that exist within diverse family contexts. The focus is on relationship dynamics, such as marital relationships, parent–child relationships, and sibling relationships. Also considered are linkages between family processes and larger social ecologies. The course will be broken up into 3 core areas. First, the theoretical perspectives and individual characteristics driving family research will be presented. Second, the unique relationships that occur within a family will be explored and lastly, family problems, stressors, and divorce and remarriage will be discussed.

Learning Objectives:

- a.** Apply family theories and methods to the unique interactions and dynamics that occur within a family
- b.** Understand the developmental pathways of family construction and critical life transitions (e.g., dating, marriage, divorce, parenthood)
- c.** Identify within-family interaction patterns, and learn about the differences and similarities across families from different ethnicities, religions, races, economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, etc.
- d.** Understand and identify the importance of family research, and how this research can inform policies, laws, and regulations surrounding the economy, work/family conflict, child care, etc.

II. COURSE PREREQUISITES: Psychology 1

III. COURSE FORMAT: Class meetings involve lecture and in-class demonstrations. Although lectures will be based on information provided in the textbook, significant exam material will be covered in class that is not covered in the text. Classes will be primarily lecture and discussion; it is easiest to take notes and follow content if you have previously read the material. Therefore, I highly encourage you to come to class prepared. **NO POWERPOINTS OR NOTES ARE PROVIDED ONLINE.**

IV. TEXTS/MATERIALS/RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE:

a. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change

Author: Philip N. Cohen

Edition: 2nd

******You can buy or rent the book online or text formats. Students should select the most affordable option that matches your preferred reading format.******

CANVAS COURSE: When you registered for the class you were automatically enrolled on the Canvas website for our section of this course. Important announcements, supplemental resources, exams, and assignment details will be available through canvas. Any class announcements will be sent via Canvas. *Thus, you are responsible for checking Canvas on a regular basis.*

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION METHODS: Below are the evaluation methods that will be used to assess your performance in this class.

- a. CLASS QUIZZES:** Throughout the quarter there will be *12 pop quizzes*. These quizzes will cover assigned readings for that day and/or topics covered from the previous lecture. The quizzes will be available through Canvas **DURING** class the day they are assigned. Students will be given time in class to take the quiz. *Students must bring your phone or computer to class every day to anticipate pop quizzes.* The 2 lowest quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**
- b. REVIEW QUESTIONS:** Prior to each exam there will be a review session. You are required to submit one question to your TA by 11:59pm on the day of *previous class*. Questions will be covered during the review session.
- c. EXAMS:** There will be one exam during the semester. The exam will be provided online with a 24-hour window to take it. The exam **will be timed (1 hr 50 min)** but is open note and open book. Questions in each exam will be randomized. More details about the exam will be provided the class before the exam. Please review the course calendar for these dates. **Make-up exams will only be given with proper documentation (e.g., medical note) and notification prior to the exam (if possible).**
- d. ARTICLE APPLICATION PAPER:** It is important to be able to interpret and apply research from research articles. For this assignment, you will select one (1) of three provided articles and answer questions using APA format. More details about this assignment will be presented later in the quarter.
- e. FINAL EXAM:** The final exam will be cumulative and take a similar format as the other exam. The final exam will be made available during the entire week of finals.

VI. ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY AND GRADE SCALE

Assignment	Points (points each X # of assignments = Total)	FINAL GRADE:
In-class quizzes	35X10 = 350 points (35%)	94-100% A
Review question	25X2 = 50 points (5%)	90-93% A-
Exams	200X1 = 200 points (20%)	87-89% B+
Article analysis paper	200X1 = 200 points (20%)	84-86% B
Final Exam	200X1 = 200 points (20%)	80-83% B-
		77-79% C+
		74-76% C
		70-73% C-
		67-69% D+
		64-66% D
		60-63% D-
		< 60% F
	Total: 1000 points	

VII. GRADING: If you are having difficulty with the material, seek help from the TA or me as early as possible. I encourage you to attend class and office hours regularly, and ask questions in class. If you are concerned about your progress in this course, **do not wait until the end of the semester to get help!** Also, I encourage you to form study groups for exams. These groups are a terrific opportunity to share ideas, meet new people, and improve your learning.

VIII. UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES

a. Academic Integrity: All students are expected to follow the UCD Code of Academic Conduct including 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. **For questions please see:** <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/publications.html>

b. Accommodations: If you need disability or other accommodations, please contact Student Disability Center (54 Cowell Building, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 752-3184, sdc@ucdavis.edu) as soon as possible.

c. Student Resources:

Student Academic Success Center:

(530) 752-2013, 2205 Dutton Hall, <http://lsc.ucdavis.edu>

They offer appointments and drop-in consultations on writing. Clear and correct writing is a requirement in this class, so please take advantage of the SASC resources if you need help with your basic writing skills.

Student Disability Center:

(530) 752-3184 (voice) or (530) 752-6833 (TTY), <http://sdc.ucdavis.edu>

The staff at SDC ensure and arrange accommodations for students with disabilities.

Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS):

(530) 752-2300, Locations at Student Health and Wellness Center and North Hall, <https://shcs.ucdavis.edu>

SHCS provides mental health and wellness services to registered UC Davis students regardless of insurance coverage. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, or issues are urgent or life-threatening, contact 911 instead of SHCS.

The Mind Spa, Located on the 2nd floor of the Student Health and Wellness Center in the SHCS Clinic:

<https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/mindspa.html>

The Mind Spa offers the use of massaging recliners, biofeedback, insomnia programs, yoga classes, and mindful relaxation resources, free of charge. It also offers student advocacy services that are provided by trained listeners who have the skills to help students to process and understand their thoughts and feelings.

- d. Attendance:** Class attendance is strongly encouraged, and as highlighted earlier, I do not formally take attendance but the quizzes are to function as attendance. Furthermore, it is unlikely that you will do well on exams if you do not attend regularly. If you miss a lecture for any reason, you will be responsible for all material covered and any announcements made in your absence. The lectures are also recorded so you can catch up on material – HOWEVER, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF THE QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY OF THIS TECHNOLOGY.
- e. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices:** If you have a cell phone or other noise-making electronic devices, please *silence* them before class begins. Furthermore, laptops are to be used in class for learning purposes only and if your computer or other electronic device becomes a distraction to myself or other students, you will be asked to put it away. Moreover, if I perceive electronic devices to be a problem, I reserve the right to prohibit them in class.
- f. Classroom Behavior:** I encourage you to actively participate in class and to share your relevant comments, questions, and ideas. It is my expectation that your language and behavior at all times will be respectful—of your classmates, yourself, and me. Please be sure to arrive on time and refrain from packing up until the lecture is completely over. There may be a few classes where we end a few minutes early, but by and large, you can expect class to last the entire allotted time. Feel free to bring a non-distracting drink (coffee, pop, water) and/or small snack if needed.
- g. Email:** When you have questions or concerns, please feel free to directly email your TA or Post-Doc. You can expect a response within two business days, typically sooner. Please follow proper email etiquette in your communications. If the issue is not resolved or is not clearly stated in the syllabus then email Dr. Roberson.
- h. Office Hours:** Your TA and Post-Doc will hold regular office hours in person and/or are available through email. Please refer to the first page of this document for times, days, and locations.
- i. Grade Disputes / Adjustments / Extra Credit / Grade Postings:** Students have one week after receiving a grade on any assignment to contest it. This gives you the opportunity to formulate cogent arguments about why you think you deserve a different grade. Any student that wishes to contest a grade must do so *in writing to your TA*. So, if you think a grade should be different than the grade assigned, then you need to clearly explain in writing why you believe it should be different. You may submit this request via email, and we will proceed from there.
- j. IMPORTANT DATES IN THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FALL 2017:** See the website below for important academic calendar dates; a few important dates are also listed below for your convenience:
<https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/calendar/master.cfm>

Instruction Begins
10th day
12th day
20th day
Last Day of Classes
Final Exam

January 7th
January 18th
January 23rd
February 4th
March 15th
3/21/19 @ 1pm

Winter 2019 Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics	Assignments Due
1	1/7 M	Chapter 1: intro; p1–33	
2	1/9 W	Chapter 2: p 34–71	
3	1/14 M	Chapter 3: p 76–1117	
4	1/16 W	Chapter 4: p 118–155	
5	1/21 M	MLK DAY	
6	1/23 W	Chapter 5: p156–175	
7	1/28 M	Chapter 5: p 176–195	
8	1/30 W	Chapter 6: p 196–235	
9	2/4 M	CHAPTER 7: p 236–253	
10	2/6 W	Chapter 7: p 254–271	Review Questions by 11:59pm
11	2/11 M	Review	
12	2/13 W	Exam	Available 12:00am – 11:59pm
13	2/18 M	PRESIDENTS' DAY	
14	2/20 W	Chapter 8: p. 272–317	
15	2/25 M	Chapter 9: p. 318–359	
16	2/27 W	Chapter 10: p. 360–397	
17	3/4 M	Chapter 11: p 398–443	Available 12:00am – 11:59pm
18	3/6 W	Chapter 12: p. 436–475	Paper Due
19	3/11 M	Chapter 13: p. 476–507	Review Questions by 11:59pm
20	3/13 W	REVIEW	
		FINAL EXAM – MARCH 21st @ 1pm	Available ALL WEEK

This syllabus is subject to change; changes will be noted online, and a current version of the syllabus reflecting any changes will be available at all times through Canvas. You are responsible for ensuring you are referencing the most current version of this syllabus.