

Department/Program: Department of Sociology
Year: Summer 2019, Term 1 (May 6 – June 20)
Course Title: Theories of Family and Kinship (SOCI 415-801)
Course Schedule: T Th 9- 12 AM
Location(s): Henry Angus 343

Instructor: James White

Office location: TBA
Office phone: 778-668-0506
Office hours: Tuesday 12-1
E-mail address:
James.White@ubc.ca

Course Description (from calendar): Major theoretical approaches to the study of the family. Each approach is assessed for its strengths and weaknesses on the basis of empirical data.

Prerequisites and/or Course Restrictions (from calendar): Soci 200 or 100. This is a capstone required course for majors and minors in FMST and Sociology theory requirement.

Format of the course: Lecture

Required and Recommended Reading:

Required: White, J.M., Martin, T.F. & Adamsons, K. (2019) Family Theories (5th edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Assignments, Due Dates and Grading: The grading in this course is based on a written paper assignment, a midterm exam and a final exam.

Paper: In this paper, you must choose a theoretical framework: either Rational Choice and Exchange, Symbolic Interaction, or Life Course and Family Development. Find *one* empirical study (peer reviewed Journal) in the broad area of family (relationships, birth rates, etc). Briefly summarize the study. Analyze the extent to which the theory helps to explain the data in the study. You may want to discuss whether the theory helps by offering a “scientific explanation” or bringing you “understanding”. You should consider the difference between understanding and explanation, define what you mean by explanation. The major sources for this paper would be the chapter in your text on the theory you select and the empirical study. Your analysis is important. Due in class June 11th. (33%)

Brief Midterm Exams: There will be two exams during the term. These are short exams based on readings and lectures. Brief exams are scheduled for May 9th and May 30th in class. (17% each)

Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative and may cover all readings and lecture material throughout the course. (33%)

Faculty of Arts Grading Table:

A+ 90-100	A 85-89	A- 80-84
B+ 76-79	B 72-75	B- 68-71
C+ 64-67	C 60-63	C- 55-59
D 50-54		
F 0-49		

Course Schedule:

Week 1. May 7.

Lecture Topics: What is Theory? Theory in science and social science.
Explanation and Philosophy of Science. Classical Theories.
Readings: Text Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2. May 9. Mid Term Exam in class.

Lecture Topics: Rational Choice and Exchange
Readings: Text Chapter 3.

Week 3. May 14.

Lecture Topics: Exchange and Altruism
Symbolic Interactions: Signs and symbols
Readings: Text Chapter 4

Week 4. May 16.

Lecture Topics: Symbolic Interaction and Role Theory
Readings: Chapter 4 continued

Week 5. May 21.

Lecture Topics: Family Life Course Development
Readings: Chapter 5

Week 6. May 23.

Lecture Topics: Interactionism and structuralism in FDT
Readings: Chapter 6

Week 7. May 28.

Lecture Topics: Systems Theory -History
Readings: Chapter 7.

Week 8. May 30. Mid Term Exam in class.

Lecture Topics: Systems and Linear Models
Readings: Chapter 8

June 4-6. READING WEEK NO CLASS**Week 9 June 11.**

Lecture Topics: Conflict and the Social Contract
Readings: WK&M Chapter 8

Week 10 June 13.

Lecture Topics: Feminist Theories
Readings: WK&M Chapter 9.

Week 11 June 18..

Lecture Topics: Ecological Theories, Future of theory
Readings: WK&M Chap 10 &11, ADV 8-10

Week 12 June 20.

Lecture: Ecological Theories and Conclusions: Human values and science
Pragmatism and “true” belief.

FINAL To Be Arranged

Course Policies:

The calendar says: Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from the final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes.

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Late assignments: Late assignments or the mid-term can receive an accommodation if a valid medical letter from the medical doctor is presented. Family emergencies and other unavoidable delays may be discussed with the instructor preferably before the absence. The instructor will subtract 10% per day from the grade for any late paper that has not received an accommodation. Absence from the final exam is a serious matter. You should talk to the instructor for further directions in this regard. Under no conditions is a plane ticket arranged after the beginning of the course considered a valid reason for missing any exam.

Academic Dishonesty: Please review the UBC Calendar “Academic regulations” for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the students’ section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation. If there are any questions in this regard please consult the instructor.

Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standings. Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.

Student Classroom Behavior: Students should expect to listen to the instructor and the comments and questions of other students during this class. Students whose behavior disrupts listening and learning, such as excessive chatting with friends or cell phone use during class, will be asked not to attend classes until they can guarantee appropriate conduct.