

Department of Sociology University of North Texas SOCI 3000: Sociology of Marriage and Family SOCI 3000, Section 900, 950 3 credit hours SUMMER 2019

COURSE INFORMATION

- SOCI 3000: Sociology of Marriage and Family

- Summer 2019

- SOCI 3000, Section 900, 950 3 credit hours

- Office Hours: By appointment

Professor / Instructor Contact Information

- Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou, M.Sc. Teaching Fellow

- Office: Sycamore 288V

- Email address: Nikolitsa.Grigoropoulou@unt.edu

-Office Hours: By appointment

About the Professor / Instructor

Welcome to **SOCI 3000** Sociology of Marriage and Family. My name is Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou and I am a 6th year Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology. My research interests include religious minorities, interreligious and interethnic relations, immigration, and Islamophobia – a fairly new term used in social and political sciences to describe the irrational fear of Muslims. My home country is Greece and I pursue my studies in the U.S. with the kind sponsorship of the Fulbright Foundation and the International Institute of Education.

Required Materials – Text, Readings, Notes

Text: Williams, Brian, Sawyer, Stacey, and Wahlstrom, Carl. (2017). Marriages, families, and intimate relationships: A practical introduction. Fourth edition, Pearson

Course Description

This course is designed to help you understand the history of the family as a social institution and contemporary family issues. Of course, all of us are experts to some degree on family and family-related matters. We have lived in families and/or have our own families. Thus, we have observed family dynamics and may have compared our own family experiences to the family experiences of other people that we know. In this class, we will use sociological theories and research to analyze the social forces that impact this social institution called 'the family'. These theories will help us complement and contextualize our personal experiences, give

names to some of the things we vaguely know, and understand how and why our personal experiences may be different from others. We will discuss how families are formed and the factors that challenge the stability of a marriage and a family.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1-understand why the American family is not monolithic
- 2-place their own personal experiences of the family in a larger social context
- 3- place present-day family issues in their historical and social contexts
- 4- examine current family changes and stresses.
- 5- understand and explain sociological theories of family.

Each module has a list of learning objectives and activities which measure whether or not you are meeting the objectives.

Teaching Philosophy

"Ideal teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross, then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own."

Nikos Kazantzakis – Greek writer

This caption perfectly describes my role in an online, learner-centered environment. My goal in this class is to guide you in building your own understanding of the material and a positive relationship with knowledge. Online classes are very fast paced. Thus, it is important for students to stay up with assignments and complete them on time. However, it is equally important to reach out for questions. Student-teacher communication is indispensable for our mutual success. Online classes can be very solitary, but you need to remember this is a community you belong. As you embark in the class, there are certain things to keep in mind:

- 1. Quizzes and exams will be under <u>Assessments</u> on your Modules page and on the Assignments tab. There will be **NO MAKE-UP** quizzes.
- 2. Each assignment will turn on at a particular time and be available for **72 hours**.
- 3. Your assignments **MUST** be posted during the allotted time.
- 4. No work will be accepted after the deadline.
- 5. PLEASE do not e-mail me your assignment.
- 6. My teaching assistant and I will read each and every post and provide the necessary feedback for improvement.
- 7. Please be courteous in the Course-room. Avoid posting anything offensive, threatening, inflammatory, or illegal. Also, feel free to disagree with the material and/or your classmates, but do not call people names if you disagree with their views. Such behaviors will not be well-received in my classroom.
- 8. Check your Canvas and email accounts **DAILY**. Message me through the

- message center (**Inbox** tab) on Canvas if you have questions.
- 9. Students will have their assignments graded within a week from due dates (if not earlier).
- 10. Extra credit assignments will be offered on a class-need base, not on individual need. Please avoid emailing me with requests for additional extra credit.
- 11. You can check the exam and quiz questions after the end of due dates.

ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information

This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas' Learning Management System, Canvas. To get started with the course, please go to: https://unt.instructure.com/login/ldap

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: http://ams.unt.edu.

Being a Successful Online Student

- -What Makes a Successful Online Student?
- -Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

How the Course is Organized

Fifteen chapters are covered during the semester. There are weekly quizzes, 2 exams, 2 discussion fora, and 2 video evaluation assignments.

What Should Students Do First?

First, make sure you read the syllabus and understand its content. Make note of the deadlines. Ask the instructor questions if you have any.

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities

There are weekly readings that you need to keep up with in order to do well in this class. If you have problems accessing any assignments or material, email me through the <u>Inbox</u> function on Canvas. Make note of deadlines which are organized on a **weekly** basis in this class.

Student Technical Support

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of

Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330D

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm) for updated hours.

Student Support Services

Also known at the University of North Texas campus as SSS. All activities and services provided by SSS are intended to help students progress through their degree to an *on-time graduation*. Please refer to the website (https://trio.unt.edu/sss) for detailed list of services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings and Assignments: Students are expected to do all assigned readings for each week and be prepared to share their views on the different issues raised in the readings.

- 1. Quizzes: (15 points total EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY). There will be NO make-up quizzes. A quiz will be given for every module, starting JUL 12, 2019. Questions will be drawn from materials covered (notes, textbook, articles, and videos).
 - The quiz will be posted for 72 hours. However, you will have between 10 and 15 minutes to take the quiz (depending on the number of questions) once you begin. Also, you will have only ONE attempt. The quizzes will turn on from **Fridays** (12:00 am) to Sundays (11:59 pm). You must complete the quiz during this time.
- 2. <u>Video Evaluations</u>: **(60 points total)**—Two (2) videos will be shown in this class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issue(s) that is/are being covered. You are required to submit at least a one-page **typed-written** (**font size =12**) reaction paper (300 words) of the video.

General guidelines for all the video evaluations

While you're viewing a video, think about and write down the following:

- a. What are the most important points or ideas in the video? (Please refrain from just recounting what you watch. But give a summary of the most important points and state why they are important).
- b. What significance do these ideas have for a course of this nature?
- c. Write a brief response to at least one major issue discussed. Use your sociological imagination here. Make sure you integrate relevant concepts and theories that you

- learn in the textbook, videos, notes, etc. to substantiate your views.
- d. Do you think the video is relevant to the class topic under discussion? (here you state if the video presents anything to illustrate or explain a point raised in the text or in class discussion. Did the video make you look at anything differently?) If you think the video is not relevant to the topic, feel free to say so but you must explain your position.
- e. Did you find anything problematic?

Video 1 – Saturday, July 20 (12:00 am) to Monday, July 22 (11:59 pm) – See Assignments tab

Video 2 – Saturday, August 3 (12:00 am) to Monday, Aug 5 (11:59 pm) – See Assignments tab

You must complete the video assignments during these times.

Grading rubric for video assignments

- a. What are the most important points or ideas in the video? (4 points)
- b. What significance do these ideas have for a course of this nature? (4 points)
- c. Write a brief response to at least one major issue discussed. Use your sociological imagination here. Tie your view/idea to assigned readings. (10 points)
- d. Do you think the video is relevant to the class topic under discussion (here you state if the video presents anything to illustrate or explain a point raised in the text or in class discussion)? Did the video make you look at anything differently? If you think the video is not relevant to the topic, feel free to say so but you must be certain to explain your position. (4 points)
- e. Did you find anything problematic? (4 points)
- f. Your evaluation must be at least 300 words. (4 points)
- g. Please remember to integrate relevant sociological concepts and theories into your writeup.
 - 3. Discussions: (**60 points total**) Two (2) discussions will be available in this class. Discussion questions are posted in the Discussions tab. You are required to POST in your comments, read all the posts of your classmates, and reply to two of the posts that you read.

In your discussions, be as detailed as possible. Refrain from answers like "I agree", "yes, this is true", etc. Please make sure you explain why you agree or think the posting is good or true. Whatever you say, make sure you explain why you think the way you do. What I will be looking for in the postings is how well students integrate concepts and theories learned in the text into their discussions. Show off your Sociological Imagination!!! Students will have Saturdays at 12:00 am to Mondays at 11:59 pm

to post and reply to two of their classmates' posts. NOTE: You have to post your answer for the discussion question(s) FIRST before you see the posts of your classmates.

90%-100% -- Very detailed answer. Answer/post has an extensive use of relevant textbook material -concepts and theories.

80%-89% -- Detailed answer. Answer/post contains a high level of use of textbook material—concepts and theories.

70%-79% -- Moderate answer. Answer/post has a moderate use of relevant textbook material—concepts and theories

60-69% -- Basic answer. Answer/post contains a superficial knowledge of relevant textbook material --concepts and theories.

59% and below – Answer/post has little to no knowledge of relevant concepts/theories.

Discussion 1: Saturday, July 13 (12:00 am) to Monday, July 15 (11:59 pm) — See Discussions or Assignments tab

Discussion 2: Saturday, July 27 (12:00 am) to Monday, July 29 (11:59 pm) — See Discussions or Assignments tab

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Did not meet expectations	Needs significant improvement	Need some improvement	Exceptional
Post and reply Weight 40.00%	0 % Did not post or reply to the discussion questions.	50 % Posted the discussion, but did not reply to two posts.	75 % Posted the discussion, but replied to only ONE post.	100 % Posted a comment and replied to two posts.
Content Weight 50.00%	0 % Did not use relevant concepts or theories to support comments and replies.	60 % Did not use relevant concepts or theories from text but made some relevant comments.	80 % Only used a few relevant concepts and theories from textbook.	100 % Extensive use of relevant textbook material.
Grammar and Typos Weight 5.00%	0 % More than 10 errors	50 % Five to 10 errors.	70 % Fewer than five errors	100 % Perfect writing skills.

4. <u>Examinations</u>. (200 points)—There will be two exams given during the semester on the dates specified in the schedule (see below). Each exam will consist of up to 50

multiple choice questions, including some True/False (@ 2 points each). You have a 72-hour window for the exam. However, you will have a certain amount of time to take the exam once you begin it. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin an exam.

Midterm Exam: Friday, July 19 (12:00 am) to Sunday, July 21 (11:59 pm) — see Assignments tab

Final Exam: Wednesday, Aug 7 (12:00 am) to Friday, Aug 9 (11:59 pm) —see Assignments tab

Missed assignments. You will be given an opportunity to make up for only ONE of the missed written assignments (discussion or video) during FINALS WEEK (see weekly schedule). However, you will have only 24 hours to make up for a missed assignment instead of 72 hours. I do not need to know if you missed an assignment. Please do not e-mail to inform me about your missed assignment. The make-up assignment should NOT be completed if you have already participated in all the mandatory assignments, only if you missed one or more. I will not be grading it and it will be a waste of your valuable time. If you generally want to improve your grade, please participate in the extra credit quizzes. Make-up assignments will NOT cover the same materials that you missed. There is no make-up exam for the midterm or final exam.

Please remember: I do not give "extra credit" opportunities to any individual student. If I give such extra-credit opportunities, it will be for the entire class. Also, your time log and history on Canvas can be traced, so if you claim technical difficulties as a reason for missing an assignment, it has to be verified in order to be accepted.

COMMUNICATIONS

Information will be sent to students via their Canvas <u>Inbox</u> and through Announcements (please check them daily).

Interaction with Instructor Statement: The primary means to contact me will be via Canvas **Inbox** or email at Nikolitsa. Grigoropoulou@unt.edu. I try my best to respond to students within a few hours, even on weekends. In case I do not reply to your e-mail within 48 hours, please e-mail me again.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Assessments

- 1. Quizzes: (15 points—EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY). There will be NO make-up quizzes. A quiz will be given for every module, starting July 12, 2019. Questions will be drawn from materials covered (notes, textbook, articles, and videos). The quiz will be posted for 72 hours. However, you will have between 10 and 15 minutes to take the quiz (depending on the number of questions) once it begins. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin a quiz. The quizzes will be turned on from Fridays (12:00 am) to Sundays (11:59 pm). You must complete the quiz during this time.
- 2. <u>Video Evaluations</u>: **(60 points total @ 30 points each)** --Two videos will be shown in this class. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to think about and comment on particular issue(s) that is/are being covered. You are required to submit at least a one-page **typed-written** reaction paper of the video.
- 3. <u>Discussions</u>: (**60 points total** @ **30 points each**). Discussion questions will be posted throughout the semester (see calendar). You are required to POST your discussion (300 words), read all the posts of your classmates, and reply to two of the posts that you read.
- 4. Examinations. (200 points total)—There will be two exams given during the semester on the dates specified in the schedule. Each exam will consist up to 50 multiple choice questions, including some True/False (@ 2 points each). You have a 72-hour window for the exam. However, you will have a certain amount of time to take the exam once you begin it. Also, you will have only ONE attempt once you begin an exam.

Each module has a list of learning objectives and activities which measure whether or not you are meeting the objective.

Grades for assignments will be posted within one week of the deadline.

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. You have readings for each week and will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, etc. which will be made available to you on a specific date for 72 hours.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR/COURSE DESIGN					
WEEK	DATE	TOPIC READING			
1	July 8-14	Seeking: finding happiness	Chapter 1		
		Understanding: Learning about Intimate	Chapter 2		
		Gender: Meanings of masculinity	Chapter 3		
		Quiz 1 – July 12 to 14 (will cover Chapters 1 to 3) Discussion 1 – July 13 to July 15			
2	July 15-21	Involvement: Dating, pairing,	Chapter 4		
	J -	Love: The many faces	Chapter 5		
		Communication: Realizing effective	Chapter 6		
		Sexuality: Interpersonal sexuality,	Chapter 7		
Exam 1 (will cover chapters 1 to 7) Friday, July 19 (12:00 am) – Sunday, July 21 (11:59 pm) Video 1 – July 20 to July 22					
3	July 22-28	Marriage: The ultimate commitment? Variations: Non-marital families and	Chapter 8 Chapter 9		
		Reproduction: Decisions about Parenting: Children, families, &	Chapter 10 Chapter 11		
		Quiz 2 – June 26 to June 28 (will cover chapters 8 to 11) Discussion 2 – July 27 to July 29			
4	July 29-Aug 4	Work: Economics, jobs, and Crises: Managing stress, disaster, Uncoupling: Separation and divorce Remarriage: Reinvented, renewed, and	Chapter 12 Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 15		
		Quiz 3 – Aug 2 to Aug 4 (will cover chapters 11 to 15) Video 2 – July 3 to Aug 5			
5	Aug 5-9	Make up assignment – Aug 6 from 12:00 au	n to 11:59 pm		
Final Exam (will cover chapters 8-15) Wednesday, Aug 7 (12:00 am) – Friday, Aug 9 (11:59 pm)					

 ${f NOTE:}$ All assignments/assessments must be completed during their respective allotted times above.

Grading

The final grade will be assigned based on the following scale which uses a point system:

A = 320-288 points

B = 287 - 256 points

C = 255 - 224 points

D = 223 - 192 points

F = 191 points & below.

Turnitin Submission Instructions and Information

Participation / Discussions

Information about the student's responsibility in the course discussions; grading and posting criteria; how to post to the online discussion board, etc. Also include etiquette/protocol for participating in the online discussion board. For examples, see:

- http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Class/che326ff/discussion_board/etiquette.pdf
- http://online.uwc.edu/technology/onlEtiquette.asp

Online Tests/ Quizzes (to include final or proctored exam information)

You can access quizzes/exams by clicking the Assignments link on the course menu or see the quiz/exam icon on the designated page. Each quiz is timed and can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you click "Begin Assessment". After each quiz is graded and released, you may go back and review your exam results.

COURSE EVALUATION

Course evaluation is usually conducted during the last 2 weeks prior to final exams. I will post information about the date for evaluation on Canvas and e-mail each student when it becomes available.

SCHOLARLY EXPECTATIONS

In keeping with the norms of higher education, any student found guilty of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to their college dean. Refer to your student handbook for complete provisions of the policies and procedures set forth by UNT.

RESOURCES

Links to Academic Support Services, such as Office of Disability Accommodation, Counseling and Testing Services, UNT Libraries, Online Tutoring, UNT Writing Lab and Math Tutor Lab can be located within Blackboard Learn on the "Academic Support" tab.

UNT Portal: http://my.unt.edu

UNT Blackboard Learn Student Resources: Technical Support: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/

UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users: http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access

UNT Computing and Information Technology

Center: http://citc.unt.edu/services-

solutions/students

UNT Academic Resources for Students: http://www.unt.edu/academics.htm

Computer Labs: General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: http://www.gacl.unt.edu/

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment Policy

See the assignment schedule for due dates which are in this syllabus and also posted on Canvas.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

The primary means to contact me will be via Canvas <u>Inbox</u> or email at <u>Nikolitsa.Grigoropoulou@unt.edu</u>. I try my best to respond to students within 24 hours, even on weekends. In case I do not reply to your e-mail within 48 hours, please e-mail me again. I am also available during my office hours. You may set up an appointment or just come in.

Turnitin Notice

Students are required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service. Before submitting your paper to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information. (OPTIONAL: Any paper that is not submitted to Turnitin prior to submission to the instructor will not be accepted by the instructor and will not be graded.) (Note to instructors: Any assignments submitted on behalf of the students must have a written or electronically signed consent to do so. Additional information can be found at: http://clear.unt.edu/turnitin)

Late Work

Late assignments will not be accepted in this class.

Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Canvas to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board.

Virtual Classroom Citizenship

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.

Incompletes

I rarely give an incomplete. Please check the UNT student handbook for policy on incompletes.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical

Difficulties Copyright Notice

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. [Additional sample statements can be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/sample-copyright-notices] Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Undergraduate Online Course Attendance Policy

Information about the University of Texas' Attendance Policy may be found at: http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5

Administrative Withdrawal

Syllabus Change Policy

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

UNT POLICIES

Student Conduct and Discipline: <u>Student Handbook</u>.

Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

Academic Honesty Policy

Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Academic Policy. A sample statement may include the following:

"You are encouraged to become familiar with the University's Policy of Academic dishonesty found in the <u>Student Handbook</u>. The content of the Handbook applies to this course. Additionally, the following specific requirements will be expected in this class: (enter specific requirements). If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with me before you complete any requirements of the course."

ADA Policy

As per the Office of Disability Accommodation, a syllabus for a course SHALL include the following statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of

accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. <u>Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://disability.unt.edu/. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.</u>

Add/Drop Policy

Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Add/Drop Policy.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses: Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)" and can be found buried within this document: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.