

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SC2205: SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY  
SEMESTER 1 2015/2016**

**LECTURE: TUESDAY 10AM – 12PM, LT12**

**Lecturer and Tutor:**

Dr. Adelyn Lim	Office hours: By Appointment
Department of Sociology	(Please make appointment via email)
National University of Singapore	Email: adelynlim@nus.edu.sg
AS1 #02-18	

**Tutors:**

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**Course Description:**

This course examines the nature of contemporary families in the context of important historical and societal developments that have shaped family life. We will address the following questions:

- What historical and societal developments have given shape to contemporary family forms and functions?
- What do theoretical explanations offer for these developments and which are supported by empirical evidence?
- What are the consequences of these developments for individuals, families, and society?
- Do these developments indicate that the family is at risk of disintegrating? Is it necessary to put the family “back on the right track”? Or is the family an evolving institution meant to adapt to new conditions and environments?

In considering these questions, students will evaluate their own assumptions about love, marriage, divorce, and parenthood.

**Course Requirements:**

Registered students are required to attend lectures, complete assigned readings, and participate in discussion groups. Evaluation will be based on contribution to the analysis of readings in discussion groups, a research paper outline and research paper, and the final examination:

Discussion Group Participation:	10%
Research Paper Outline:	10%
Research Paper:	30%
Final examination:	50%

**Discussion Group Participation**

Discussion groups will be held in the classrooms allotted for this course. Please check IVLE for specific room numbers. During discussion groups, students are expected to come prepared to discuss all assigned readings up to the date of each lecture.

**Research Paper Outline and Research Paper**

Students are to read *Marriage and Parenthood Study 2012*. With reference to data and discussions in this publication, you will identify one issue that is of interest to a sociologist, develop an outline, and write up a paper on the basis of this issue. Detailed instructions are available on IVLE.

**Final Examination**

Please check IVLE for the date, time, and venue of the final examination. It will be a comprehensive essay examination on all course materials.

**Assigned Readings**

All assigned readings are available on IVLE as well as in electronic format and RBR through the NUS libraries.

**Supplementary Readings**

Students are encouraged to use supplementary readings for the research paper. One recommendation for locating supplementary readings is to browse journals that specialize on the topic of marriage and family. These include the following (all of which are available in electronic format through the NUS libraries):

*Gender and Society*

*Journal of Family Issues*

*Journal of Marriage and Family*

*Men and Masculinities*

*Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

**Submission Dates**

Tuesday 15 September 1700: Research Paper Outline

Tuesday 3 November 1700: Research Paper

Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as one's own. For example, cutting-and-pasting or copying text and using it as if it is your original work and not citing the source it comes from. This is a serious academic offense. It will lead to disciplinary action by the university. Do not do it! Always identify your sources!

## **Lecture Schedule**

### **Part 1 Introduction to Sociology of the Family**

#### **Lecture 1 (11 August): Introduction to Sociology of the Family**

Newman, David. 2009. "Defining Families." *Families: A Sociological Perspective*, pp. 4-17. New York: McGraw-Hill. [Available on IVLE]

Gerson, Kathleen. 2010. "The Shaping of a New Generation." *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*, pp. 1-12. New York: Oxford University Press. [Available in RBR]

#### **Lecture 2 (18 August): Conceptualization of the Family**

Bernardes, Jon. 1985. "Family Ideology: Identification and Exploration." *The Sociological Review*, 33 (2), pp. 275-97. [Available on IVLE]

Wong, Theresa, Brenda S. A. Yeoh, Elspeth F. Graham and Peggy Teo. 2004. "Spaces of Silence: Single Parenthood and the 'Normal Family' in Singapore." *Population, Space and Place*, 10 (1), pp. 43-58. [Available in electronic format]

#### **Lecture 3 (25 August): Theories and Methods**

Nock, Steven L. 1992. "Studying the Family." *Sociology of the Family*, pp. 2-23. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall. [Available on IVLE]

### **Part 2 Family Formation, Transitions, and Dissolution**

#### **Lecture 4 (1 September): Romantic Love and Courtship**

Coontz, Stephanie. 2005. "Introduction" and "The Radical Idea of Marrying for Love." *Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage*, pp. 1-14 and 15- 23. New York: Viking. [Available in RBR]

Carbone, June and Naomi Cahn. 2014. "Introduction" and "Section II: The New Terms." *Marriage Markets: How Inequality is Remaking the American Family*, pp. 1-9 and 45-102. New York: Oxford University Press. [Available in electronic format]

#### **Lecture 5 (8 September): Marriage and Cohabitation**

Coontz, Stephanie. 2005. "The Many Meanings of Marriage" and "The Invention of Marriage." *Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage*, pp. 24-33 and 34-52. New York: Viking. [Available in RBR]

Gerson, Kathleen. 2010. "High Hopes, Lurking Fears." *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*, pp. 103-23. New York: Oxford University Press. [Available in RBR]

## **Lecture 6 (15 September): Gender and the Division of Labor Part 1**

West, Candace and Zimmerman, Don H. 1987. "Doing Gender." *Gender & Society*, 1 (2): 125-51. [Available in electronic format]

Gerson, Kathleen. 2010. "Women's Search for Self-Reliance" and "Men's Resistance to Equal Sharing." *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*, pp. 124-58 and 159-88. New York: Oxford University Press. [Available in RBR]

## **Lecture 7 (29 September): Gender and the Division of Labor Part 2**

Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 2003. "Emotional Geography and the Flight Plan of Capitalism." *The Commercialization of Intimate Life: Notes from Home and Work*, pp. 198-212. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. [Available on IVLE]

Gerson, Kathleen. 2010. "Reaching Across the Gender Divide" and "Finishing the Gender Revolution." *The Unfinished Revolution: Coming of Age in a New Era of Gender, Work, and Family*, pp. 189-213 and 214-26. New York: Oxford University Press. [Available in RBR]

## **Lecture 8 (6 October): Parenthood**

Hays, Sharon. 1996. "Prefix" and "The Mommy Wars: Ambivalence, Ideological Work, and the Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood." *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*, pp. ix-xiii and 131-51. New Haven: Yale University Press. [Available on IVLE]

Dermott, Esther. 2008. "Paradoxes of Contemporary Fatherhood." *Intimate Fatherhood: A Sociological Analysis*, pp. 7-24. Oxon: Routledge. [Available on RBR]

## **Lecture 9 (13 October): Divorce and Remarriage**

Coltrane, Scott and Michele Adams. 2003. "The Social Construction of the Divorce Problem." *Family Relations*, 52 (4): 363-72. [Available in electronic format]

Straughan, Paulin Tay. 2009. "Looking Ahead – The Future of Family." *Marriage Dissolution in Singapore: Revisiting Family Values and Ideology in Marriage*, pp. 105-26. Leiden and Boston: Brill. [Available in electronic format]

## **Part 3 The Family in Context**

### **Lecture 10 (20 October): Transnational Families**

Yeoh, Brenda S. A. and Shirlena Huang. 1999. "Singapore Women and Foreign Domestic Workers: Negotiating Domestic Work and Motherhood." In Janet Henshall Momsen (ed.), *Gender, Migration and Domestic Service*, pp. 277-300. London and New York: Routledge. [Available on IVLE]

Hoang, Lan Anh and Brenda S. A. Yeoh. 2011. "Breadwinning Wives and 'Left-Behind' Husbands: Men and Masculinities in the Vietnamese Transnational Family." *Gender & Society*, 25 (6): 717-39. [Available in electronic format]

### **Lecture 11 (27 October): Public Policies**

Donzelot, Jacques. 1979. "Government Through the Family." *The Policing of Families*, pp. 48-95. London: Hutchinson of London. [Available on RBR]

Teo, Youyenn. 2015. "Differentiated Deservedness: Governance through Familialist Social Policies in Singapore." *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia*, 3 (1), pp. 73-93. [Available in electronic format]

### **Lecture 12 (3 November): Review**

## Discussion Group Schedule

Odd Week	Even Week	Readings
D1 (25 August) D2 (28 August) D3 (26 August)	E1 (1 September) E2 (4 September) E3 (2 September)	Newman 2009 Gerson 2010 Bernardes 1985 Wong et al. 2004 Nock 1992
D1 (8 September) D2 (11 September) D3 (9 September)	E1 (15 September) E2 (18 September) E3 (16 September)	Coontz 2005 Carbone and Cahn 2014 Gerson 2010
D1 (29 September) D2 (2 October) D3 (30 September)	E1 (6 October) E2 (9 October) E3 (7 October)	West and Zimmerman 1987 Gerson 2010 Hochschild 2003
D1 (13 October) D2 (16 October) D3 (14 October)	E1 (20 October) E2 (23 October) E3 (21 October)	Hays 1996 Dermott 2008 Coltrane and Adams 2003 Straughan 2009
D1 (27 October) D2 (30 October) D3 (28 October)	E1 (3 November) E2 (6 November) E3 (4 November)	Yeoh and Huang 1999 Hoang and Yeoh 2011 Donzelot 1979 Teo 2015