

Syllabus of ” Family Sociology”, SC, 7.5 ECTS-credits

1. Decision

The syllabus is approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology (Institutionsstyrelsen) at Stockholm University as of 2007-05-31, to be revised 2014-03-xx.

2. General information

The course comprises 7.5 ECTS credits at the advanced level.
The syllabus is valid from the spring semester of 2014, onwards.

3. Course code

SO7060

4. Educational entry requirements

Bachelor's degree.

5. Course organization and content

The course is provided at half-time basis over nine weeks.

The course provides an overview of the field of theories and research in family sociology with some additional emphasis on the relationship between family and work, the gender and generational dimensions of family life, and social, economic, political and cultural context of family life. Changes in family organization and behavior in Sweden and other Western societies are a particular focus. The course literature consists of theoretical explications as well as recent empirical research. Students are expected to critically examine and evaluate research on the family and to relate it to policy discourse in contemporary Sweden and other wealthy societies.

6. Learning outcomes

After having completed the course, students will be able to:

- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and be able to apply in concrete situations the *fundamental concepts* in sociological theories on family organization and behavior, including family formation and dissolution, household organization, relations between intimate partners and/or between generations, and connections between families and their social, economic, political and cultural contexts.
- Know and describe major *trends and variations* in family organization and behavior in contemporary Western societies
- Compare, synthesize and evaluate different *theoretical explanations* for variation and change in family organization and behavior in contemporary societies.
- Understand, explain and cite appropriate *evidence for sources of change and variation* in family organization and behavior in contemporary societies.

- Understand, explain and cite appropriate *evidence for consequences of change and variation* in family organization and behavior in contemporary societies.
- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and apply in concrete situations *dimensions of generation and gender* in family organization and behavior
- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and apply in concrete situations the relationships between families and their social, economic, political and cultural contexts.

7. Teaching

Teaching is conducted through lectures and discussion of materials from assigned readings and lectures.

8. Assessment and examination

Attendance at the seminar meetings is obligatory. Examination will be in three parts.

- * Students will receive questions on the assigned readings before each seminar meeting. In order to properly understand and discuss these questions, the students need to read the assigned literature prior to each meeting. All students are expected to actively discuss each question.
- * Groups of 2-3 students will prepare summaries of readings assigned for each class meeting. The literature reviews should be handed in five days after each seminar meeting.
- * An essay of approximately 6-7 pages (excluding references), which addresses a well-defined question on a topic covered during the course. Before writing the essay, students will discuss and have the topic and the overall framework of their essay approved by the course coordinator.

The students' performance is graded Not Sufficient, Sufficient, or Good on each of the following criteria:

- (i) *Choice of and argumentation for* the topic chosen and formulation of the question addressed
- (ii) Understanding of and ability to describe in *theoretical terms* fundamental concepts that are relevant to the chosen topic (essay)
- (iii) Description of the *major trends and / or variations* in the phenomenon covered (essay)
- (iv) Comparison, synthesis and evaluation of relevant *theoretical approaches* (essay)
- (v) An understanding of the social, economic, political and cultural *contexts of family life* relevant to the chosen topic (essay)
- (vi) Ability to *communicate* in a clear, flawless and structured manner (essay)
- (vii) *Classroom participation and literature reviews*

Each of these will be graded as Fail, Pass or Pass with distinction.

The course work is evaluated according to the following criterion-referenced assessment: **A** = Excellent, **B** = Very good, **C** = Good, **D** = Satisfactory, **E** = Sufficient, **Fx** = Not sufficient, **F** = Fail.

To receive grade **A** the judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 6 of the 7 criteria.

To receive grade **B** the judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 5 of the 7 criteria.

To receive grade **C** the judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 3 of the 7 criteria.

To receive grade **D** the judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 2 of the 7 criteria.

To receive grade **E** the judgement Pass is needed for all criteria.

The judgment Fail in one of the above criteria leads to grade **Fx**.

The judgment Fail in more than one of the above criteria leads to grade **F**.

Students receiving grade Fx or F are entitled to further examination as long as the course is provided in order to achieve at least grade E. A student with grade E is not entitled to another examination to raise his/her degree.

Students who received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner can request to be evaluated by another examiner. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Students can request to be examined according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it is no longer valid. Such requests should be sent to the Director of Studies.

9. Literature

25 March, Introduction

Background readings

Lesthaeghe, Ron. 1995. The second demographic transition in Western countries: An interpretation. In K. Oppenheim Jason, & A.-M. Jensen (Eds.), *Gender and family change in industrialized countries* (pp. 17-62). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

www.researchgate.net/publication/257928736_THE_SECOND_DEMOGRAPHIC_TRANSITION_IN_WESTERN_COUNTRIES_AN_INTERPRETATION/file/504635263bf4e336b3.pdf

Parsons, Talcott. 1943. "The kinship system of the contemporary United States." *American Anthropologist* 45(1): 22-38.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1525/aa.1943.45.1.02a00030/full>

Reher, David Sven. 1998. "Family ties in Europe: persistent contrasts." *Population and Development Review* 24(2): 203-234. http://www.collective-action.info/sites/default/files/webmaster/_JIW_LIT_Reher_Family-Ties-in-Western-Europe-Persitent-Contrasts.pdf

7 April, Theories of the family

Chambers, Deborah (2012) *A Sociology of Family Life: Change and Diversity in Intimate Relations*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. Pp. 1-93.

To be purchased from Akademibokhandeln.

15 April, Partnerships

Andersson, Gunnar, Turid Noack, Ane Seierstad, Harald Weedon-Fekjaer 2006. "The demographics of same-sex marriages in Norway and Sweden." *Demography*, 43:79-98.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1353/dem.2006.0001#page-1>

Cherlin, Andrew. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(4):848-861. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.0022-2445.2004.00058.x/abstract>

Goode, William J. 1959. "The theoretical importance of love." *American Sociological Review* 24(1): 38-47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2089581>

Härkönen, Juho. Forthcoming. "Divorce: Trends, patterns, causes, consequences." In Treas, Judith K., Scott, Jacqueline & Richard, Martin (eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Families*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons.

http://www.suda.su.se/SRRD/SRRD_2013_7.pdf

Noack, Turid, Bernhardt, Eva & Aarskaug Wiik, Kenneth. 2013. "Cohabitation or marriage? Contemporary living arrangements in the West." Pp. 16-30 in Abela, Angela & Walker, Janet (eds.) *Contemporary Issues in Family Studies: Global Perspectives on Partnerships, Parenting and Support in a Changing World*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons. Book chapter accessible through SUB e-library

22 April, Relations between generations

Bengtson, V L. (1975) Generation and family effects in value socialization. *American Sociological Review*, 40, 3, pp 358-371.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2094463?origin=crossref>

Lundholm, E., Malmberg, G. (2009) Between elderly parents and grandchildren – Geographic proximity and trend in four-generation families. *Population Ageing*, 2, pp121-137. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12062-010-9022-4#page-1>

Ganong, L., Coleman, M. (2006) Patterns of exchange and intergenerational responsibilities after divorce and remarriage. *Journal of Ageing studies*, 20, pp 265-278.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0890406506000089>

Daatland, S O., Herlofson, K., Lima, I A. (2011) Balancing generations: on the strength and character of family norms in the West and East of Europe. *Ageing & Society* 31, pp 1159-1179.

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/login;jsessionid=914065C1362C4825DBA1576CD8E76617.journals>

Kalmijn, M., Saraceno, C. (2009) A comparative perspective on intergenerational support. *European Societies*, 10,3, pp.479-508.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14616690701744364#.Uycty4Ua7WY>

6 May, Divisions of labour

Evertsson, M. & Neramo, M. (2007). "Changing resources and the division of housework: A longitudinal study of Swedish couples", *European Sociological Review*, 23, 455-470.

<http://esr.oxfordjournals.org/content/23/4/455.full.pdf+html>

Hook, J. L. (2006). "Care in context: Men's unpaid work in 20 countries, 1965-2003", *American Sociological Review*, 71, 639-660.

<http://asr.sagepub.com/content/71/4/639.full.pdf+html>

Lewis, J., Campbell, M. & Huerta, C. (2008). "Patterns of paid and unpaid work in Western Europe: gender, commodification, preferences and the implications for policy", *Journal of European Social Policy*, 18, 21-37.

<http://esp.sagepub.com/content/18/1/21.full.pdf+html>

McBride Murry, V., Satterwhite Mayberry, L. & Berkel, C. (2013). "Gender and family relations", Chapter 18 in G. W. Peterson & K. R. Bush (eds.), *Handbook of Marriage and the Family*. Springer US.

Book chapter accessible through library

http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-3987-5_18

Van der Lippe, T. & van Dijk, L. (2002). "Comparative research on women's employment", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 28, 221-41.

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.soc.28.110601.140833>

13 May, Families and inequalities

Kalmijn, Matthijs. 1998. "Intermarriage and homogamy: Causes, patterns, trends."

Annual Review of Sociology 24: 395-421. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/223487>

Lawick, Justine van. 2013. "Couple and family dynamics and escalations in violence." Pp. 74-86 in Abela, Angela & Walker, Janet (eds.) *Contemporary Issues in Family Studies: Global Perspectives on Partnerships, Parenting and Support in a Changing World*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons.

Book chapter accessible through SUB e-library

McLanahan, Sara & Percheski, Christine. 2008. "Family structure and the reproduction of inequalities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 257-276.

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.soc.34.040507.134549>

Vogler, Carolyn. 1998. "Money in the household: some underlying issues of power." *The Sociological Review* 46(4): 687-713. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-954X.00136/pdf>

20 May, The state and the family

Mätzke, M & Ostner, I. 2010. "Introduction: change and continuity in recent family policies." *Journal of European Social Policy* 20 (5):387-98.

<http://esp.sagepub.com/content/20/5/387.short>

Perelli-Harris, Brienna & Sánchez-Gassen, Nora. 2012. "How similar are cohabitation and marriage? Legal approaches to cohabitation in Western Europe". *Population and Development Review* 38(3): 435-467. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2012.00511.x/abstract>

Thévenon, Olivier. 2011. "Family policies in OECD countries: a comparative analysis." *Population and Development Review* 37(1): 57-87.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2011.00390.x/abstract>

Willekens, Harry. 2003. "Is contemporary Western family law historically unique?" *Journal of Family History* 28(1): 70-107.

<http://jfh.sagepub.com/content/28/1/70.full.pdf+html>

Appendix

Schedule, spring 2014

Day Time Theme Teacher Place

Tue. March 25	13.00-16.00	Introduction	
		Juho Härkönen	D320
Mon. Apr. 7	10.00-13.00	Theories on the family	
		Marie Evertsson	F320
Tue. Apr 15	13.00-16.00	Partnerships	
		Juho Härkönen	E420
Tue. Apr 22	14.00-17.00	Relations between generations	
		Ann-Zofie Duvander	B307
Tue. May 6	13.00-16.00	Divisions of labour	
		Karin Halldén	F397
Tue. May 13	12.00-15.00	Families and inequalities	
		Juho Härkönen	F299
Tue. May 20	09.00-12.00	The state and the family	
		Juho Härkönen	E306
Tue. Jun 3	17.00	Deadline for essays	Mondo

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