

**Department/Program:** Department of Sociology  
**Year:** Winter 2015, Term 2  
**Course Title:** Theories of Family and Kinship  
**Course Schedule:** MWF 11-11:50 AM  
**Location(s):** Lassere Bldg. 107

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**Instructor:** James White

**TA:** Christine Hochbaum

**Office location:** Anso/Soci 2123      **Office:** ANSO 108 (112)  
**Office phone:** 604-822-4683  
**Office hours:** Monday 10-11 am  
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**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

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**Required and Recommended Reading:**

**Required:** White, J.M. & Klein, D.M. (2015) Family Theories (4th edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

White, J.M. (2004) Advancing Family Theories. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

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**Course Assignments, Due Dates and Grading:** The grading in this course is based

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on a written paper assignment, a midterm exam and a final exam.

**Paper** : In this paper, you must define “scientific explanation”. The paper is a maximum of 10 pages excluding references (single sided and double-spaced in 12 pitch font). References and citations should follow the format of the American Psychological Association guidelines. Due Date: FEB 6 in class. (33.3%)

#### REQUIRED PAPER OUTLINE

1. What is an “explanation”?
2. What is a “scientific explanation”?
3. What is the role of “deduction” in scientific explanation?
4. What is the role of “empirical data” in scientific explanation?
5. Application: If you were accused of a crime for which you were not guilty, what forms of evidence would you want the court to admit and what form would be inadmissible.

**Midterm Exam**: The midterm exam is during class time (50 minutes) and will cover the reading material and lecture materials covered to this date. The format will be short answer and essay. MAR 6<sup>th</sup> in class. (33.3%.)

**Final Exam**: The final exam may be cumulative and may cover all readings and lecture material throughout the course. It is a **two-hour** exam in the December examination period arranged by the Registrar's Office. (33.4%)

**Course Schedule:****Week 1. JAN 5-9.**

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

**Week 2. JAN 12-16.**

Lecture Topics: Explanation.  
 Readings: ADV Chaps 1-5.

**Week 3. JAN 19-23.**

Lecture Topics: Rational Choice and Exchange  
 Readings: W&K Chap3, ADV. Chapters 6.

**Week 4. JAN 26-30.**

Lecture Topics: Exchange and Altruism  
 Symbolic Interaction- History  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 4

**Week 5. FEB 2-6. (Paper Due Feb 6)**

Lecture Topics: Symbolic Interaction and Role Theory  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 4 continued.

**Week 6. FEB 11-13. (FEB 9 Family Day)**

Lecture Topics: Family Life Course Development  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 5, ADV Chap7

**WEEK 7 FEB 16-20 READING WEEK BREAK****Week 8- FEB 23-27.**

Lecture Topics: Interactionism and structuralism in FDT  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 6

**Week 9- MAR 2-6. (MIDTERM Mar 6 in class)**

Lecture Topics: Systems Theory -History  
 Readings: W&K Chapter7.

**Week 10 MAR 9-13.**

Lecture Topics: Systems and Linear Models  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 8

**Week 11 MAR 16-20.**

Lecture Topics: Conflict and the Social Contract  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 8

**Week 12 MAR 23-27.**

Lecture Topics: Feminist Theories  
 Readings: W&K Chapter 9.

**Week 13 MAR 30- APR 1 (APR 3.Good Friday)**

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

**Week 14 APR 8-10 (APR 6 Easter Monday).**

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

**FINAL SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR`S OFFICE April 14-29.**

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**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.

**Paper Format:** The paper should be your original work. You should follow the citation format of the American Psychological Association style guide which you can find in an abbreviated form on internet : [www.apastyle.org/elecref.html](http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html) Please refer to this site or the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the APA Publication Manual.

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](http://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 during class, will be asked not to attend classes until they can guarantee appropriate conduct.