

Department/Program: Department of Sociology

Year: Winter 2015, Term 2

Course Title: Theories of Family and Kinship (SOC1 415A-002)

Course Schedule: MWF 11-11:50 AM

Location(s): Lasr 107

Instructor: James White

Office location: Anso/Soci 2206

Office phone: 604-822-4683

Office hours: Monday 12-1pm

E-mail address:

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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

Required and Recommended Reading:

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

White, J.M. (2004) **Advancing Family Theories**. 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 define “scientific explanation” . You should consider the difference between understanding and explanation, define what you mean by explanation with consideration of the “covering law model” or “deductive-nomological model” (Hempel and Oppenheim, 1948) and take a position regarding the argument that explanation is deduction. You will prepare for this paper with emphasis on ideas and your understanding rather than citing sources. The paper will be written during class, Monday, Jan 25th. (33.3%)

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. Friday Feb 12th 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 2 hour exam in the April examination period arranged by the Registrar's Office. (33.4%)

Course Schedule:**Week 1. Jan. 4-8.**

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

Week 2. Jan 11-15.

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

Week 3. Jan 18-22.

Lecture Topics: Rational Choice and Exchange
 Readings: WK&M Chap3, ADV. Chapters 6.

Week 4. Jan. 25-29. (WRITE PAPER in class 25th)

Lecture Topics: Exchange and Altruism
 Symbolic Interactions: signs and symbols
 Readings: WKM Chapter 4

Week 5. Feb. 1- 5.

Lecture Topics: Symbolic Interaction and Role Theory
 Readings: WK&M Chapter 4 continued.

Week 6. Feb. 8-12. (MIDTERM EXAM FEB 12)

Lecture Topics: Family Life Course Development
 Readings: WK&M Chapter 5, ADV Chap7

Week Feb 15-19 Reading Week – No classes.**Week 7. Feb 22-26.**

Lecture Topics: Interactionism and structuralism in FDT
 Readings: WK&M Chapter 6

Week 8- Feb 29- Mar 4.

Lecture Topics: Systems Theory -History
 Readings: WK&M Chapter7.

Week 9 Mar 7-11.

Lecture Topics: Systems and Linear Models
 Readings: WK&M Chapter 8

Week 10 Mar 14-18.

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

Week 11 Mar 21-25.

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

Week 12 Mar 28-Apr 1.

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

Week 13 April 4- 8.

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

FINAL SCHEDULED BY REGISTRAR`S OFFICE.

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 during class, will be asked not to attend classes until they can guarantee appropriate conduct.