FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology
SOCI 570(D1)-Comparative Family Systems
Spring 2011

I. LOCATOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Roger Klomegah, Ph.D.
Course Number & Name: SOCI 570-Comparative Family Systems (D1)
Semester Credit Hours: 3:0
Day &Time Class Meets: Online. Duration: January 8 – April 29, 2011
E-mail: rklomegah@uncfsu.edu
Office Location: Taylor Social Science 108-B
Office Phone: 910-672-2139
Office Hours: MWF 9:00am-12:00pm (or by appointment). Primary means of communication are email and Blackboard resources-Announcements and Messages.

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A systematic study of family patterns in selected cultures from around the world including ethnic and minority families in the United States. The course emphasizes the theory and method of studying families cross culturally. Family systems will be analyzed by looking at features such as structures, gender roles, kinship patterns, and marital and family interactions.

III. DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. explain the various theoretical frameworks on the family.
2. illustrate a sense of cultural relativism and new ways of thinking about families in terms of understanding different family systems;
3. demonstrate awareness of their own perspectives and biases regarding the major concepts discussed.
4. compile scholarly information about the world's families and communities to examine the diversity of family life in a global perspective.
5. describe the various functions of families common to all cultures.

VI. COURSE STRUCTURE (ARRANGEMENTS)

Teaching techniques are in the form of
a) Questions and answers, discussions, PowerPoint notes, and essays.
b) Student discussions, essays, and reports will focus on concepts and theories relating to the forms and different family structures.
c) Students must read WEEKLY ACTIVITIES posted in Course Information each week!!!!

NOTE:
1) Attendance will be based on student participation in class exercises, assignments, projects, and “Discussion Board.”
2) The course involves reading, discussions, and writing assignments.
3) There will be five (5) assignments. There is no specific schedule for assignments, but deadlines will be announced via Announcements and Emails.
4) There will be three (3) tests. Dates and times of testing are specified in the course outline and will also be announced via email and “Announcements” on Blackboard. Please familiarize yourself with make-up policy described below. There will be no deviation from this policy.
5) Tests will be made available from 5AM to 11PM (Eastern Time) on scheduled dates. The format of the tests is essay. All tests will be timed and each student must take them within the specified time. Blackboard records time spent in taking a test and if you exceed the specified time, points will be deducted equivalent to the exceeded time. Tests MUST be submitted before the allowed time expires otherwise the computer will fail to grade and score your test and you will lose some points.
6) Discussion Forums: Discussions MUST be elaborate. Writing only a couple of statements will not earn you a good score. Each student is supposed to respond to, at least, three posts delivered by classmates. Please see the online protocol and rubrics for discussion forums.
7) There is also one (1) quiz based on the syllabus and course instructions, which will be taken on Friday, January 14.
8) PowerPoint Notes will be available every week to supplement your readings.
9) I am available to answer any questions (via email, telephone, & in person) that you may have.
VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Course Grade
The course grade will be based on three (3) tests, ten (10) discussion forums, one (1) quiz, and a term paper.

Tests
Tests will consist of essay questions, and students are expected to demonstrate their comprehension of theories, concepts, and empirical literature covered in the course. Students should avoid answering questions based on value judgments. That is, students are required to demonstrate cultural relativity in their responses. Tests will cover materials from the textbook and handouts.

Term Paper
Students are also required to write a research paper between 5 and 8 pages long. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, and carefully proofread (for spelling, grammar, and punctuation). Papers must be properly referenced using the American Sociological Association (ASA) referencing guidelines. You can find ASA referencing guidelines in Course Document. The deadline for the paper is APRIL 22, 2011. DO NOT wait until last minute to start your paper. Extensions will not be granted for excuses such as computer and printer problems, because you have more than 15 weeks to work on the paper.

For your paper, here are some suggestions. You are free to get your own topics but with the instructor’s approval.

1. Exercise on Comparative Family research Study – see page 61 of your textbook.
2. Discuss differences between men’s and women’s paid employment in any society of your choice. Show how these differences are reflected and sustained in their family and marital arrangements.
3. Discuss domestic violence in any culture. Show how this phenomenon is a function of the social structure and how it is sustained and reinforced by the socialization process. Also, discuss possible contributing factors associated with domestic violence.
4. Do a paper on gender roles within any society.
5. Research issues revolving around mate selection in any society.
6. Migration and immigration pattern.
8. Gender and justice in any society.
9. Divorce experiences
11. Alternatively, you may choose any topic (or area) that may be of interest to you, but with international, global, or cross-cultural flavor.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Quiz</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Term Paper 100
Discussion Forums 100

Total Possible Points 280

FINAL GRADE: Under GRADE CENTER in Blackboard, your **Total** (in percentage) will determine your final letter grade, which will be based on FSU grading scale.

**FSU Grading Scale in percentages**
A = 92-100    B = 83-91    C = 73-82    D = 64-72    F = 63 and below

**NOTE:** Grades are earned, they are not given!! It is the student’s responsibility to do the best work they are capable of doing. Special individual work for extra credit violates fairness to other students and will not be considered. Continued enrollment in this course is indicative of a student’s acceptance of class policies.

**Make Up/Deadline Policy**
Make up tests will be allowed only if there is a legitimate reason for missing a test (e.g. illness) and can be taken only on last day of class or with final test. Each excuse must be supported by appropriate documentation or proof.
I expect you to adhere strictly to deadlines for class exercises and assignments.

**COURSE ACTIVITY SCHEDULES**

**Test Schedule**
Quiz = Friday, January 14
Test 1 = Friday, January 28
Test 2 = Friday, March 4
Test 3 = Friday, April 29

**Assignment Schedule**
All assignments will be announced via announcements and emails.

**Discussion Forum Schedule (Deadlines)**
DF-1 = Friday, January 14
DF-2 = Friday, January 21
DF-3 = Friday, January 28
DF-4 = Friday, February 4
DF-5 = Friday, February 11
DF-6 = Friday, February 18
DF-7 = Friday, February 25
DF-8 = Friday, March 18
DF-9 = Friday, March 25
DF-10 = Friday, April 1

**VIII. COURSE OUTLINE**

**NOTE:** This schedule and test dates are flexible and are subject to change.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Will meet SLO #1) Review of the Major Sociological Frameworks</td>
<td>Handout &amp; Any Intro Text</td>
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<td>Functionalism</td>
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<td>Conflict</td>
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<td>Symbolic Interactionism</td>
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<td>Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativity</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<td>The Writing Process</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Will meet SLO # 5) Defining Family?</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods and Techniques in Family Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benokraitis-pg.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theories on the Family</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<td>Family Life Course Theory</td>
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<td>Life-Span Developmental Theory</td>
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<td>Social Learning Theory</td>
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<td>Social Exchange Theory</td>
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<td>Social Conflict Theory</td>
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<td>Feminist Theory</td>
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<td>Symbolic Interactionism</td>
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<td>Family Systems Theory</td>
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<td>Ecological Theory</td>
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<td>Commonality in Functions of the Family</td>
<td>Handout</td>
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<td>Procreation</td>
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<td>Socialization</td>
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<td>Division of Labor</td>
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<td>Regulation of Sexual Behavior</td>
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<td>Care and Economic Provision for Family Members</td>
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<td>Affective and Emotional Needs</td>
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<td>Status-Giving Qualities of Families</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Will meet SLO # 4) Global Families</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity and Continuity</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Importance of Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pressing Issues for the World’s Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Research Methodology</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of Comparative Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issues in Comparative Research Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The History of the Euro-Western Family</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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</table>
The Family Origin and Universality  

Chapter 4

Week 5
Patterns of Kinship and Residence  
Chapter 5
Basic Kinship Affiliation
Types of Families
Rules of Descent and Authority
Types of Postmarital Residence
Cousin Relationships

Week 6
Marital Structure  
Chapter 6
Polygyny
Polyandry
Cenogamy

Week 7
Religious Utopias and Family Structure  
Chapter 7
Shaker Celibacy
Oneidan Cenogamy
Mormon Polygamy
Hutterite Monogamy

Week 8
Mate Selection and Marriage  
Chapter 8
Mate Selection Procedures
Wedding Customs
Marital Adjustment

Week 9
Mid-Term Semester Break

Week 10
Parenting Practices Worldwide  
Chapter 9

Week 11
International Divorce  
Chapter 10
North America
Europe
Latin America
Asia

Week 12
Diversity in International Aging Families  
Chapter 11

Weeks 13-15
International Family Variation  
Chapters 12-16
Asian and Latino Immigrant Families
Families in the Islamic Middle East
Families in Sub-Saharan Africa
Families in Latin America
Families in Japan
Social Inequality in the Contemporary World
American Indian Families

(Will meet SLO # 2)

(Will meet SLO #s 2 & 3)

(Will meet SLO # 4)
Teaching and Reading Strategies

Class will involve extensive reading, discussions forums, researching information on the Internet, and writing.

IX. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Division of Student Affairs, Services for Students with Disabilities
http://www.uncfsu.edu/studentaffairs/CFPD/cfpdservices.htm  Phone: 910-672-1222. The university continues to be sensitive to the identification of possible barriers to students with disabilities and attempts to make reasonable accommodations for those students. Students with physical disabilities who need assistance in utilizing university services should register with the Center for Personal Development as soon as they are admitted to the university.

Attendance Policy
Fayetteville State University's policy on class attendance will be enforced. Please refer to the Student Handbook.

Dishonesty in Academic Affairs
Acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. Such acts include cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, fabrication of information, and abetting any of the above. Plagiarism in particular presents pitfalls to be avoided: failure to document any words, ideas, or other contributions that do not originate with the author constitutes plagiarism. Widespread use of the World Wide Web (Internet) requires particular attention to proper documentation practices. Individual course syllabi offer additional clarification about requirements for proper documentation. Actions outlined in the Fayetteville State University Student Handbook under Disciplinary System and Procedures will be followed for incidents of academic misconduct. The handbook may be obtained from the Office of Student Affairs located in the Collins Administration Building.

Non-disclosure or misrepresentation on applications and other university records will make students liable for disciplinary action, including possible expulsion from the university. (See University Catalog)

For this course, any student caught in any of such misconduct will face disciplinary action. Specifically, an offender will forfeit all the scores for the particular assignment she/he cheated on.

X. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES


