



The Family

SOC 3705 (CRN: 45726)

Fall 2023: August 28 – December 18, 2023

In Person, Tuesday-Thursday 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM, and Cushwa B281

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Amanda Fehlbaum

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Office: DeBartolo Hall 437

Phone: 330-941-2716 (Office) or 330-406-9490 (Google Voice/Text)

Email: afehlbaum@ysu.edu

Preferred Contact Method: Email

Student Support Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 – 3 PM; Wednesdays from 1 to 4 PM.

I am also willing to meet by appointment (virtual or in person) at other times.

Communication Expectations: I typically respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays. I strive to grade assignments within one week.

Catalog Description

Family and kinship systems as major institutions; their development, functions, and relation to other basic institutions found in different cultures and social strata. Prerequisite: SOC 1500 or ANTH 1500.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the family and familial relationships from a sociological perspective. The family is considered one of the most private and pervasive institutions in society. All of us have had contact with at least one family and many of us will be involved in several different families over the course of our lives.

We will look at families in a variety of ways: as powerful myths and ideals that we often do not live up to; as bounded kinship structures that shape our opportunities, values, and senses of self; as a social institution interrelated with other social institutions (economy, schools, popular culture, etc.); as a key site for gender relations, intense emotional relationships, and socializing children. In addition, we will study how families and family policy are shaped by a variety of social factors or developments such as race and class relations, immigration, economic restructuring, consumer culture, etc.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks:

Cohen, Philip N. 2020. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. 3rd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 9780393537314

Collins, Caitlyn. 2020. *Making Motherhood Work: How Women Manage Careers and Caregiving*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691202402

Digital versions of these texts are acceptable.

Students are required to have access to [Blackboard](#) for weekly quizzes and some reading assignments. These are the [computer lab locations](#) on campus

If the university shifts to a fully online modality, the course will take place as “online-live” over Zoom videoconferencing. In that case, a webcam, microphone, and speakers will be required, whether as separate devices or as integrated into a computer or smartphone.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Examine the socio-historical development of the family as a social institution, including the changing roles of women, men, and children.
- Understand the complexity of family life and how race, ethnicity, social class, gender, and sexual preference shape family experience.
- Identify and examine sociologically relevant problems and issues within the contemporary family.
- Use critical thinking and writing skills that demonstrate their ability to understand and analyze social phenomena.
- Reflect on their own experience with their families and how they relate to essential concepts, theories, and research used in sociology to analyze the family.

Design of the Course

Readings

Completing the assigned readings for each class is crucial to your success in this course. Exam questions are based, in part, on the assigned readings. By completing the textbook readings in the InQuizitive eBook, you earn 10 points per chapter.¹ There is no InQuizitive for *Making Motherhood Work*.

While you will not be questioned on every reading, the in-class discussions are often based on assigned readings. You are also responsible for knowing the readings for the quizzes. Thus, it is to your advantage to keep up with reading assignments.

¹ InQuizitive is picky about web browsers. If you get a blank page, try changing your web browser.

Quizzes

There will be 13 quizzes in this class, given approximately every week, generally on Thursdays. Quizzes are formatted to include a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc. Quizzes are worth a total of 20 points each. They will generally cover the reading material assigned since the last quiz, as well as questions from the lecture since the last quiz. Information about what will be covered on each quiz is posted on Blackboard. **Quizzes are closed book and closed note.**

Quizzes will be open as soon as class ends on Thursday and you will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes will remain open until 11:59 PM on Friday and you can only take each quiz once.

In the event there is a technological issue during the quiz, I will reset it for you once. You get one full reset due to technological issues per semester. Note: Blackboard does not always cooperate when quizzes are taken using smart phones. You are encouraged to take your quizzes on a computer. After taking the quiz, [you will receive a confirmation number that your submission was successful.](#)

If you have a problem with a quiz question, such as how it was worded or if you think the answers are incorrect or vague, you need to make an appointment or see me during my Student Support Hours to discuss it. I will not address quiz questions or answers during the quiz, over email, or in public.

Quizzes take the place of exams in this course. That is, you will not have a midterm exam or a final exam in the traditional sense.

Syllabus Quiz

In addition to the quizzes given during the course, a quiz worth up to ten points will be given. You have from the first day of class (August 28) to 11:59 PM on September 10 to take the syllabus quiz. The syllabus quiz grade cannot be dropped. For the quiz, you need to be familiar with the general policies, assignments, and expectations of the course.

In-Class Assignments

Several times throughout the semester, you will be asked to complete a participation assignment either during class or as homework. You may also be asked to complete an in-class assignment. These assignments will **not** be announced in advance. In total, these will be worth 50 points.

Final Project

Students are required to tell the story of themselves and their family from a sociological perspective through the medium of a film. You will use some form of digital media construction (e.g., Microsoft Movie Maker, iMovie, etc.) to create a digital movie of no more than 6 minutes in length to introduce you, your family, and how you see them both being tied to social factors

to the class. You will share your digital story with the rest of the class during the time designated for the final exam. Pictures, movie or TV clips, songs, quotes, or anything else that you think can get your point across can be used. More information about this assignment is posted to Blackboard. You must be present during the time your video is shown – NO EXCEPTIONS.²

Family Video Festival Times

Tuesday, December 12, from 3:15 PM to 5:15 PM.

Thursday, December 14, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Papers

You have a choice among four paper assignments. You will sign up in advance to do one of the four assignments using a [SignUp Genius](#) that is set up for this course. The instructions for each paper assignment are posted under the Papers link on Blackboard – press the “view assessment” button. Soon after the SignUp Genius has closed, the paper option you chose will be the only one you’ll see on Blackboard. You will receive an email from SignUp Genius one week before your paper is due as a reminder.

Paper Topic	Due Date
Cultural Differences in Families	9/21
Media Representation of Families	10/17
Imagining Future Families	11/16

Each paper must follow the *Written Assignment Guidelines* posted under the Papers link in Blackboard. Your paper must be four-to-six pages in length (three-and-a-half pages is not four full pages). Each paper is worth 100 points. Your paper must be submitted to the proper Safe Assign link by 11:59 P.M. on the due date.

You do not have to turn in a hard copy of your paper; however, I accept hard copied in addition to – not in lieu of – uploading your assignment to Blackboard. You must upload your paper assignment to Blackboard, regardless of if you turn in a hard copy. I do not accept the hard copy alone. If you are retaking this class to receive a higher/passing grade, you may not submit papers you previously submitted in the course.

Although this course is not a writing class, part of the paper grade includes quality of writing and following directions. It is in your best interest to proofread your papers for proper grammar and spelling as well as follow formatting directions. Neglect to follow formatting directions will also result in deduction of points.

² You will sign up to present your video on one of two dates. If you sign up for that date, you need to be present to watch others’ videos. There are NO EXCEPTIONS and no moving your date after you sign up.

Submitting Papers to the Safe Assign Folder on Blackboard

The reason you must submit papers to the Safe Assign link on Blackboard is so that a plagiarism check can be run on your paper. If you turn in your assignment early and see that you had a high plagiarism rating in the originality report, you may have the opportunity to see what you did and correct the assignment before it is due. You may contact me to clear your original paper so that you can submit an improved paper. Plagiarism, regardless of intention, is taken seriously.³

Please make sure you are submitting to the correct assignment file for the assignment. **If you have problems submitting to the assignment file, you need to e-mail me and let me know well before the assignment is due (e.g., two days, not two minutes).** Assignments should be submitted as .doc, .docx, or .pdf files. Other file types will not be accepted. You are responsible for converting your document, if necessary, into an acceptable format. Unless otherwise noted, **do not just copy and paste the assignment into the text box!**

Blackboard has the option of [uploading from Cloud Storage](#) such as Google Docs and Cloud Drive. Submitting just a link to a Google Doc or OneDrive document – [unless you have uploaded on Blackboard using Cloud Storage](#) - will result in a grade of zero because it does not allow for the plagiarism check to take place.

Please take care to ensure that your assignment properly uploaded to Blackboard.⁴ After you submit your file to the Safe Assign folder, [you will receive a confirmation number that your submission was successful.](#)

You may submit a rough draft of your paper to me via email at least one week before the due date and I will tell you if you are proceeding in the right direction for a good grade.

Extra Credit

Any extra credit opportunities, if available, will be announced. Do not ask me to provide you with extra credit or for things to count as extra credit.

How to Succeed in This Course

I truly want everyone in this class to succeed not only in this course but throughout their college careers. To succeed in this course, I expect students to attend class regularly, engage with the course, complete the assigned readings for each class, participate in class discussion, complete assignments on time, proofread their papers, and not plagiarize.

Levels of engagement can vary from above average to below average and may be reflected in your grade.

³ See section on Academic Integrity

⁴ [This video shows you how to upload an assignment](#)

Above average engagement involves:

- Spirited intellectual engagement with the course readings and the class
- Conscientious and insightful preparation of assignments
- Papers that make and support sophisticated arguments, are well-written and interesting to read, and are free of errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar
- Active and thoughtful participation in class discussion

Average engagement involves:

- Clear demonstration in papers and in class discussion of understanding the sociological concepts we explore
- Papers with clear thesis statements and careful research
- Consistent participation in class discussion

Below average engagement involves:

- Work that shows minimal synthesis of concepts or original analysis
- Infrequent participation in discussion
- Assignments that are incomplete or late
- Papers that are not well-researched or are presented carelessly (not proofread or contain many mechanical errors)

My Student Support Hours (Office Hours) are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 3 PM, Wednesdays from 1 to 4 PM, and by appointment. Please see me if you have any questions concerning the reading material, in-class assignments, quizzes, papers, study strategies, etc. If you are unable to meet me during these hours, but need to be seen, you can e-mail me to make an appointment

How to Get Help

YSU is committed to your success. As a student you have access to several resources that may be instrumental in helping you succeed in this course and others. Please do not hesitate to utilize any of these [free support services](#) to support your academic success, physical and mental health, and help you navigate your time as a YSU student.

One such support service is the [Writing Center](#). They provide writing consultations for any discipline as well as basic computer literacy help.

If you are reading this sentence before the end of the second week of class, send me an email with the subject line “Roar,” and include an image of your favorite dinosaur. I will award you 5 points. Thank you for reading the syllabus.

Attendance Expectations

This course is designed to be interactive. Please come to class prepared to discuss and actively participate. I encourage vibrant and respectful interaction. Discussion should be directed to the entire class. I start instruction promptly and continue to the end of designated class time.

Attendance will be taken during each live class. I understand that you may not be able to attend every class and/or that you may be required to leave a class early. I ask that you please communicate with me via email as soon as possible if you cannot attend a class and/or you have to leave a class early, and together we will make arrangements to ensure you can catch up on any content you missed.

[Youngstown State University's Attendance Policy](#) reads as follows:

The faculty believes that classroom activities are essential to learning. The student is responsible for knowing and meeting all course requirements, including tests, assignments, and class participation, as indicated by the course instructor. The responsibility for work missed during absence rests with the student.

The instructor has no obligation to give make-up graded coursework or to review other class work missed by a student because of absence apart from absences due to participation in university-sponsored events, government-related activities, religious observances, death of a family member, and documented personal illness.

This course follows an informal 'everyone gets two' policy – this means two unexcused absences from class with no penalty starting September 12 (the last day to add a class is September 5).

Thereafter, unexcused absences incur the following penalties:

- 3 absences reduce your highest possible final letter grade to a B
- 4 absences reduce your highest possible final letter grade to a C and you will be referred to academic counseling via the Resch Academic Success Center.

Students who are consistently absent without a university-sanctioned excuse and accompanying documentation need to meet with me to discuss their situation and what steps can be taken to ensure their success in the course. Missing more than 60% of classes and/or non-submission of coursework may result in a Nonattendance F (NAF).

Late Work Submission Policy

Late papers are eligible for credit according to the following schedule: one day past due = 75%, three days past due = 50%, one week past due = 25%. Papers cannot be accepted more than one week past the due date.

Your lowest two quiz grades are dropped from final grade calculations. **Make-up quiz assignments will not be given for any reason.** Quizzes will only be given during the 24-hour window after opening the quiz – not before or after. The dropping of the lowest two quiz grades is designed to accommodate people who experience unavoidable emergencies or conflicts during the semester (including, but not limited to: work, religious holidays or celebrations, doctor's appointments, extracurricular events, etc.). If your schedule requires that

you must frequently miss this 24-hour window, it may be in your best interest to drop this course.

Please Note

Technological difficulties are not considered a valid excuse for tardiness. Please contact me – email, call, text - well before an assignment (paper, quiz, etc.) is due if you are having technical difficulties. I will do my best to work with you to address the situation.

Class Conduct

The American Sociological Association states, [“As sociological scholars and citizens, we have a responsibility to study and speak out regarding all forms of racism and injustice.”](#) I stand in solidarity and support the fight against systemic racism and the oppression of Black folks, Indigenous folks, and other People of Color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and non-binary individuals.

In this class, we will discuss issues that are highly controversial. We all come from different perspectives on these issues. It is likely that we will disagree with one another. I welcome and encourage lively discussion, as that is necessary for true learning to occur. However, disagreements should not come in the form of personal attack. Mutual respect is required to maximize a healthy and fair learning environment. You may disagree with each other’s ideas and the evidence used in the arguments, but you should respect each other as people.

I show several video clips from a variety of sources as part of the course curriculum and to aid your understanding of concepts that are sometimes abstract or hard to understand. If anyone is ever made to feel uncomfortable or feels something is inappropriate, I request that you talk to me about it to see if the issue can be resolved in a way that allows learning to occur on both of our parts.

A positive learning environment involves commitment of both instructor and students in a course. [Reciprocal Responsibilities for Undergraduate Students and Instructors](#) was developed jointly with the Student Government Association and YSU Academic Senate to outline mutual responsibilities in the classroom, and our class will follow these guidelines.

Communication Issues

Email

I can best be reached by e-mail, but my response may not be immediate. Please indicate which course you are in when emailing me for the first time. You also need to always sign your emails at the end (write your name).

Students are expected to check their e-mail for university announcements or information from instructors, though announcements will typically be cross-posted on Blackboard. It is to your benefit to check your e-mail so that you have the most up-to-date information pertaining to this class. If you use an e-mail address other than your YSU account (in other words, it does not end in “@ysu.edu”), I cannot guarantee that I will receive your e-mail.

Emails that address the professor as Miss, Ms., Mrs., or by first name will not receive a response after an initial warning. Please address me as Dr. Fehlbaum, Professor Fehlbaum, or Prof. Fehlbaum.

Phone

I have a phone in my office; however, I cannot always be relied upon to answer it. The number is 330-941-2716. You may call or text my Google Voice number - 330-406-9490. If texting, please identify yourself.

Grading and Grading Scale

Evaluation

A breakdown of the points available in this course is shown below:

Syllabus Quiz	10
Quizzes (13 total, 2 dropped, 20 points each)	220
InQuizitive (12 total, 10 points each)	120
In-Class Assignments (5 total, 10 points each)	50
Paper	100
Video	<u>100</u>
	600 points total

Final Grades

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 540 - 600
- B: 480 - 539
- C: 420 - 479
- D: 360 - 419
- F: 0 – 359

YSU's Grading System can be found [here](#).

Final grades will be based on points, not percentage. **Final grades are non-negotiable.**

Honors Contract Language

Honors students may contract this course for honors credit. Notify me of your interest to discuss options and complete required paperwork. You must submit the project to me by the semester deadline.

University Policies

[University policies](#) can be found online and provide you guidance on your rights as a student in this course. The links below take you directly to a specific policy. Should you have any questions about a policy, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information at the top of the syllabus.

- [Statement of Non-Discrimination from the University](#)
- [Academic Integrity/Honesty](#)
- [Student Accessibility](#)
- [Incomplete Grade Policy](#)
- [Academic Grievances and Complaints](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

As outlined in *The Student Code of Conduct*, all forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Youngstown State University. This includes plagiarism, the unauthorized use of tools or notes in taking tests or completing assignments, fabrication of data or information used for an assignment, working with others without permission from the instructor, and more. A student who is believed to have violated the [academic integrity policy](#) will meet with the instructor to discuss the allegations. The student may accept responsibility for the violation and any sanctions selected by the instructor, or they have the right to ask for a hearing before a hearing panel. The full Academic Integrity policy can be found in Article III. 1. of *The Student Code of Conduct*, while further information on University procedures for alleged academic integrity violations can be found in Article V.

Note: Not adequately citing your sources, such as only listing sources at the end and not citing them within the paper, is a violation of academic integrity. If you do this in a paper or homework, you will receive a zero on your assignment and will be reported for academic dishonesty.

All rules pertaining to plagiarism and academic integrity in general also pertain to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Artificial intelligence (AI) is a new tool - of both striking capacity and severe limitations. Use it at your own risk.

- If you include AI-generated text directly into an assignment, treat it like a quote from any other source. Set it aside from the text with quotation marks or as a block-quote and cite the source parenthetically or in a footnote (see how here: libguides.umn.edu/chatgpt).
- You are responsible for fact checking statements composed by AI language models.
- If you include information or data into an assignment that you found through an AI tool, treat it like information from any other source and include a citation. The citation should also include the prompt to which you asked the AI to respond.
- If you include AI generated materials that the AI copied without attribution from another published source, you - and not AI - will have committed plagiarism.
- You will be held responsible for any errors that derive from AI-generated materials.
- AI will not count toward an assignment's source-minimum (i.e., the number of sources you are required to include in an assignment).
- If you are in doubt as to whether you are using AI language models appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me.

If you are retaking this class to receive a higher/passing grade, you may not submit papers you previously submitted in the course.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence, discrimination, and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: Title IX Coordinator (titleix@ysu.edu), Counseling Services (330-941-3737), YSU Police (330-941-3527), and Rape Crisis & Counseling Center (24-hour crisis line: 330-782-3936). More information can be found at <https://ysu.edu/title-ix/>.

Voluntary/Involuntary Medical Leave or Withdrawal

[Medical leave/withdrawal](#) is available for all students with a documented physical or psychological illness of a serious nature that requires them to leave the university after the last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” without completing their coursework.

University Schedule of Operations

Last Day to Add or Change a Grade Option:	September 5, 2023
Last Day for 100% Refund:	September 10, 2023
Last Day for Withdrawing with a Grade of “W”:	October 29, 2023
No Class (Thanksgiving):	November 22 –24, 2023

Course Schedule

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning. For maximum benefit in this course, complete the readings by the assigned date to prepare for class

TF= *The Family*

B = Reading posted to Blackboard

MMW = *Making Motherhood Work*

Wk	Date	Topic	To Prepare for Class / Paper Due/ Quiz Opens
1	August 29	Introduction to Course	Read the syllabus Sign up for paper
	August 31	Defining the Family	TF: Chapter 1
2	September 5	How We Know What We Know About the Family	B: “One Thousand and Forty-Nine Reasons Why It’s Hard To Know...” B: “When is a Relationship Between Facts is a Causal One?” B: “In The News: When Numbers Mislead”

Wk	Date	Topic	To Prepare for Class / Paper Due/ Quiz Opens
	September 7	The Family in History	TF: Chapter 2 Quiz 1 Due Friday Paper Assignment Sign-Up DUE
3	September 12	Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration	TF: Chapter 3 Syllabus Quiz DUE
	September 14	Crossing Race and Citizenship	B: "Interracial Families in Post-Civil Rights America" B: "'Between a Rock and a Hard Place'" Quiz 2 Due Friday
4	September 19	Socioeconomic Class	TF: Chapter 4
	September 21	Families Across Economic Divides	B: "The Unique Tensions of Couples Who Marry Across Classes" B: "Student Loans, Families, and the Unequal Transition to Adulthood" Cultural Differences in Families Paper DUE Quiz 3 Due Friday
5	September 26	Gender	TF: Chapter 5
	September 28	Parenting and the Gender Binary	B: "Beyond Sons and Daughters" B: "Trans Kids and their Families" Quiz 4 Due Friday
6	October 3	Sexuality	TF: Chapter 6
	October 5	Lesbian and Gay Families	B: "LGBTQ People Transitioning to Parenthood" B: "How Same Sex Couples Divide Chores..." Quiz 5 Due Friday
7	October 10	Love and Romantic Relationships	TF: Chapter 7
	October 12	Non-Monogamy	B: "Love, Liberty, and Pursuit of Polyamory" B: "The Challenges of Polyamorous Parenting" Quiz 6 Due Friday
8	October 17	Marriage and Cohabitation	TF: Chapter 8 Media Representation of Families Paper DUE
	October 19	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 1 - SOS Quiz 7 Due Friday

Wk	Date	Topic	To Prepare for Class / Paper Due/ Quiz Opens
9	October 24	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 2 – Sweden
	October 26	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 3 – Former East Germany Quiz 8 Due Friday
10	October 31	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 4 – Western Germany
	November 2	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 5 - Italy Quiz 9 Due Friday
11	November 7	NO CLASS	ELECTION DAY!
	November 9	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 6 – The United States Quiz 10 Due Friday
12	November 14	<i>Making Motherhood Work</i>	MMW: Chapter 7 – Politicizing Mothers’ Work-Family Conflict
	November 16	Families and COVID	B: “Family Strategies for Surviving the COVID Pandemic” B: “Gender Inequality in the U.S. during the COVID-19 Pandemic” Imagining Future Families Paper DUE FAMILY VIDEO SCRIPTS DRAFTS DUE Quiz 11 Due Friday
13	November 21	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
	November 23	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
14	November 28	Families and Children	TF: Chapter 9
	November 30	Divorce, Remarriage, and Blended Families	TF: Chapter 10 Quiz 12 Due Friday
15	December 5	Family Violence and Abuse	TF: Chapter 12
	December 7	The Future	TF: Chapter 13 B: “Families: A Great American Institution” Quiz 13 Due Friday
16	December 12	FINALS WEEK	SEE BELOW
	December 14	FINALS WEEK	SEE BELOW

Family Video Festival Times

Tuesday, December 12, from 3:15 PM to 5:15 PM.

Thursday, December 14, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

University Scheduled Final Exam Time: December 12 from 3:15 to 5:15 PM