Sociology 206b

Advanced Topics in Family Studies:

FAMILIES AND ECONOMIC INTER SECTIONS

Brandeis University
Spring 2012
Pearlman 203
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Pearlman 209
Office Hours: Monday 12-2,
& by appointment
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Course Description

This seminar explores the sociology of the family from a specific vantage point -- the intersections of families and the economy. It studies the evolution of American families and the historical processes that have shaped them, especially industrialization, slavery, and global capitalism. With this focus, it asks about the consequences of the emerging class and race stratification for families, and in turn, the ways in which families shape structural change. It investigates alternatives to culturally dominant family forms, in particular the Oneida community in the mid-nineteenth century and early twenty-first century experimentation with post-modern family structures.

The seminar examines several controversies regarding families: Is the family best conceived as an economic unit or a group of individuals with varying experiences and conflicting interests? How do we view the consequences of family transformation from a producing unit to a consuming one? How have families managed to rear children while mothers and fathers engage in "productive" labor over time? How are changes in family structure and the meaning of kinship affected by transformations in the global economy? What is the relationship between the household division of labor and gendered hierarchies in the marketplace? Within these debates the course will consider the alternative theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding the changing character of family life in North America.

This course has a LATTE page: http://latte.brandeis.edu.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend and participate in the weekly seminar (10%). Each student will be responsible for two collaborative presentations on weekly readings (20%) and a 15-20 page paper, related to the themes of the course (70%).

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.
A Note on Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person – be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner – without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student.

Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section 3 of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, and could end in suspension from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, you must ask for clarification.

Required Readings

Dreby, Joanna, Divided by Borders: Mexican Migrants and their Children (California, 2010)
Garey, Anita Ilta and Karen V. Hansen, eds., At the Heart of Work and Family (Rutgers 2011)
Genovese, Eugene, Roll Jordan, Roll (Vintage, 1976)
Hansen, Karen V., Not-So-Nuclear Families (Rutgers, 2005)
Klaw, Spencer, Without Sin: The Life and Death of the Oneida Community (Penguin, 1993)
Lareau, Annette, Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life, Second Edition with an Update a Decade Later (California, 2011)
Nelson, Margaret and Joan Smith, Working Hard and Making Do (California, 1999)
Stacey, Judith, Unhitched (NYU, 2011)
Tilly, Louise and Joan Scott, Women, Work and Family (Holt, Reinhart, & Winston, 1978)

All of the articles marked with an asterisk (*) below can be found on LATTE.

Recommended:
Duffy, Mignon, Making Care Count (Rutgers, 2011)
Garey, Anita Ilta, Weaving Work and Motherhood (Temple, 1999)
Hansen, Karen V. and Anita Ilta Garey, Families in the U.S.: Kinship and Domestic Politics (Temple, 1998)
Stacey, Judith, Brave New Families (California, 1998)
Course Outline

Week 1: January 23 – Defining Families


Recommended:
*Minow, Martha, “Redefining Families: Who’s In and Who’s Out” (Families in the U.S., pp. 7-19)

Week 2: January 30 -- Industrialization and Women’s Work

Tilly, Louise and Joan Scott, Women, Work, and the Family

Recommended:
Shorter, Edward, The Making of the Modern Family
D’Emilio, John and Estelle Freedman, Intimate Matters

Week 3: February 6 – Envisioning an Alternative Family-Economy Axis

Klaw, Spencer, Without Sin

Recommended:
Stack, Carol, All Our Kin

Week 4: February 13 – Black Families in a Slave Economy

Genovese, Eugene, Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made
*Sudharkasa, Niara, “Interpreting the African Heritage in Afro-American Family Organization” (Families in the U.S., pp. 91-104)
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**Recommended:**  
Jones, Jacqueline, *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow*  
Gutman, Herbert, *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*

**Week 5:** February 20 – No University Exercises – Winter Recess

**Week 6:** February 27 – Making and Unmaking “Modern Family” Dilemmas

Hochschild, Arlie with Anne Machung, *The Second Shift*  
Garey and Harsen, *At the Heart* (selections)

*Paper Prospectus due*

Recommended: Public Lecture February 29 @ Radcliffe Institute: *Pei-Chia Lan* on her fieldwork about Taiwanese childrearing

**Week 7:** March 5 – Class and Structures of Opportunity

Nelson, Margaret and Joan Smith, *Working Hard and Making Do*

*****Guest Speaker: Margaret Nelson, Middlebury College***

**Week 8:** March 12 – On Fatherhood

Townsend, Nicholas, *The Package Deal*

*****Guest Speaker: Nicholas Townsend, Brown University (invited)***

**Week 9:** March 19 – Constructing Motherhood

*Villalobos, Ana, “Shielding and Antidote Strategies: Mothering that Saves the Child,”*  
*Motherload: “Making it All Better” in Insecure Times*

*****Guest Speaker: Ana Villalobos, Brandeis University***
*Paper Outline and Preliminary Bibliography DUE*

**Week 10:** March 26 – Childrearing and the Reproduction of Class and Race

Lareau, Annette, *Unequal Childhoods*

*TBA – Movie: “35 Up”*

**Recommended:**
- Annie E. Casey Foundation, *KIDS COUNT Data Book*
  [http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/)
- Pattillo-McCoy, Mary, *Black Picket Fences: Privilege and Peril Among the Black Middle Class* (Chicago, 1999)
- Zelizer, Viviana, *Pricing the Priceless Child*

**Week 11:** April 2 – Networks and Households

Hansen, Karen V., *Not-So-Nuclear Families*

**Recommended:**
- Komarovsky, Mirra, *Blue Collar Marriage*
- Young, Michael and Peter Willmott, *Family and Kinship in East London*

**Week 12:** April 9 – NO CLASS – Spring Break

**Week 13:** April 16 – On Strategies for Surviving Poverty

Edin, Kathryn and Laura Lein, *Making Ends Meet*

**Week 14:** April 23  Global Capitalism and Transnational Families

Dreby, Joanna, *Divided by Borders*
Kibria, Nazli, “Globalization,” *At the Heart of Work and Family*

**Recommended:**
- *Thai, Hung Cam, At the Heart of Work and Family.*
Week 15: April 30 – Revisiting Experimental Family Forms: The Marriage Debates

Stacey, Judith, *Unhitched*
*Mason, Mary Ann, Marc Goulden, and Nicholas Wolfinger, Do Babies Matter?* (selection)

Recommended:

*Final paper due May 10*