

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Family Sociology
Familjesociologi

**7.5 Higher Education
Credits**
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SO7061
Valid from:	Autumn 2017
Date of approval:	2016-04-26
Department	Department of Sociology
Main field:	Sociology
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

The syllabus is approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology as of April 26 2016.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree, English 6

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
1M16	Family Sociology	7.5

Course content

The course provides an overview of the field of theories and research in family sociology with some additional emphasis on the relationship between family and work and the gender dimensions of family life. Changes in family organization and behavior in Sweden, in an international comparative context, are a particular focus. Course literature consists of theoretical explications as well as recent empirical research. Students are expected to critically examine and evaluate research on the family and to relate it to policy discourse in contemporary Sweden and other wealthy societies.

Learning outcomes

After having completed the course, students will be able to:

- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and be able to apply in concrete situations the fundamental concepts in sociological theories on family organization and behavior, including family formation and dissolution, household organization, relations between intimate partners and/or between generations, and connections between families and their social, economic, political and cultural contexts.
- Know and describe major trends and variations in family organization and behavior in contemporary Western societies
- Compare, synthesize and evaluate different theoretical explanations for variation and change in family organization and behavior in contemporary societies.
- Understand, explain and cite appropriate evidence for sources of change and variation in family organization and behavior in contemporary societies.
- Understand, explain and cite appropriate evidence for consequences of change and variation in family organization and behavior in contemporary societies.
- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and apply in concrete situations dimensions of generation and gender in family organization and behavior

- Understand, describe in theoretical terms and apply in concrete situations the relationships between families and their social, economic, political and cultural contexts.

Education

Teaching is conducted through lectures and student-led discussions of materials from assigned readings and lectures.

Forms of examination

Attendance at the seminars is obligatory. Examination will be in three parts.

* Students will receive questions on the assigned readings before each seminar. All students are expected to participate actively in discussion of each question.

* Student groups will prepare summaries on readings assigned for each class meeting. The literature reviews should be handed in a week after each seminar.

* Each student will write a proposal for research on a topic relevant to the course, approximately 6-7 pages (1,5 spacing) excluding references. Upon writing the proposal, students shall first discuss the choice of topic and design with the course director and get her/his approval.

The assignments will be graded as Pass with distinction, Pass or Fail on each of the following dimensions:

- Choice of and arguing for research question for the proposal as well as the design
- understanding of and ability to describe in theoretical terms fundamental concepts in family sociology that are relevant to the research question
- description of major trends and/or variations in the phenomena to be studied
- comparison, synthetization and evaluation of different theoretical approaches to the research question posed
- understanding of the social, economic, political and cultural contexts of family life relevant for the research proposal
- ability to convey the topic of the research question in a lucid, accurate and structured way
- participation in teaching as well as the quality of the literature reviews.

The student's achievements are evaluated according to the following criterion-referenced assessment: A = Excellent, B = Very good, C = Good, D = Satisfactory, E = Sufficient, Fx = Not sufficient, F = Fail.

To receive grade A the judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 6 of the 7 dimensions.

To receive grade B the judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 5 of the 7 dimensions.

To receive grade C judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 3 of the 7 dimensions.

To receive grade D judgement Pass with distinction is needed for at least 2 of the 7 dimensions.

To receive grade E judgement Pass is needed for all dimensions.

If one of the dimensions receives a judgement of Fail, grade Fx is given.

If more than one dimension receives a judgement of Fail, grade F is given.

Students with grade Fx or F at an exam are entitled to take another exam as long as the course is provided in order to achieve grade E at least. A student with E is not entitled to another examination to raise his/her degree.

Students who received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner can request to be evaluated by another examiner on the next occasion. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Plagiarism, cheating and unauthorized collaboration (collusion)

As a student, you are responsible for knowing the regulations in relation to examinations and similar situations. Extensive information is available at the website of the Department of Sociology as well as the Stockholm University website (www.su.se/rules). Teachers are obliged to report suspected cheating or plagiarism. If suspicions can be confirmed it will be brought before the Disciplinary Committee and may lead to suspension. Example of plagiarism is to copy a text or sentences, word by word or close to, without referring to the source. This applies also to text of your own previous writing. Cheating includes bringing unauthorized aids to a sit-in exam, such as mobile phones. To form study groups together with fellow students is enriching and time saving, but when it comes to examinations you need to be meticulous about working independently (if not otherwise instructed) to avoid collusion.

Interim

Students can request to have examination according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it has stopped to be valid. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

Limitations

No admission to the course is possible for anyone who has passed the course SO7060 Family Sociology 7.5

credits.

Required reading

General literature

Lesthaeghe, Ron. 1995. The second demographic transition in Western countries: An interpretation. In K. Oppenheim Jason, & A.-M. Jensen (Eds.), *Gender and family change in industrialized countries* (pp. 17-62). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

www.researchgate.net/publication/257928736_THE_SECOND_DEMOGRAPHIC_TRANSITION_IN_WESTERN_COUNTRIES_AN_INTERPRETATION/file/504635263bf4e336b3.pdf

Parsons, Talcott. 1943. "The kinship system of the contemporary United States." *American Anthropologist* 45(1): 22-38. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1525/aa.1943.45.1.02a00030/full>

Reher, David Sven. 1998. "Family ties in Europe: persistent contrasts." *Population and Development Review* 24(2): 203-234. http://www.collective-action.info/sites/default/files/webmaster/_JIW_LIT_Reher_Family-Ties-in-Western-Europe-Persistent-Contrasts.pdf

Theories of the family

Chambers, Deborah (2012) *A Sociology of Family Life: Change and Diversity in Intimate Relations*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press. Pp. 1-93.

Partnerships

Andersson, Gunnar, Turid Noack, Ane Seierstad, Harald Weedon-Fekjaer 2006. "The demographics of same-sex marriages in Norway and Sweden." *Demography*, 43:79-98.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1353/dem.2006.0001#page-1>

Cherlin, Andrew. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(4):848-861. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.0022-2445.2004.00058.x/abstract>

Goode, William J. 1959. "The theoretical importance of love." *American Sociological Review* 24(1): 38-47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2089581>

Härkönen, Juho. Forthcoming. "Divorce: Trends, patterns, causes, consequences." In Treas, Judith K., Scott, Jacqueline & Richard, Martin (eds.) *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Families*.

Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. http://www.suda.se/SRRD/SRRD_2013_7.pdf

Noack, Turid, Bernhardt, Eva & Aarskaug Wiik, Kenneth. 2013. "Cohabitation or marriage? Contemporary living arrangements in the West." Pp. 16-30 in Abela, Angela & Walker, Janet (eds.) *Contemporary Issues in Family Studies: Global Perspectives on Partnerships, Parenting and Support in a Changing World*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons. Book chapter accessible through SUB e-library

Relations between generations

Bengtson, V L. (1975) Generation and family effects in value socialization. *American Sociological Review*, 40, 3, pp 358-371. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2094463?origin=crossref>

Lundholm, E., Malmberg, G. (2009) Between elderly parents and grandchildren – Geographic proximity and trend in four-generation families. *Population Ageing*, 2, pp121-137.

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12062-010-9022-4#page-1>

Ganong, L., Coleman, M. (2006) Patterns of exchange and intergenerational responsibilities after divorce and remarriage. *Journal of Ageing studies*, 20, pp 265-278.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0890406506000089>

Daatland, S O., Herlofson, K., Lima, I A. (2011) Balancing generations: on the strength and character of family norms in the West and East of Europe. *Ageing & Society* 31, pp 1159-1179.

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/login.jsessionid=914065C1362C4825DBA1576CD8E76617.journals>

Kalmijn, M., Saraceno, C. (2009) A comparative perspective on intergenerational support. *European Societies*, 10,3, pp.479-508.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14616690701744364#.Uycty4Ua7WY>

Divisions of labour

Evertsson, M. & Neramo, M. (2007). "Changing resources and the division of housework: A longitudinal study of Swedish couples", *European Sociological Review*, 23, 455-470.

<http://esr.oxfordjournals.org/content/23/4/455.full.pdf+html>

Hook, J. L. (2006). "Care in context: Men's unpaid work in 20 countries, 1965-2003", *American Sociological Review*, 71, 639-660. <http://asr.sagepub.com/content/71/4/639.full.pdf+html>

Lewis, J., Campbell, M. & Huerta, C. (2008). "Patterns of paid and unpaid work in Western Europe: gender, commodification, preferences and the implications for policy", *Journal of European Social Policy*, 18, 21-37.

<http://esp.sagepub.com/content/18/1/21.full.pdf+html>

McBride Murry, V., Satterwhite Mayberry, L. & Berkel, C. (2013). "Gender and family relations", Chapter 18 in G. W. Peterson & K. R. Bush (eds.), *Handbook of Marriage and the Family*. Springer US. Book chapter accessible through library http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-3987-5_18

Van der Lippe, T. & van Dijk, L. (2002). "Comparative research on women's employment", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 28, 221-41. <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.soc.28.110601.140833>

Families and inequalities

Kalmijn, Matthijs. 1998. "Intermarriage and homogamy: Causes, patterns, trends." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 395-421. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/223487>

Lawick, Justine van. 2013. "Couple and family

dynamics and escalations in violence.” Pp. 74-86 in Abela, Angela & Walker, Janet (eds.) *Contemporary Issues in Family Studies: Global Perspectives on Partnerships, Parenting and Support in a Changing World*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons. Book chapter accessible through SUB e-library

McLanahan, Sara & Percheski, Christine. 2008. “Family structure and the reproduction of inequalities.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 257-276. <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.soc.34.040507.134549>

Vogler, Carolyn. 1998. “Money in the household: some underlying issues of power.” *The Sociological Review* 46(4): 687-713. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-954X.00136/pdf>

The state and the family

Mätzke, M & Ostner, I. 2010. “Introduction: change and continuity in recent family policies.” *Journal of European Social Policy* 20 (5):387-98. <http://esp.sagepub.com/content/20/5/387.short>

Perelli-Harris, Brienna & Sánchez-Gassen, Nora. 2012. ”How similar are cohabitation and marriage? Legal approaches to cohabitation in Western Europe”. *Population and Development Review* 38(3): 435-467. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2012.00511.x/abstract>

Thévenon, Olivier. 2011. “Family policies in OECD countries: a comparative analysis.” *Population and Development Review* 37(1): 57-87. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2011.00390.x/abstract>

Willekens, Harry. 2003. “Is contemporary Western family law historically unique?” *Journal of Family History* 28(1): 70-107. <http://jfh.sagepub.com/content/28/1/70.full.pdf+html>