



# SOC 335 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SPRING 2025

Class time: Tuesday, Thursday 2.30 – 3.45pm  
Location: Room 130  
Name of Faculty: Professor Mari Plikuhn  
Contact details: plikuhn@evansville.edu

Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 5.00 – 5.30pm  
and by appointment in the Visiting Faculty Office

## Course Description

### **SOCIOLOGY 335: Marriage and Family (3)**

Designed to give an in-depth look at changing courtship, marital, and family patterns in America over the course of the last century. Studies the history and importance of the family as a social institution, and the different forms and configurations of the family found in modern America.

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and Sociology 105 or permission of instructor.

*This course also serves as a core elective for the Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and the Social and Human Services minors.*

## Credit Hour Policy Statement

This course meets the federal requirements of 15 in-class hours plus an expected 30 hours of out-of-class work per credit hour. You are expected to attend each scheduled course period for the entire assigned time; class begins on time and I do not let class out early. However, the time you spend in class is only a portion on your expected time commitment. For every hour you spend in class, it is expected that you will spend two hours outside of class in preparing for or critically examining the course material and content. This includes: readings, working on assignments, and preparing for quizzes and exams. This expectation of time is the standard for all 3-credit courses at the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College). Please consider this time commitment when budgeting your time across the semester.

## General Education Objective

This course does not meet University of Evansville General Education requirements.

## Learning Objectives and Goals

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) describe changing courtship, marital, and family patterns in American over the course of the last century
- 2) compare the different forms and configurations of the family found in modern America
- 3) critically evaluate current research on family topics.

## Further Information about the Course

Class Discussion: Sociology is a discipline covering many interesting topics that can often lead to lively discussion. You do not always have to agree, but please remember to be courteous and respectful of other students and other ideas and opinions. Disrespect will not be tolerated; those unable to remain respectful will be asked to leave the discussion and will be considered absent for that class period.

Electronic Devices: Please make sure to turn off and leave in your bag all cell phones, smart phones, Bluetooth, and all other electronic or noise-making devices before entering class. They are disruptive to your fellow classmates. If your cell phone rings during class, you will be counted absent during that class period and will not receive attendance credit. Also, please refrain from bringing tablets or laptops to class.



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## Schedule of topics

Date	Chapter Assignment	Due
T 14 Jan	Welcome to SOC 335! <i>Why We Study Relationships and Families</i>	
H 16 Jan		
T 21 Jan	Never Too Late	
H 23 Jan	And I Went Back: Battered Women's Negotiations of Choice	
T 28 Jan		
H 30 Jan		<b>"AMERICAN HOOKUP" PAPER DUE</b>
T 4 Feb	<b>TEST 1</b>	
H 6 Feb		
T 11 Feb		
H 13 Feb	Cohabitation and Marriage: Complexity and Diversity in Union-Formation Patterns	<b>Reflection Paper 1</b>
T 18 Feb	Research on Marital Satisfaction and Stability in the 2010s: Challenging Conventional Wisdom	<b>GROUP PROJECT CHECK-IN 1 DUE</b>
H 20 Feb		
T 25 Feb	Degrees of Change: An Assessment of the Deinstitutionalization of Marriage Thesis	
H 27 Feb	The Way We Weren't: The Myth & Reality of the "Traditional Family"	
28 Feb-9 Mar	<i>Midterm Break- No Classes</i>	
T 11 Mar	Men Who Do and Men Who Don't	
H 13 Mar		
T 18 Mar		
H 20 Mar	<b>TEST 2</b>	
T 25 Mar	Parenthood and Well-Being: A Decade in Review	<b>GROUP PROJECT CHECK-IN 2 DUE</b>
H 27 Mar		
T 1 Apr	Family Lives of Lesbian and Gay Adults	
H 3 Apr		
T 8 Apr	Nickel-and-Dimed: On Not Getting by in America	<b>Reflection Paper 2</b>
H 10 Apr		
T 15 Apr	Families across the Income Spectrum: A Decade in Review	
H 17 Apr	<b>ETHNOGRAPHY PRESENTATIONS</b>	
T 22 Apr		<b>GROUP PROJECT FINAL PAPERS DUE</b>
H 24 Apr	<b>Final Exam TBD</b>	



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## Teaching Methods

### Key Text:

Wade, Lisa. 2017. *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*. New York: WW Norton. ISBN: 978-0393285093.

Required readings (available on Blackboard)

### Other Class Materials:

1. Handouts where applicable
2. Course management website through the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College)- Blackboard

### Teaching Methods:

Extensive, detailed, interactive lectures and frequent, engaged discussion

## Detailed Information on and Schedule of Assignments and Examinations

Annotated Readings in Perusall: There are 12 sets of readings given in this course to supplement the themes discussed in class. You will be annotating these readings through Perusall. Each readings annotation is worth 10 points and is due by the start of class on its assigned. All due dates are listed in the course outline and late reading annotations will not be accepted. Your two lowest reading check scores will be dropped for your final grade. These reading checks will be worth a total of 100 points, or 13% of your final grade.

Reflection Papers: There are two reflection papers given in this course, each worth 30 points. For each paper, you will be given a detailed handout explaining what is required. Papers are due by the start of class via Blackboard Turnitin. Reflection papers turned in late will lose 5 points for each day they are late (including after the start of class on the due date). These reflection papers are worth a total of 60 points.

Ethnography Paper: You will be given a detailed analysis prompt for the ethnography, *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*, that you will guide your individual ethnography paper. The paper allows you to critically analyze and discuss the information presented in the book. This analysis response must be **no fewer** than 1,200 words, typed, double-spaced, and use 12pt, Times New Roman font. The analysis paper is worth 50 points and is due at the start of class. The due date is listed in the course outline and papers turned in late will lose 10 points for each day they are late (including after the start of class on the due date). This analysis paper is worth 50 points total, or over X% of your final grade.

Group Project- Ethnographies of the American Family: At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to a group based on book preference of one of four ethnographic books depicting challenges facing the changing American family. You will meet with your group outside of class time to discuss the book together, write a group summary and solutions paper, and prepare a 13-15 minute presentation on the book. A more detailed project handout will be given out when groups are assigned. This project is worth 90 points total, or nearly 13% of your final grade.

Examinations: There are three exams given in this course, each of which is worth 100 points. These exams are worth 300 points total. Late exams will be given without penalty ONLY in the event of a documented emergency, in which case, a make-up test will be given. These tests are similar to, although not necessarily identical to, the regular exam. Make-up exams will be scheduled by appointment only for times other than the regular class period. If you miss a test, you will lose 10 points from the test score per day (including the day of the test) that the test is not taken. For example, if you take the test after our class time on the day of the test, you will lose 10 points; the day after the scheduled exam day, you will lose 20 points, etc. If the missed test is not taken before the next test, the missed test will automatically receive a grade of zero. Students with tests receiving a score less than 70% (70 out of 100) will meet with me during office hours or by appointment to discuss ways of improving future test scores.



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## Assessment and Grading Criteria

Reading Annotations – 10 x 10 points each	100 points
Reflection Papers – 2 x 30 points each	60 points
Ethnography Paper – 50 points total	50 points
Group Ethnography Paper/Presentation – 90 points total	90 points
<u>Exams – 3 x 100 points each</u>	<u>300 points</u>
Total Possible Points	600 points

	A	=	600 - 537		
B+	=	536 - 525	B	=	524 - 477
C+	=	476 - 465	C	=	464 - 417
D+	=	416 - 405	D	=	404 - 357
	F	=	356 or less		

## Attendance Policy

Harlaxton College operates a mandatory attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students.

Because of the amount of material covered, it is in your best interest to attend all classes. Much of the material covered in class is not found in the text but will be on the test. Attendance will daily record your presence. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets during a week. This means that for this course, which meets twice a week, students are allowed a **maximum of two unexcused absences** during the semester without attracting penalty points. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty *per absence*.

A sign-in sheet will record your attendance for each class; if you forget to sign in, you will be counted absent for that class. Please make sure that you sign the attendance sheet every class.

Tardiness is unprofessional and disruptive to your fellow classmates. If you are more than 5 minutes late for class, you will be considered absent and not be allowed to sign the attendance, take your reading check, or take your exam. Leaving class early is equally disruptive, so please avoid it.

## Extra Credit, Incompletes, Drop/Add, and Withdrawal Policies

There will be **no** opportunities for extra credit, regardless of your current grade. Please study accordingly to achieve the grade you desire. Incompletes will not be given except under extraordinary circumstances.

There is normally about a 10-day period at the beginning of semester what a student may drop and class and/or add a class. The deadline date is published in the Semester Guidance handbook. Drop/Add forms are available from the library and completed forms should be returned to the same place. Faculty signatures are required for all classes being added.

Students may withdraw from a class, with the exception of British Studies, for a longer period of time. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of the final date to withdraw from the course and still receive a "W" on the transcript. Again the deadline date is published in the Semester Guidance handbook. Forms are available from the College Secretary, to whom completed forms should be returned. Forms must be signed by the faculty member of the class being withdrawn from and the Principal.

**All students must register for, and be continuously enrolled in, 12 credit hours of study to be eligible to study at Harlaxton and remain in the United Kingdom.**



## Disability Policy

It is the policy of the University of Evansville (Harlaxton College) to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. University of Evansville students should contact the Office of Counselling and Health Education to seek help with this. Students from Partner Universities/Colleges should contact their own relevant student support office. For assistance whilst at Harlaxton students should contact the College Secretary whose office is located adjacent to the Principal's office.

Written notification to faculty from the College Secretary is required for academic accommodations to be implemented.

## Honour Code

Academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. This includes: working together on reflection papers, projects, movie Q&A papers, or exams; copying another's work on exams or papers; having another student/person take your exam, write your papers/projects/responses; submitting your work that previously has been submitted for another course; plagiarism (please see the handout on our course Blackboard site "Avoiding Plagiarism" for a more detailed description of defining and avoiding plagiarism); and all other forms of cheating. If you are unsure, ask me first. Per our Academic Policies and Procedures: "Ignorance is not accepted as a valid excuse for a violation of the Academic Honor Code."

Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms; they **cannot** be used for course assignments.

The following actions are prohibited in this course:

- Submitting all or any part of an assignment statement to any online learning support platform;
- Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment;
- Using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for assignments;
- Using AI to summarize or contextualize source materials;
- Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement.

As a condition of taking this course, all papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity and AI content review to Turnitin.com. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database. Any student caught violating the Academic Honor Code in any way will be given a zero on that assignment, reflection, or exam and their actions will be reported to their Advisor(s) and the Dean of Students. If this violation is the first offense reported to the Dean of Students, you may be allowed to informally resolve the incident. If it is the second Honor Code violation reported to the Dean (from any class), your actions will result in a hearing before the Honor Council and may include greater penalties. If it is the third Honor Code violation, you will be expelled from the University. Please be aware: there are several resources on campus for help on assignments, papers, and studying for exams, including coming to office hours and talking to me! Do not fail an assignment or class because you did not utilize these resources. As in all University of Evansville courses, we will abide by, and commit to, the Academic Honor Code.

**I understand that any work which I submit for course credit will imply that I have adhered to this Academic Honor Code: "I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid nor will I tolerate an environment which condones the use of unauthorized aid."**

*For more detailed information, please see the University of Evansville Academic Honour Code at: <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/deanstudents/downloads/honorcode.pdf>*