

SS4588: SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Sociology of Family

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

4588

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course discusses concepts, theories, issues, practices, and policies concerning families in the contemporary context. Specifically, it aims to identify and infer changing trends concerning families in Hong Kong; interpret factors impacting

families; summarize implications for Hong Kong society; criticize the policy responses and devise creative solutions to the problems facing Hong Kong families; and identify and compare trends and features concerning family in selected societies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	identify and review changing trends concerning family;	20	x	x	x
2	interpret factors impacting families;	25	x	x	x
3	summarize implications of families and related concerns society;	20	x	x	x
4	critique policy responses and devise creative solutions to problems facing families; and	25	x	x	x
5	identify and compare trends and features concerning families in selected societies.	10	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Lecture:	Students need to engage in lectures reciting the major concepts and theories concerning families, the factors shaping families, and implications for society. Students need to engage in learning about local and overseas examples that are useful for illustration.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2	LTA2: Class discussion	Every student needs to engage in vibrant group discussions on family topics learned in the class.	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	AT1: Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	10	
2	AT2: Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	50	
3	AT3: Class discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	10	
4	AT4: Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	30	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Presentation

Criterion

Articulation of theory and conclusion coherently

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

2. Paper

Criterion

Articulation of theory, findings, and conclusion coherently

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High: serendipity

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

3. Class discussion

Criterion

Articulation of theory and conclusion coherently

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Assessment Task

4. Quiz

Criterion

Recognition of theory accurately

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Poor

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1. Introduction: Functions of the family; Definitions and patterns of family across cultures; Class and family.

2. Family formation: Marriage and family; Kinship and descent, patterns and modes of mate selection; Family life-cycle.
3. Family in transition: changes and trends in Hong Kong and selected societies; Family diversity.
4. Gender roles and the impact on the family: Power; Feminist challenges; Patriarchy; Gendered division of labor within the home; Parenthood - fatherhood and motherhood.
5. Family in crises: Conflict and violence: Divorce; Remarriage.
6. Contemporary issues: Reproduction; Cross-national and cultural families; Family-work conflict; Care and support; Intimacy and Inter-generational relationship.
7. Family policy: Family support policy; Care regimes.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Ciabattari, Teresa. 2017. Sociology of Families: Change, Continuity, and Diversity. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. (HQ536.C68)
2	White, James M., Todd F. Martin, and Kari Adamsons, 2019. Family theories: An Introduction. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (HQ728.K545)

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Starbuck, Gene H., and Karen Saucier Lundy. 2015. Families in Context: Sociological Perspectives. Boulder, CO: Paradigm. (HQ728.S73)
2	Twamley, Katherine, Humera Iqbal, and Charlotte Faircloth. 2020. Family in the Time of COVID: International Perspectives. London, UK: UCL Press.
3	Willoughby, Brian J. 2021. The Millennial Marriage. Abingdon: UK: Routledge.