Beau Weston **Introduction to Family Life** Crounse 330 (x8789)

Centre College **SOC 203** MWF 10:30 – 12:30 (Hub)

Spring 2017 or by (easily made) appointment

An introduction to marriage, childrearing, and family life in their microsocial and macrosocial aspects.

### Books

David Buss, *The Evolution of Desire* (any edition)

Deborah Tannen, *You Just Don't Understand* (1990)

Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker, *Premarital Sex in America* (2010)

[Isabel V. Sawhill](https://www.amazon.com/Isabel-V.-Sawhill/e/B00IYACFGU/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1473819677&sr=1-1), [*Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage*](https://www.amazon.com/Generation-Unbound-Drifting-Parenthood-Marriage-ebook/dp/B01AFE532U/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1473819677&sr=1-1&keywords=sawhill) (2014)

Elizabeth Marquardt, *Between Two Worlds: The Inner Lives of Children of Divorce* (2005)

Kathryn Edin & Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage* (2005)

Ralph Richardson Banks, *Is Marriage for White People? How the African American Marriage Decline Affects Everyone* (2011)

[Jonathan V. Last](https://www.amazon.com/Jonathan-V.-Last/e/B00A114A9K/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1473819702&sr=1-1), [*What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster*](https://www.amazon.com/What-Expect-When-Ones-Expecting-ebook/dp/B00KK6CBCY/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1473819702&sr=1-1&keywords=last+what+to+expect) (2014)

Naomi Cahn and June Carbone, *Red Families v. Blue Families* (2010)

We will be reading some articles that you can download from Moodle [M]:

Annette Lareau, "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families" 2002 (30)

Catherine Hakim, “Competing Family Models, Competing Social Policies” (10)

Hakim, Preference Theory (Princeton seminar summary) (5)

Robert Beavers and Robert Hampson, “The Beavers Systems Model of Family Functioning” (15)

Katie Moore, “’One Court, One Judge, One Family’ – Family Court” (10)

Gary Gates, “Family Formation and Raising Children Among Same-Sex Couples” (4)

Joshua Gamson, “My New Kentucky Baby” (3)

Mark Regnerus, “How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study” (19)

The following readings will be on Reserve – *not* on Moodle. There are four or five copies of each book. You are welcome to make your own photocopy from the book, or order your own copy of the book.

Frank Sulloway, “Birth Order and Personality" and “Family Niches,” from *Born to Rebel: Birth Order, Family Dynamics, and Creative Lives*.

Arthur Brooks, “Is Happiness a Family Value?” from *Gross National Happiness*

**Work (and grading)**

**Weekly Journal** (35%)

Write a response to what you learned about family life that week. Be as personal as you wish. Due each Saturday by 1pm through Moodle. Each entry can range from 300 - 1000 words. I will respond to each journal. You are invited to continue the dialogue.

Grading scheme:

70 = Explain and respond briefly to a main point from the week

80 = Explain and respond briefly to an apt quotation (not supplied by me) OR

Develop class discussion/main point and give a detailed and thoughtful personal response

90 = Meet both criteria for 80

You may skip *one* Weekly Journal over the term. Please submit to Moodle a notice that you are skipping on purpose. I will give the skip a placeholder grade of 13, which I will remove in the final grading.

*Journal bonus points*: For each journal in which you incorporate something learned in Family Court, add 2 points. Go to Family Court at least once before, and at least once after, Spring Break. To understand Family Court, read Katie Moore, “’One Court, One Judge, One Family’ – Family Court” (10) (available through Moodle)

*Journal deduction points*: Submit a 500-word description of your CASA child before Spring Break, or 20 points will be deducted from your last pre-Spring Break journal. If you choose to skip writing this journal, the deduction will be taken from the next journal that you do submit.

**Genogram and Analysis Paper** (5%)

Construct your family genogram, going back to your grandparents and out to your cousins (at least). Then analyze the patterns you see, from interpersonal relations to the effects of race, class, and gender.

**First Comparison Paper** (10%)

Compare the arguments of any two of the books in the first half of the course – Buss, Tannen, Regnerus and Uecker, and Sawhill. Draw on the readings (not just the main points) to articulate the arguments of each book, and then their contribution to understanding family life. This paper should be at least 1500 words.

**Second Comparison Paper** (10%)

Compare the arguments of any two of the books in the second half of the course – Marquardt, Edin and Kefalas, Banks, Last, and Cahn and Carbone. Draw on the readings (not just the main points) to articulate the arguments of each book, and then their contribution to understanding family life. This paper should be at least 1500 words.

**CASA paper** (15%)

Early in the term, you will be paired with a Court Appointed Special Advocate, a volunteer from the community who represents the Family Court in looking out for the interests of children who come before the court. By the third week you should meet with your CASA to hear the story of his or her appointed child. If possible, you will meet the child, accompany the CASA on a home visit, and, if necessary and practical, go to Family Court with your CASA. For this paper, analyze your CASA’s appointed child’s life, using concepts drawn from the whole course, especially Edin and Kefalas. Make a genogram for the child to use while thinking about your analysis, but do not turn it in. Use a pseudonym for the child and the child’s family. Write a 500-word account of the child by Spring Break, which may be incorporated into the final paper. The final paper should be at least 1800 words.

**Final Examination** (15%)

You will write a comprehensive take-home exam of at least 2500 words, due through Moodle at the scheduled final exam time.

**Participation** (10%)

**About a Normal Class**

We will normally have a main point shown at the beginning of the class, and an active-learning exercise in the middle, on days when we do not have a guest speaker.

#### PART ONE: WHY WE MAKE FAMILIES

2/1 Marriage and family life: general and particular, microsocial and macrosocial [Petrie swearing in]

2/3 Go to the Library Computer Classroom (Crounse basement) for instruction in how to make a genogram. The class will be taught by Ann Goodwin, director of the Parsons Wellness Center.

Read ahead of time “Creating the Family Genogram.” (5) Available through Moodle [M]

*No Weekly Journal this first week.*

2/5 Buss, *The Evolution of Desire*, chs. 1 - 3 (about 75 pages)

2/8 Buss, chs. 4 - 6 (70) [Film clip from “Brain Sex” in class]

2/10 Buss, chs. 7 - 9 (65)

*2/11 Journal due 1pm*

2/13 Tannen, *You Just Don’t Understand*, chs. 1 - 5 (100).

2/15 Tannen chs. 6 & 7 (55) ["He Said, She Said" clip in class]

2/17 Guest Couple: Kristen Asmus Wesley ’17 and Tyler Wesley ‘16 [c]

*2/18 Journal due 1pm.*

*2/19 Genogram and analysis due 5pm. Submit an email link to your genogram. In a separate paper submitted through Moodle, analyze the patterns you see in your genogram. Use what you know about your relatives to discern similarities and patterns of relationship beyond the bare bones of the genogram.*

2/20 Tannen chs. 8 –10 (85)

2/22 Regnerus & Uecker, *Premarital Sex,* chs. 2 & 3 (85)

2/24 Regnerus & Uecker, chs, 4 & 5 (70)

*2/25 Journal due 1pm*

2/27 Regnerus & Uecker, chs. 6 & 7 (65)

3/1 Sawhill, *Generation Unbound*, chs. 1 & 2 (40)

3/3 Guest Couple: Kaelyn and Conrad Wiles, and their sons Warner and Oliver [c]

*3/4 Journal due 1pm*

3/6 Sawhill, chs. 3-5 (65)

3/8 Sawhill, chs. 6 & 7 (45)

3/10 Hakim, “Competing Family Models, Competing Social Policies” (10) [M]

Hakim, Preference Theory (Princeton seminar summary) (5) [M]

*3/11 Journal due 1pm*

3/13 Lareau, "Invisible Inequality" (31) [M]

3/15 Sulloway, *Born to Rebel*, ch. 3 “Birth Order and Personality” (30) [Reserve]

3/17 Sulloway, ch. 4 “Family Niches” (35) [Book on library reserve]

*3/18 Journal due 1pm*

*3/19 First Comparison Paper due 5pm.*

SPRING BREAK

### PART TWO: WHY OUR FAMILIES ARE DIFFERENT

3/27 Guest Couple: Susan and Beau Weston [c]

3/29 Beavers & Hampson,"The Beavers Systems Model of Family Functioning"

3/31 Gates, “Family Formation and Raising Children Among Same-Sex Couples” (4)

Gamson, “My New Kentucky Baby” (3)

Regnerus, “How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study” (19)

*4/1 Journal due 1pm.*

4/3 Marquardt, *Between Two Worlds*, Introduction, chs. 1 – 4 (75)

4/5 Marquardt, chs. 5, 6, & 8 (75)

4/7 Marquardt, Conclusion (10)

Gottman’s Seven Principles Presentation (32 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwkAYra0Wc8>

Not Gottman, but therapist Daniel Peeks summarizing several Gottman studies

[In-class video: Gottman’s Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (5:15) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQOgAgfDm_8>]

*4/8 Journal due 1pm*

4/10 Edin & Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep*, Introduction & chs. 1 & 3 (70)

4/12 Edin & Kefalas, chs. 4 (40)

4/14 Edin & Kefalas, chs. Conclusion (30)

*4/15 Journal due 1pm*

4/17 Banks, *Is Marriage for White People?* chs. 1, 3 – 5 (70)

4/19 Banks, *Is Marriage for White People?* chs. 6-8 (50)

4/21 Banks, *Is Marriage for White People?* chs. 9-11 (50)

*4/22 Journal due 1pm*

4/24 Last, *What to Expect When No One’s Expecting*, Introduction and chs, 1-3 (70)

4/26 Last, *What to Expect When No One’s Expecting,* chs, 4-6 (50)

4/28 Last, *What to Expect When No One’s Expecting*, chs, 7-9 (50)

*4/29 Journal due 1pm*

*4/30 CASA paper* ***due*** *5pm.*

5/1 Cahn and Carbone, *Red Families v. Blue Families*, Introduction & chs. 1 & 2 (50)

5/3 Cahn and Carbone, chs. 3- 5 (45)

5/5 Cahn and Carbone,chs. 10 & 11 (45)

*5/6 Journal due 1pm*

5/8 Brooks, “Is Happiness a Family Value?” from *Gross National Happiness* [Book on library reserve] (25)

*5/9 Second Comparison Paper due 5pm.*

*No Journal due this week*

5/15 FINAL EXAM Take-home exam due 10 a.m. Showing of some interesting videos at 10, with Wilma Brown’s cookies.