Course Co-ordinator: Lena Rodriguez
Room: W314 Callaghan Campus
Ph: 49215094
Fax: 49216933
Email: Lena.Rodriguez@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Will be advised in first week of classes.

Semester: Semester 2 - 2007
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture, Tutorial

Brief Course Description
Provides an introduction to the sociological study of the political and cultural aspects of Australian families. It focuses on the diversity of family patterns, setting the discussion of the social construction of families against a background of their historical and socio-economic features. Other emphases are family in the context of gender; the family and early childhood; families in multicultural Australia, Aboriginal families; families, social policies and the state.

This course may count towards a major in Australia-Asia Pacific Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, or Societies and Cultures in the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Science. It contributes to studies in Human Society and Its Environment in the Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Tutorial for 1 Hour per Week for 13 Weeks

Learning Materials/Texts
Book of Readings can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop and must be brought to EVERY tutorial for discussion in class.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 2 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 13th June 2007
Course Objectives
Upon the completion of this course, students will be expected to demonstrate:
1. An understanding of a sociological approach to Australian families.
2. Ability to analyze and deal critically with different viewpoints on the family in Australia today.
3. Ability to understand the complexity and diversity of family life in Australia today.
4. Skills in writing an academic essay, in reading critically, and in doing research, appropriate to advanced undergraduate level.

Course Content
* Researching the family in Australia
* Sociological theories of the family
* Childhood and paradigms of socialisation
* Gender and the family in Australia
* Nuclear family, kinship and voluntary community as modes of the family
* Families in multicultural Australia and Aboriginal families
* Families, social policy and the nation state
* Family types, sexualities and the construction of gender

Week 1: Introduction & Welcome to the Course
No tutorial

Week 2: The Family in the Media
Introductory Tutorial:
No reading

Consider the following questions:
- How do you define the term family?
- What factors have shaped your definition?
- How is the ‘ideal’ family defined?
- What issues regarding the family are currently being discussed in the media?
- What is your opinion on these issues?

Week 3: Australian Family Trends

Consider the following questions:
- What factors do you think contribute to the declining birth rate?
- Do you think increasing the birth rate is the answer to Australia’s ‘population crisis’?
- Summers argues that 28 percent of women will not have children. How do you predict this will effect the institution of the family?
- Raise any questions regarding your essays.

Week 4: Marriage : Happily ever after...?

Consider the following questions:
- How do single parent families form?
- What are the positive consequences of single parent families and blended or step-families?
• When single parent families and blended families form, relationships with the extended family network may change. What are the implications of these changes for grandparents and grandchildren?
• How did representations of sex, romance and marriage change in the Australian Women’s Weekly?

**Week 5: Distribution of Paid and Unpaid Work**

Consider the following questions:
• How do family obligations influence the work people are willing and able to accept?
• Why do husbands and children do so little housework even when wives/mothers work full time for pay?
• What domestic tasks are stereotypically considered male and female roles?
• Does your own experience or those you have witnessed conform or challenge the stereotypes?

**Week 6: The Family in the Economy**

Consider the following questions:
• What pressures have economic reform placed on the family?
• How do experiences and attitudes differ on the basis of: a) class b) generation/age c) gender

**Week 7: The Family and the State**

Consider the following questions:
• Is it possible to define the family for the purposes of family policy?
• What implications does the high frequency of divorce hold for family policy?
• Is it feasible for the state to support any family form?
• What other methods might be considered to increase the effectiveness of intervention into domestic violence and child abuse and neglect?

**Week 8: Domestic Violence**
Sarantakos, S. Modern Families: An Australian Text, Melbourne, Macmillan.

Consider the following questions:
• What are the features of domestic violence?
• How do different theories explain the causes of domestic violence?

**Week 9: Aboriginal Families**

Consider the following questions:
• What were the features of the gendered division of labour, knowledge and ceremonies?
• How were children socialised and given spiritual links to land?
Week 10: Aboriginal Families: Contemporary Issues

Consider the following questions:

- What was the historical context of Warren Braedon’s removal?
- How was racism a feature of Warren’s life?
- What problem did Warren’s adoptive parents identify with their anti-racist approach as a white couple raising an Aboriginal child?

Week 11: Multicultural Families

Consider the following questions:

- How was the Bahrain-Gillespie custody dispute part of a broader dispute on cultural values?
- How did media representations differ in Australia and Malaysia?
- What are the reasons for intermarriage?
- What are the outcomes of intermarriage?

Week 12: Gay and Lesbian Families

Consider the following questions:

- What legal problems do Lesbian mothers face?
- How do some lesbian mothers negotiate the issue of fathers/male role models?
- How is the ‘dual-mother identity’ constituted?

Week 13: The Future of the Family...

Consider the following questions:

- What do you think is the future of the family?
- Has your opinion changed since beginning the course?

Course Assessment

1. Students will give a 10 minute group presentation chosen from one of the tutorial questions. The chosen questions will be considered using the tutorial reading and at least one additional reading. Marks will be given for both content and presentation. There is NO written submission for this assessment. Further details of this component will be described by your tutor. It is worth 20% of your total marks.
2. Minor Essay due mid-semester – 1,500 words worth 30%
3. Major Essay due end of semester - 2,500 words worth 50%

Please attach a school cover sheet to your assignment.
All essays are to use the Harvard referencing system.

Readings and references for both essays are available in short loans at the Ourimbah campus library. Please use these references first before sourcing other relevant material.
Minor Essay 1,500 words worth 30%
Provide a critical review of media articles concerning one of the following issues/debates:
- the role of the family in the nations population debate
- access of ‘non-traditional’ families to reproductive technology such as IVF
- paid maternity leave
- marriage & divorce
- immigrant families
- domestic violence
- choose your own topic in consultation with your tutor

In your answer consider:
- the varying perspectives in the debate
- the level of public support for these perspectives
- the different groups or individuals commenting on the debate
- the ‘authority’ of these groups or individuals to speak
Include your articles in an appendix.

Major Essay 2,500 words worth 50%
Choose ONE of the following questions
1. Consider the participation of men and women in paid and unpaid labour. Is the family still a patriarchal institution?
2. Many different types of families are recognised today. What is the future of the ‘nuclear’ family?
3. Racism is a feature in the lives of many Aboriginal people and Non-English Speaking Background Migrants. What are the effects of racism on families?
4. The state contributes the definition of what constitutes a family. What are the ramifications for families outside these ‘norms’?

Assessment Items

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<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Major Essay due end of semester - 2,500 words worth 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Tutorial participation and attendance worth 10% and based upon evidence of completion of assigned reading tasks, informed conversation on weekly topics, ability to present opinions relevant to critical analysis of the reading set for each week. 500 words equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations - Tutorial</td>
<td>Tutorial presentation due throughout semester and worth 20%</td>
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Assumed Knowledge

40 units of study at 1000 level

Ourimbah Timetable

SOC3165
AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES: SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science Semester 2 - 2007
Lectures  Wednesday  10:00 - 11:00  [O_LT2]  Commencing Week 2
Tutorials  Wednesday  11:00 - 12:00  [O_CS1.03]  Commencing Week 2
or  Wednesday  12:00 - 13:00  [O_CS2.06]  Commencing Week 2
or  Wednesday  14:00 - 15:00  [O_CS2.06]  Commencing Week 2
Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

### Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

- For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007
- For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007
- For Trimester 1 courses: 16 February 2007
- For Trimester 2 courses: 8 June 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html
Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The Student Hubs are located at:

**Ourimbah campus**

- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty website**

Faculty of Education and Arts

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Contact details**

**Ourimbah**

Phone: 02 4348 4030 or 02 43494934

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**The Dean of Students**

Resolution Precinct

Phone: 02 4921 5806

Fax: 02 4921 7151

Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**

Phone: 02 4348 4123

Fax: 02 4348 4145

Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:


**Alteration of this Course Outline**

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**


**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability
Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

**Online Tutorial Registration:**
Students are required to register in the Seminar or Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:
β  http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

**Studentmail and Blackboard:** www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard copy submission:**
β  **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
β  **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
β  **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
β  **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
β  **University Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at:
β  **By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at Student Hub located at:**
  o  Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah
β  **Date-stamping assignments:** All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be addressed to the relevant School. If the course is listed with the Hub then replace "relevant School" with "Relevant Hub". Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
β  **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
Keep a copy of all assignments: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:
- Minor essay 1,500 words due mid semester
- Major essay 2,500 words due end semester

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

Special Circumstances
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is
alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:

 Infoskills:  

**Student Representatives**

Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

**Student Communication**

Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

**Essential Online Information for Students**

Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:

 Infoskills:  

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<th>Grading guide</th>
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<th>Credit (C)</th>
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<th>High Distinction (HD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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<td>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</td>
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<td>Marriage: Happily Ever After ...?</td>
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<td>Distribution of Paid and Unpaid Work</td>
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<td>September 3</td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Families</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Aboriginal Families: Contemporary Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Multicultural Families&lt;br&gt;<strong>ASSESSMENT ITEM:</strong> Minor essay 1,500 words due Friday of week 11 at 6pm.</td>
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**Mid-Semester Recess:** Monday 1 October to Friday 12 October 2007

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<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Gay and Lesbian Families</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>The Future of the Family</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>NO FORMAL TUTORIAL PREPARATION TIME FOR&lt;br&gt;<strong>ASSESSMENT ITEM:</strong> Major essay 2,500 words due&lt;br&gt;Friday of Week 14 AT 6pm</td>
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**Examination period:** Monday 5 November to Friday 23 November 2007