Fall 2019  
Time: Tuesdays, 9:00am to 11:50am  
Location: 26 Stubbs Hall  

Instructor: Rhiannon Kroeger, PhD  
Office: Stubbs 108  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00pm to 1:20pm; Thursdays 10:40am to 1:20pm  
Email: rkroeger@lsu.edu  

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION  
This graduate seminar will introduce students to research on family and health. We’ll approach theoretical linkages between families and health from a sociological perspective and consider empirical research across disciplines on the ways in which families influence physical health, mental health, and health behaviors throughout the life course. In particular, we’ll focus on: (1) the ways in which marriage and cohabitation affect health, along with the substantial heterogeneity in these relationships; (2) the effects of parenthood on health and the implications of intimate unions and stressful life circumstances for health among parents; (3) the influence of prior health conditions on family relationships in adulthood as well as links between family and health in adulthood; and (4) the effects of family structure, family processes, and parent attributes on child health. While this course serves as a robust introduction to family-health research, it is no way exhaustive. Undoubtedly, there will be sub-areas of research on family and health that we will be unable to cover in this semester-long course. Students are encouraged to explore beyond the assigned readings.  

READINGS  
Links to all readings for the course, detailed in the course schedule of this syllabus, will be posted on Moodle. Each week, three to five required readings are assigned. In addition, for some weeks there will be supplemental readings listed for students who want a deeper review of that week’s topic.  

REQUIREMENTS  
Reaction Papers. Starting with the Week 2 readings, after completing each week’s readings, students will submit via Moodle a reaction paper that is 1 to 2 pages in length (single spaced, 12-point font). Submit your reaction papers by Sunday evening of each week. In addition, you should read your classmates’ reaction papers each week prior to our Tuesday class. If there are multiple articles in a week’s readings, please touch on all of them. The purpose of the reaction paper is not to summarize—but to underscore central ideas, key themes, and lay out thoughts for discussion in class.
Class participation. Students are expected to come to class prepared each week and to be active and thoughtful participants during class discussion. Class preparation includes reading your classmates’ reaction papers each week.

Paper. Students will write a course paper (due Dec. 7th at 3pm in Dr. Kroeger’s mailbox) and present a summary of their project on the last day of class (Dec. 3rd). You will each be assigned a peer-reviewer who will provide a brief evaluation of your paper. Authors will email their papers to peer-reviewers on Nov. 12th and peer-reviewers will email their feedback to authors on Nov. 19th (please cc Dr. Kroeger). The paper must incorporate both family and health as key elements. Please double-space your paper, specify 1-inch margins, and use 12-point Times New Roman Font. You may choose from the following two paper options:

Option 1: Research note / research article
Conduct research using quantitative or qualitative data. Write the following sections: introduction, literature review (short or long), data & methods, results, and discussion. Research notes are much shorter than full research articles. Examples of research notes and sources of data on family and health will be posted on Moodle.

Option 2: Critical literature review
Write an integrated and critical review of family-health literature on a focused topic, closing with suggestions for future research.


Method of Evaluation
You will earn your grade in this course through your class attendance and participation (10%), reaction papers (20%), peer review (10%) and your final paper (50%) and presentation (10%). The grades for assignments and final course grade will be based on the below scale. Please note that ‘A+’, which is above a 4.0, is a score that will be reserved for truly exceptional work.

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<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-97.99</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>90-92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>80-82.99</td>
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<td>77-79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>59.99 &amp; below</td>
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**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM POLICY**
Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please see the student code of conduct if you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism (www.law.lsu.edu/academics/codeofstudentconduct/).

**STATEMENT ON DISABILITY**
Any student with a documented disability (via LSU disability services) needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

(*The instructor reserves the right to change the course schedule if necessary.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (Aug 27th): Introduction</th>
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<td>Required Readings:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2 (Sep 3rd): Protective Effects of Marriage and Cohabitation for Adult Health</th>
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<td>Required Readings:</td>
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**Supplemental readings:**

### Week 3 (Sep 10th):

**Heterogeneity in the Marriage-Health Relationship: Marital Quality**

**Required Readings:**


**Supplemental readings:**


### Week 4 (Sep 17th):

**Heterogeneity in the Marriage-Health Relationship: Race, Gender, Class, and Age**

**Required Readings:**


Supplemental Readings:

Week 5 (Sep 24th):

**Heterogeneity in the Marriage-Health Relationship: Same-Sex and Interracial Couples**

*Required Readings:*


*Supplemental Readings:*


Week 6 (Oct 1st):

**Heterogeneity in the Marriage-Health Relationship: Effects on Body Weight**

*Required Readings:*


**Week 7 (Oct 8th):**  
Effects of Parenthood on Adult Health

**Required Readings:**


**Week 8 (Oct 15th):**  
Intimate Unions, Living Arrangements and Health among Parents

**Required Readings:**


Week 9 (Oct 22nd):
Conflicting Demands on Time and Health among Parents

Required Readings:

Week 10 (Oct 29th):
Effects of Prior Health Conditions on Family Life in Adulthood

Required Readings:

Week 11 (Nov 5th):
Effects of Prior Health Conditions on Links between Family and Adult Health

Required Readings:
Week 12 (Nov 12th):
Family Structure and Child Health

Due: Authors email paper drafts to peer reviewers (cc Dr. Kroeger)

**Required Readings:**


Week 13 (Nov 19th):
Family Processes and Child Health

Due: Peer reviewers email paper comments to authors (cc Dr. Kroeger)

**Required Readings:**


Week 14 (Nov 26th):
Parent Attributes and Child Health

**Required Readings:**


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**Week 15 (Dec 3rd):**

**Student Presentations on Final Papers**

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**Dec 7th:**

Final Paper due at 3pm (in Dr. Kroeger's mailbox in 126 Stubbs Hall)
ADDITIONAL FAMILY-HEALTH READINGS


