

Syllabus

Family Demography, Sociology 653, Spring 2019

Philip N. Cohen (pnc@umd.edu)

This course is designed to build knowledge on the key theories, empirical patterns, and contemporary debates in the study of family demography, with lesser attention to methodology. (Some students previously took my seminar Families and Modern Social Theory; those who haven't may find interesting background material in that syllabus: <http://www.terpconnect.umd.edu/~pnc/FMST-syllabus.pdf>.)

Students are expected to read assigned material and write a response paper before the seminar meeting each week, and a summary essay or research report at the end of the semester. In addition, each student will do an origin/impact analysis of one of the assigned readings and make a brief presentation to the class. Evaluation will be based on participation, weekly writings, the presentation, and the final paper.

Policies

Academic integrity. Students must be familiar with the UMD Code of Academic Integrity (<http://president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/documents/policies/III-100A.pdf>). In this course there is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty.

Classroom conduct. Students should not come to class late, as this creates a distraction for those who are participating. If your schedule regularly does not permit you to be in class from beginning to end, do not take the course. Students who need to leave early should sit at the back and leave quietly. Students may not use laptops, tablet computers, or mobile phones in class. If you have a need for keeping your phone handy in class notify the professor in advance for an exception.

Discussion. We will discuss course readings and related material, as well as current events, social issues, and politics. Everyone is free to express personal opinions and disagree with others, including the professor – just raise your hand. All discussion must be polite and respectful, and differences of opinion are tolerated. I will work to ensure the classroom is a safe space for all of use to participate freely. Please let me know if you have any concerns or suggestions for accomplishing this.

Difficult subjects. The content of this course may include topics that are difficult for some people to confront or discuss. As the professor, I cannot anticipate what those topics are, or who will be affected, but I can be sensitive and work with students who let me know of their needs. If there is a topic you are unable to discuss or need to be warned about, please notify me so we can make appropriate arrangements for your work. We will endeavor to be sensitive and considerate. However, we cannot prevent all students from being exposed to topics or ideas that they find objectionable or offensive.

Universal learning

The principle of universal learning means that our classroom and our interactions should be as inclusive as possible. Your success in this class is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Students with particular needs should contact the UMD Disability Support Service (<http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/>), which will forward the necessary information to me. Please do it now instead of waiting till late in the semester.

SCHEDULE

January 28

Theoretical perspectives in demography

Bianchi, Suzanne M. 2014. "A Demographic Perspective on Family Change." *Journal of Family Theory & Review* 6 (1): 35–44. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12029>. (preprint: <http://europepmc.org/backend/ptpmcrender.fcgi?accid=PMC4465124&blobtype=pdf>).

Freese, Jeremy. 2018. "The Arrival of Social Science Genomics." *Contemporary Sociology* 47 (5): 524–36. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094306118792214a> (preprint: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/7qbjr/>).

Sigle, Wendy. 2016. "Why Demography Needs (New) Theories." In *Changing Family Dynamics and Demographic Evolution: The Family Kaleidoscope*, edited by Dimitri Mortelmans, Koenraad Matthijs, Elisabeth Alofs, and Barbara Segaert. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/86429/1/Sigle_Demography%20needs%20theories_2018.pdf.

February 4

Demographic transition

Kirk, D. 1996. "[Demographic Transition Theory](#)." *Population Studies* 50 (3): 361-.

Thornton, Arland. 2001. "[The Developmental Paradigm, Reading History Sideways, and Family Change](#)." *Demography* 38 (4): 449–65. doi:10.2307/3088311

Balbo, Nicoletta, Francesco C. Billari, and Melinda Mills. 2013. "[Fertility in Advanced Societies: A Review of Research](#)." *European Journal of Population* 29 (1): 1–38. doi:10.1007/s10680-012-9277-y.

Feng, Wang. 2011. "[The Future of a Demographic Overachiever: Long-Term Implications of the Demographic Transition in China](#)." *Population and Development Review* 37: 173–90.

February 11

Fertility in poor countries

Bongaarts, John. 2017. "Africa's Unique Fertility Transition." *Population and Development Review* 43 (S1): 39–58. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1728-4457.2016.00164.x>.

Yount, Kathryn M., Sarah Zureick-Brown, Nafisa Halim, and Kayla LaVilla. 2014. "[Fertility Decline, Girls' Well-Being, and Gender Gaps in Children's Well-Being in Poor Countries](#)." *Demography* 51 (2): 535–61. doi:10.1007/s13524-014-0282-0.

Bongaarts, John, and Christophe Z. Guilmoto. 2015. "[How Many More Missing Women? Excess Female Mortality and Prenatal Sex Selection, 1970–2050](#)." *Population and Development Review* 41 (2): 241–69. doi:10.1111/j.1728-4457.2015.00046.x.

Wang Feng, Baochang Gu, and Yong Cai. 2016. "[The End of China's One-Child Policy](#)." *Studies in Family Planning* 47 (1): 83–86. doi:10.1111/j.1728-4465.2016.00052.x.

February 18

Second demographic transition

Geist, Claudia. 2017. "[Marriage Formation in Context: Four Decades in Comparative Perspective](#)." *Social Sciences* 6 (1): 9. doi:10.3390/socsci6010009.

Lesthaeghe, Ron. 2010. "[The Unfolding Story of the Second Demographic Transition](#)." *Population and Development Review* 36 (2): 211-.

Goldscheider, Frances, Eva Bernhardt, and Trude Lappegard. 2015. "[The Gender Revolution: A Framework for Understanding Changing Family and Demographic Behavior](#)." *Population and Development Review* 41 (2): 207-+. doi:10.1111/j.1728-4457.2015.00045.x.

Cohen, Philip N. 2011. "[Homogamy Unmodified](#)." *Journal of Family Theory & Review* 3 (1): 47-51.

February 25

U.S. History

Ruggles, Steven. 2015. "[Patriarchy, Power, and Pay: The Transformation of American Families, 1800-2015](#)." *Demography* 52: 1797-1823. (His [lecture version at PAA](#).)

Bloome, Deirdre, and Christopher Muller. 2015. "Tenancy and African American Marriage in the Postbellum South." *Demography* 52 (5): 1409-30. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-015-0414-1>.

Cherlin, Andrew J. 2004. "[The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage](#)." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66 (4): 848-61.

Cohen, Philip N. 2014. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 2, "History."

March 4

Marriage and social class

Cherlin, Andrew J. 2014. *Labor's Love Lost: The Rise and Fall of the Working-Class Family in America*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Cohen, Philip N. 2014. *The Family: Diversity, Inequality, and Social Change*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. Chapter 8, "Marriage and cohabitation."

March 11

Divorce

Bennett, Neil G. 2017. "[A Reflection on the Changing Dynamics of Union Formation and Dissolution](#)." *Demographic Research* 36 (12): 371-90. doi:10.4054/DemRes.2017.36.12.

Kennedy, Sheela, and Steven Ruggles. 2014. "[Breaking Up Is Hard to Count: The Rise of Divorce in the United States, 1980-2010](#)." *Demography* 51 (2): 587-98. doi:10.1007/s13524-013-0270-9.

Cohen, Philip N. 2014. "[Recession and Divorce in the United States, 2008-2011](#)." *Population Research and Policy Review* 33 (5): 615-28. doi:10.1007/s11113-014-9323-z.

Cohen, Philip N. 2018. "The Coming Divorce Decline." <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/h2sk6>.

March 18

Spring break

March 25

Transition to adulthood

Crosnoe, Robert, and Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson. 2011. "[Research on Adolescence in the Twenty-First Century](#)." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37:439–60.

Dow, Dawn Marie. 2016. "[The Deadly Challenges of Raising African American Boys: Navigating the Controlling Image of the 'Thug'](#)." *Gender & Society* 30 (2): 161–88. doi:10.1177/0891243216629928.

Billari, Francesco C., and Aart C. Liefbroer. 2010. "[Towards a New Pattern of Transition to Adulthood?](#)" *Advances in Life Course Research* 15 (2–3, SI): 59–75. doi:10.1016/j.alcr.2010.10.003.

April 1

Women and families in Asia and Africa

Yeung, Wei-Jun Jean, Sonalde Desai, and Gavin W. Jones. 2018. "Families in Southeast and South Asia." *Annual Review of Sociology* 44 (1): 469–95. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-073117-041124>.

Desai, Sonalde, and Lester Andrist. 2010. "Gender Scripts and Age at Marriage in India." *Demography* 47 (3): 667–87.

Clark, Shelley, Sangeetha Madhavan, Cassandra Cotton, Donatien Beguy, and Caroline Kabiru. 2017. "Who Helps Single Mothers in Nairobi? The Role of Kin Support." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 79 (4): 1186–1204. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12404>.

April 8

U.S. economic conditions and family outcomes

Sweeney, Megan M., and R. Kelly Raley. 2014. "[Race, Ethnicity, and the Changing Context of Childbearing in the United States](#)." *Annual Review of Sociology* 40:539–58.

Currie, Janet, and Hannes Schwandt. 2014. "[Short- and Long-Term Effects of Unemployment on Fertility](#)." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 111 (41): 14734–39. doi:10.1073/pnas.1408975111.

Schneider, Daniel, Kristen Harknett, and Sara McLanahan. 2016. "[Intimate Partner Violence in the Great Recession](#)." *Demography* 53 (2): 471–505. doi:10.1007/s13524-016-0462-1.

April 15

Policy, race, and nonmarital births

England, Paula. 2016. "[Sometimes the Social Becomes Personal: Gender, Class, and Sexualities](#)." *American Sociological Review* 81 (1): 4–28.

Cohen, Philip N. 2015. "[Maternal Age and Infant Mortality for White, Black, and Mexican Mothers in the United States](#)." *Sociological Science* 3 (January): 32–38.

Geronimus, Arline T. 2003. "[Damned If You Do: Culture, Identity, Privilege, and Teenage Childbearing in the United States](#)." *Social Science & Medicine* 57 (5): 881–93.

Cohen, Philip N. Forthcoming. *Enduring Bonds: Families and Modern Inequality*, Chapter: "Marriage promotion [Excerpts]" 24pp. [to be provided]

April 22

More U.S. inequality issues

Brady, David, Ryan M. Finnigan, and Sabine Hübgen. 2017. "Rethinking the Risks of Poverty: A Framework for Analyzing Prevalences and Penalties." *American Journal of Sociology* 123 (3): 740–86. <https://doi.org/10.1086/693678>.

Western, Bruce, and Christopher Wildeman. 2009. "[The Black Family and Mass Incarceration](#)." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 621 (1): 221–242.

Two selections from *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality* (2015) edited by Paul R. Amato, Alan Booth, Susan M. McHale, and Jennifer Van Hook, 3–23. National Symposium on Family Issues 5. Springer International Publishing.

McLanahan, Sara, and Wade Jacobsen. "Diverging Destinies Revisited."

Cohen, Philip N. 2015. "Divergent Responses to Family Inequality."

April 29

Family structure and child wellbeing

Regnerus, Mark. 2012. "[How Different Are the Adult Children of Parents Who Have Same-Sex Relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study](#)." *Social Science Research* 41 (4): 752–70. doi:10.1016/j.ssresearch.2012.03.009.

Rosenfeld, Michael J. 2015. "[Revisiting the Data from the New Family Structure Study: Taking Family Instability into Account](#)." *Sociological Science* 2 (September): 478–501. doi:10.15195/v2.a23.

Cohen, Philip N. Forthcoming. *Enduring Bonds: Families and Modern Inequality*, Chapter: "Marriage equality in social science and the courts." 19pp. [to be provided]

Perkins, Kristin L. 2019. "Changes in Household Composition and Children's Educational Attainment." *Demography*, January. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-018-0757-5>.

May 6

Maternal mortality

MacDorman, Marian F., Eugene Declercq, and Marie E. Thoma. 2017. "Trends in Maternal Mortality by Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Cause of Death in 27 States and the District of Columbia." *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 129 (5): 811–18. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000001968>.

MacDorman, Marian F., Eugene Declercq, and Marie E. Thoma. 2018. "Trends in Texas Maternal Mortality by Maternal Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Cause of Death, 2006-2015." *Birth* 45 (2): 169–77. <https://doi.org/10.1111/birt.12330>.

McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2019. "Why Are Pregnant Black Women Viewed as Incompetent?" *Time*. January 8, 2019. <http://time.com/5494404/tressie-mcmillan-cottom-thick-pregnancy-competent/>.

Molina, Rose L., and Lydia E. Pace. 2017. "A Renewed Focus on Maternal Health in the United States." *New England Journal of Medicine* 377 (18): 1705–7.

<https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp1709473>.

For reference: World Health Organization. 2014. "Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2013. Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, The World Bank and the United Nations Population Division."

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/937281468338969369/pdf/879050PUB0Tren00Box385214B00PUBLIC0.pdf>.

May 13

Immigrant families

Menjívar, Cecilia, Leisy J. Abrego, and Leah C. Schmalzbauer. 2016. *Immigrant Families*. John Wiley & Sons.