

## Global Learning Semesters

### Course Syllabus

Course: SOC-550 Family and Kinship

Department: Social Sciences

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
SOC-550	Family and Kinship	5
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Spring	42	Graduate Standing
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
Social Sciences	Upper Division	English

### Course Description

Definitional approaches to the family, Forms of kinship organization, Descent, Marriage Payments, Arranged Marriages, Open Courtship, Bastardy, Industrialization and the family, The value of a child  
Caring for the Elderly, Childhood as cultural construction, Adoption, Marriage and homosexual companionate relations.

### Instructor

Dr Peter Loizos

### Course Aims and Objectives

This course will familiarize the student with a range of issues in sociological theory relating to: the definitions of the family; the organization of kinship in pre-industrial societies, including patrilineal, matrilineal and bilateral descent systems; the modes of marriage payment which accompany these systems; the importance of post-marital residence as an organizational principle; the concept of a development cycle of household, the range of relationships from informal to formal marriage, to the problem of the relationship between industrialization and the forms of the family; the problem of caring for the elderly in modern late-marriage and low-fertility societies; the special position of children in late modernity; the problem of divorce in industrial societies; adoption; and non-standard [gay and lesbian] forms of companionate relationships. The course will consider functionalist, Marxist, and feminist approaches to family issues.

### Teaching Methods

Interactive lectures; classroom presentations by students of summaries of required readings; films where appropriate; guided discussions.

### Course Teaching Hours

42 hours. The course is delivered during the Spring semester in 14-weeks (3 hours/week).

## Evaluation and Grading

Midterm unseen examination:	50%
Final unseen examination:	50%

## Readings and Resources

### Required Textbook

Cheal, D 2002 Sociology of Family Life.

### Recommended Reading

Robertson, A.F. 1991 Beyond the Family: the social organization of human reproduction