HS2014 The Changing Family *(Subjected to changes)*

**Course Description**
The purpose of this subject is to *see the family through a sociological lens.* What do all families have in common? How do they diverge? Why does the family matter? This class aims to introduce students to the important concepts and tools of analysis concerning this universal social institution called the family. We will also examine the role of new reproductive technologies in shaping the family – raising the specter of made-to-order babies for the very rich, while also opening up new possibilities for non-nuclear families (lesbian and gay parents, surrogate parents, etc.). Finally, capitalism and the nation-state are forces shaping families and family life. Sources will include historical materials, ethnographies, and mass media, both print and film.

**Books**
A coursepack will be available for purchase at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information photocopy service center (SCI 03-17A).

2) Optional readings:
- Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, *Domestica.*
- Kath Weston, *Families We Choose.*
Schedule of Classes

Please note that this schedule may change as the semester progresses. All changes will be announced in class and via edveNTUre.

Week 1. Introduction

✦ Overview of the syllabus

Week 2. The Family: Form and Content

● Stephenie Coontz, 2001. “Historical Perspectives on Family Diversity”

Documentary clip: Ladies of the lake

Week 3. Family Structure and Family Diversity


Documentary clip: Arranged marriages

Week 4. The Changing Family in Asia

Week 5. The Changing Family in Asia


Documentary clip: Berbagi suami [Love for Share]

Week 6. The Changing Family in Western World


Documentary clip: Daddy and Papa

Week 7. Reproductive Technology and The Family


Week 8. The Second Shift
● Arlie Hochschild and Anne Machung, 1989 and 2003. The Second Shift. Penguin. Chapter 1,2,4,5,6,8
● Scott Coltrane, “Changing Patterns of Family Work: Chicano Men and Housework,” in Shifting the Center: Understanding Contemporary Families, Susan J. Ferguson, eds.

* Documentary clip: Chore Wars: The Battle over Who Cleans the Toilet.

Week 9. The Commercialization of Family Services

* Documentary clip: When Mother Comes Home For Christmas.

Week 10. Population Policy and the Family

* Documentary clip: Looking for China Girl.

Week 11. End-of-Semester Review: What Have We Learnt?
● Lecture: review of the course for the final exam; tutorials: term paper consultation

Week 12. Term paper research
Term paper independent research (no lecture or tutorial)

Week 13.
● Term Papers Due
Assessment

1) Class and tutorial participation  
30%

Your participation, especially in tutorial sessions, is one of the very most important parts of this subject. It is here that you will have a real opportunity to tangle with new ideas.

2) Individual term paper  
20%

Length: 1,500 words maximum (excluding tables and references)

This individual term paper requires you to engage in both conceptual frameworks and empirical data.

The key concepts to be explored in the paper are (genetic) risk, kinship and privacy.

The term paper has three parts:
- Literature review – 1,200 words
- Conclusion – 300 words

Guidance: in this individual term paper, the goal is to arrive at a 300-words summary statement that includes the three key concepts (genetic risk, kinship, privacy). The summary statement needs to be supported by the articles cited in the literature review section.

Submission Format:
The term papers are to be submitted both in the printed form in lecture or in the mailbox (one hard copy), and in the digital form (one soft-copy via edveNTUre TURNITIN).

- You must keep a copy in your possession as well, until the end of semester.

As a general rule, no late paper is accepted, except in case of a serious health or ‘life-threatening’ emergency with valid proofs.

3) Final Examination  
50%

Academic Honesty

All members of the NTU community are responsible for upholding the values of academic integrity in all academic undertakings. At the beginning of the semester, students are required to submit a signed declaration guaranteeing the originality of all graded and non-graded work throughout the semester. Students are expected to have fully read current academic policies regarding academic honesty at http://academicintegrity.ntu.edu.sg/policy/.