

**Professor Elaine Leeder**

**SOCI 345: SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES, Fall 2016**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

To understand the history of the family in a global perspective

To understand the social construction of the family and its flexibility in form and substance

To understand that the family changes over time, often based on the economic needs of the society in which it resides

To compare the “American” family to families other than ours

To understand that the family is a complex social institution impacted by the forces around it

To begin to think about the future of the family

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines what the family is, what it has been and what it is becoming in a global context. The family is usually a group of people who have intimate social relationships and have a history together. However, a family is far more complex and needs to be understood historically, culturally, economically and for us in particular, sociologically. This course examines the family in socio/cultural context and tries to discover the changing nature of the family as societies and economies change. We will study the family in the United States but then make comparisons to other countries in the world, to see that the family changes (both through evolution and revolution) in time, place and context. We will read about families, study our own families, and research the nature of family life in other parts of the globe.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

AUTHOR: Leeder, Elaine

TITLE: The family in global perspective: A gendered journey

PUBLISHER: Sage ISBN #: 0-7619-2837-5

DATE/EDITION: 2004

AUTHOR: Baca Zinn, Maxine, et al

TITLE: Diversity in families

PUBLISHER: Allyn and Bacon ISBN: 978-0-205-69307-8

DATE/EDITION: 9th edition

*Information above is subject to change.*