



# Independent Study | in Idaho

SOC 315  
Marriage and the  
Family

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The University of Idaho in statewide cooperation with  
Boise State University — Idaho State University — Lewis-Clark State College

# Course Guide

Independent  
Study | in Idaho

*Self-paced study. Anytime. Anywhere!*

## **Sociology 315 Marriage and the Family**

Lewis-Clark State College  
3 Semester-Hour Credits

**Instructor:**

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Lewis-Clark State College

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2-Soc 315

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## Soc 315: Marriage and the Family

3 Semester-Hour Credits: LCSC

### **Welcome!**

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Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, as well as information about assignments, exams, and grading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

### **Policies and Procedures**

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Refer to the ISI website at [www.uidaho.edu/isi](http://www.uidaho.edu/isi) and select *Students* for the most current policies and procedures, including information on setting up accounts, student confidentiality, exams, proctors, transcripts, course exchanges, refunds, academic integrity, library resources, and disability support and other services.

### **Course Description**

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A study of the institutions of marriage and the family in a cross-cultural perspective, and an analysis of the various factors and forces at work in our time which are affecting relationships within the family.

Recommended prerequisite: Soc 101 and 103 [*Current Social Problems*]

*14 graded lessons, 1 final paper, 3 proctored exams*

Students may submit up to 2 assignments per week. Before taking exams, students MUST wait for grades and feedback on assignments, which may take up to three weeks after the date of receipt by the instructor.

ALL assignments and exams must be submitted to receive a final grade for the course.

### **Course Materials**

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#### **Required Course Materials**

- Cherlin, Andrew J. *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, 2010. ISBN 9780073404356
- Skolnick, Arlene S., and Jerome H. Skolnick. *Family in Transition*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Allyn and Bacon, 2009. ISBN 9780205578771

#### **Recommended Course Materials**

- Cherlin, Andrew J. *Public and Private Families: A Reader*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, 2010. ISBN 9780073404363

### **Course Delivery**

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All ISI courses are delivered through Canvas, an online management system that hosts the course lessons and assignments and other items that are essential to the course. Upon registration, the student will receive a *Registration Confirmation Email* with information on how to access ISI courses online.

### **Course Introduction**

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The course explores families in the United States from a sociological perspective. We will examine the family as an institution rooted in historical and social contexts, focusing on the ways in which society shapes family norms, opportunities, and behaviors. We will also learn about the individual within the family, and how family relationships have changed over time.

## **Course Objectives**

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To meet the broad goals listed above, this course is designed to achieve several specific objectives:

1. To provide you with information about historical and contemporary families in the United States
2. To explore the relationships between individuals, as well as families and other social institutions
3. To develop analytical and communication skills that will enable you to examine and assess divergent ideas and perspectives on family issues
4. To help you apply the knowledge and skills that you gain in this course to your everyday life, deepening your understanding of your own beliefs and values and the social world in which you live

## **Lessons**

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### **Overview**

Each lesson includes the following components:

1. lesson objectives
2. reading assignment
3. important terms (from the Cherlin textbook)
4. lecture
5. written assignment

### **Study Hints**

- Complete all assigned readings.
- Take notes or highlight important points on each reading assignment assignments.
- Set a schedule allowing for completion of the course one month prior to your desired deadline.

## **Exams**

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### **Overview**

- You must wait for grades and comments on lessons prior to taking each subsequent exam.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to the letter sent in you upon registration and the *Exam Information* sections in this course guide.

See *Grading* for specific information on lesson/exam points and percentages.

## **Grading**

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The course grade will be based upon the following considerations:

14 assignments	@ 30 points each	420
3 examinations	@ 100 points each	300
<u>1 essay paper</u>	<u>@ 100 points</u>	<u>100</u>
	Total points possible	820

The following graded point scale will be used:

762 to 820 = A	631 to 655 = C+	491 and under = F
738 to 761 = A-	598 to 630 = C	
713 to 737 = B+	574 to 597 = C-	
680 to 712 = B	549 to 573 = D+	
656 to 679 = B-	492 to 548 = D	

The final course grade is issued after all assignments and exams have been graded.

Acts of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, are considered a very serious transgression and may result in a grade of F for the course.

## **Contacting Your Instructor**

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Instructor contact information is posted on your Canvas site under *Course Rules*.

## Assignment Submission Log

- Cherlin, Andrew J. *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, 2010. ISBN 978-0-07-340435-6
- Skolnick, Arlene S., and Jerome H. Skolnick. *Family in Transition*. 15<sup>th</sup> ed. Allyn and Bacon, 2009. ISBN 978-0-205-57877-1

Lesson	Reading	Written Assignment	Date Submitted
1	Cherlin, Chapter 1, pp. 4–35 Skolnick, Introduction, pp. 1–10	Essay questions	
2	Cherlin, Chapter 2, pp.38–74 Skolnick, Chapter 1, pp. 13–56	Essay questions	
3	Cherlin, Chapter 3, pp. 80–105 Skolnick, Chapter 3, pp. 101–124	Essay questions	
4	Cherlin, Chapter 4, pp. 108–133	Essay questions	
<b>It is time to take Exam 1.</b>			
5	Cherlin, Chapter 5, pp. 136–172	Essay questions	
6	Cherlin, Chapter 6, pp. 176–204 Skolnick, Chapter 4, pp. 125–152	Essay questions	
7	Cherlin, Chapter 7, pp. 208–245 Skolnick, Chapter 5, pp. 153–201	Essay questions	
8	Cherlin, Chapter 8, pp. 248–267 Skolnick, Chapter 9, pp. 349–373	Essay questions	
9	Cherlin, Chapter 9, pp. 272–304 Skolnick, Chapter 9, pp. 349–373 [NOTE: The Skolnick Chapter 9 reading is needed for both Lesson 8 and Lesson 9.]	Essay questions	
<b>It is time to take Exam 2.</b>			

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Written Assignment</b>	<b>Date Submitted</b>
<b>10</b>	Cherlin, Chapter 10, pp., 308–338	Essay questions	
<b>11</b>	Cherlin, Chapter 11, pp. 342–373	Essay questions	
<b>12</b>	Cherlin, Chapter 12, pp. 376–403	Essay questions	
<b>13</b>	Cherlin, Chapter 13, pp. 406–430	Essay questions	
<b>14</b>	Cherlin, Chapter 14, pp. 434–462	Essay questions	
<b>15</b>	No newly assigned reading	Student Paper	
<b>It is time to take Exam 3.</b>			



# Lesson 1

## Public and Private Families

### Lesson Objectives

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After reading Lesson 1, you should be able to discuss/explain and have a better understanding of:

1. The boundaries of family life
2. Different ways your family has carried out its public functions

### Reading Assignment

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Cherlin, *Public and Private Families: An Introduction*, Chapter 1, pp. 4–35  
 Skolnick, *Family in Transition*, Introduction, pp. 1–10

### Important Terms

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**NOTE: All of the important terms in this course guide are found in the Cherlin textbook.**

expressive individualism 6	public family 13	longitudinal survey 22
individualism 6	private family 14	breadwinner-homemaker family 23
monogamy 9	assigned kinship 15	primary analysis 23
externalities 10	boundary ambiguity 15	feminist theory 25
negative externalities 10	created kinship 15	gender 25
polygamy 10	hypothesis 18	late modern era 26
positive externalities 10	objectivity 18	functionalist theory 29
public goods 11	observational study 20	conflict theory 30
free-rider problem 12	exchange theory 22	

### Lecture

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Boundaries in families are set both by the members of the families and by societal norms. For example, we have gone through periods in American society where it was considered inappropriate to interfere with the relationship between husband and wife. However, through several recent public cases, domestic violence has come to the forefront of society. Family relationships differ from all other relationships because we are members of a family for life—no matter how we feel about the particular members.

All relationships are based on some exchange. It may not be conscious, but there is always give and take; for example, parents look after their children, providing shelter, nourishment, and affection. The situation today is complicated by greater mobility and changing norms in our society.

### Written Assignment

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(30 points)

A helpful hint for answering an essay question is always to provide detailed information on what the question is asking and follow up with various examples. Answer each question in one to two pages.

1. What is the difference between a *public* family and a *private* family? Explain.
2. What is the Feminist Perspective feminist theory? Explain.