Families and Modern Social Theory
Spring 2022
Syllabus

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This course is designed to build knowledge about theories of modernity, with emphasis on modern families. Thus, it combines some core theories of modernity (Giddens, Bourdieu, Foucault), with key theoretical debates about families and intimate relationships (economics and economic sociology, gender, race, class), and social change (development and new family forms).

Schedule and readings

Part 1: Modernity
Week 1, January 26: Introduction

Week 2, February 2: What is modernity?

Week 3, February 9: Modern relationships

Week 4, February 16: Habitus and field

Week 5, February 23: Discipline

Part 2: Families
Week 6, March 2: U.S. family history


Week 7, March 9: Status and identity


Week 8, March 16: New families


Week 9, March 30: Same-sex marriage


Population Association of American conference, no seminar meeting

Week 10, April 13: Time and the pandemic


Part 3: Progress

Week 11, April 20: Economic sociology of intimacy


Week 12, April 27: Modernity, development, and demography (reading list may be revised)


Week 13, May 4: Decoupling, families, and modernity