**FCS 2400 Family Relations Across the Life Course (3 cr.)**

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**Office Hours:** By appointment


**Course Learning Objective:**
The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to family studies. This course emphasizes theory and research on family demography, union formation, marriage, parenting, post-parental families, non-traditional families, and family problems. This course will encourage you to critically examine both your personal experiences and the empirical literature on family studies. This course will also encourage you to participate in activities that will facilitate a greater understanding of family relationships across the life course.

In other words, have you ever wondered…

- Why is “family” becoming more difficult to define in our postmodern society?
- Is the family unit declining or just changing?
- How are current social trends affecting families?
- How do social constraints shape men and women’s choices?
- Does marriage increase happiness and life satisfaction?
- Why are there such strong social pressures to have children?
- What are the costs and benefits of having children?
- What are the costs and benefits of remaining child-free?
- How do families juggle employment and family life?
- How can we have better communication in a relationship?

We will answer all of these (and many more!) questions in our class.

**Requirements:** Grade will be assigned on the following basis:

1. Class Participation and Attendance 20%
2. Research Review 20%
3. Movie or Book Report 20%
4. Midterm Evaluation 20%
5. Final Evaluation 20%