

**\*\* SYLLABUS\*\***

**January 15, 2021**

**SOC 6560: Family Demography**

**Spring 2021**

**Friday, 2:30 – 5:15pm**

**Remote (synchronous) learning via Zoom ([Access Class Meeting link here](#))**

**Instructor:** Professor Jenjira Yahirun, PhD

**Office hours:** Thursdays, 11am-12pm, via Zoom ([Access Office Hours link here](#))

**Email:** [yahirun@bgsu.edu](mailto:yahirun@bgsu.edu)

### **Course Objectives**

Family demographers study the composition or structure of families and households and the processes that contribute to compositional change. They also investigate the linkages between family structure and well-being, broadly defined. This course will familiarize you with the core research questions in family demography as well as recent theoretical and empirical developments in the area. We will consider many of the substantive issues that are of concern to family demographers, including family formation and dissolution trends, such as the retreat from marriage and the rise of cohabitation; the effects of family structure and instability on child outcomes; families and racial and economic inequality; and families in an aging society. Additionally, we will explore family change and public policy by examining contemporary debates about the future of marriage.

### **Course Requirements**

Evaluation of student learning will include a combination of class leadership, weekly essays, and a research proposal.

- (1) *Discussion Leadership and Participation.* The class will follow a seminar format, with two students leading the discussion during each class meeting. Student leaders will present the main points of the assigned readings to the class and facilitate discussion of the intriguing, exciting, and controversial aspects of the readings. Discussion leaders should post a short memo on the course web page to alert participants to common themes, conceptual and methodological issues, and at least two questions to be addressed in the discussion. Memos should be posted on the course web page Discussion Board by ***11:59pm on Thursday*** so that participants have time to prepare for Friday's class. I am happy to meet with the discussion leaders in advance to discuss the readings and plan for the class sessions.

Other students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Attendance at all class meetings is expected. At the end of each class meeting, I will give a brief presentation on the upcoming week's readings, highlighting key aspects.

- (2) *Weekly Essays.* Each week for which a student is not a discussion leader, the student will write a one to two page essay on a topic to be circulated in advance via the course web page. These synthetic essays will address themes and major issues in the readings. I will post the essay topics on the announcement page for the course. Students must post their

essays on the course web page by **11:59pm on Thursday** to allow everyone an opportunity to read the material before the seminar session.

(3) *Final Exam*. A comprehensive final exam will be given during final exam week. The exam will be open-note and open-book and will span four days.

### **Course Grades**

Discussion Leadership and Participation 30%

Weekly essays 35%

Final Exam 35%

### **Plagiarism/Honesty Policy**

The BGSU Academic Honesty Policy clearly outlines university-wide prohibitions against cheating, forgery, fabrication, and plagiarism, among others. All of these are unacceptable and will result in a failing (“F”) grade for the assignment. Work submitted to other instructors to fulfill other class requirements may NOT be submitted to meet requirements of this class. For more information see: <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/catalog/academic-honesty/official-policy.pdf>

It is a privilege to be a member of the BGSU community. This privilege provides students with the opportunity to learn and to participate in the many programs that are offered on campus. Along with this privilege, students are expected to be responsible in relationships with others and to respect the interests of the institution. These interests are fully set forth in the University’s Student Conduct Code, which can be found at <https://www.bgsu.edu/student-handbook/code-of-conduct.html>

### **Accommodations**

Students seeking academic adjustment or accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services. Any student with a documented disability who needs academic adjustments or accommodations is encouraged to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

### **Title IX: Sexual Discrimination**

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. Sexual misconduct and relationship violence in any form are antithetical to the university’s mission and core values, violate university policies, and may also violate federal and state law. Faculty members are considered “Mandatory Reporters” and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and relationship violence to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, please visit [www.bgsu.edu/TitleIX](http://www.bgsu.edu/TitleIX) to access information about university support and resources.

### **Zoom Etiquette**

- Our class will be held in real time (synchronously) on Fridays via Zoom. If you have not yet downloaded Zoom, please sign up for your free account through BGSU: <https://www.bgsu.edu/zoom.html>

- Please do not share the Zoom link or meeting information with anyone who is not enrolled in our course.
- Students should keep their audio MUTED except when asking a question or participating in group discussions.
- Technological issues will happen, so please be patient with everyone. If I experience technological issues persisting for **more than 15 minutes**, then the remainder of the class will be cancelled. If this happens, please check Canvas for an announcement for more information.
- Learning remotely means that many of us are sharing our learning/work spaces with children, pets, partners, and roommates. That's okay! Keep yourself muted when appropriate and do your best given the circumstances.

### **Course Readings**

Most of the readings are available online and you should be able to access electronically via the library or electronic databases. Readings not available online will be made available via Canvas. Canvas will be used for course announcements, posting weekly discussion memos (for class discussion leaders), and essay responses. All readings should be completed prior to our class meeting. Optional readings are noted with an asterisk (\*).

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

You are expected to complete the reading assignments on the dates they are due unless changes are otherwise announced in class.

#### **JANUARY 15 (Week 1)**

##### **Introduction and Course Overview**

#### **JANUARY 22 (Week 2) (Yahirun)**

##### **Overview of Changing Family Patterns**

Andersson, G, E. Thomson, & Duntava, A. (2017). "Life-table representations of family dynamics." *Demographic Research* 37:1081-098. [DON'T PRINT THE WHOLE THING]

Brown, S. (2017). "Pathways to Family Formation." In *Families in America* (pp. 36-77). Oakland, California: University of California Press. (Available online via BGSU library)

Schweizer, V. J. (2020). Divorce: More than a century of change, 1900-2018. *Family Profiles, FP-20-22*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research.  
<https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-20-22>

Schweizer, V. J. (2020). Marriage: More than a century of change. *Family Profiles, FP-20-21*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research.  
<https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-20-21>

Smock, P. & Schwartz, C. (2020). "The Demography of Families: A Review of Patterns and Change." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 9-34.

Sweet, J. (1977). "Demography and the Family." *Annual Review of Sociology* 3: 363-405.

\*Vanorman, A. & Schommegna, P. (2016). Understanding the Dynamics of Family Change in the United States. *Population Bulletin* 71(1). <https://www.prb.org/dynamics-family-change/>

\*Hofferth, S. (2005). "Secondary Data Analysis in Family Research." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67:891-907.

**JANUARY 29 (Week 3) (Brown, Julian)**  
**Interpretations of Changing Family Patterns**

Bianchi, S. & Casper, L. (2005). "Explanations of Family Change: A Family Demographic Perspective." Pp. 93-107 in *Sourcebook of Family Theory & Research*, edited by Vern L. Bengston, et al. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (Available online via BGSU library)

Goldscheider, F., Bernhardt, E., & Tappegard, T. (2015). "The Gender Revolution: A framework for Understanding Changing Family and Demographic Behavior." *Population and Development Review* 41: 207-239.

Lesthaeghe, R. (2014). "The second demographic transition: A concise overview of its development." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111 (51) 18112-18115;

McLanahan, S. (2004). "Diverging Destinies: How Children are Faring Under the Second Demographic Transition." *Demography* 41:607-627.

Ruggles, S. (1997). "The Rise of Divorce and Separation in the United States, 1880-1990." *Demography* 34:455-479. (and comments by Oppenheimer and Preston).

\*Ruggles, S. (2015). "Patriarchy, Power, and Pay: The Transformation of American Families, 1800-2015." *Demography* 52: 1797-1823.

**FEBRUARY 5 (Week 4) (Chin, Wentzlof)**  
**Transitions to Adulthood**

Billari, F., & Liefbroer, A. (2010). "Towards a New Pattern of Transition to Adulthood?" *Advances in Life Course Research* 15 (2-3, SI): 59-75. doi:10.1016/j.alcr.2010.10.003.

Fingerman, K. (2017). "Millennials and Their Parents: Implications of New Young Adulthood for Midlife Adults." *Innovations in Aging* 3:1-16.

Payne, K. K. (2019). Young adults in the parental home, 2007 & 2018. *Family Profiles, FP-19-04*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-19-04>.

Rindfuss, R. (1991). "The Young Adult Years: Diversity, Structural Change, and Fertility" *Demography* 28:493-512

Sironi, M., & Furstenberg, F. (2012). "Trends in the economic independence of young adults in the United States: 1973-2007." *Population and Development Review* 609-630.

South, S. & Lei, L. (2015). "Failures-to-launch and boomerang kids: Contemporary determinants of leaving and returning to the parental home." *Social Forces* 94: 863-890.

## **FEBRUARY 12 (Week 5) (Graham, Wiborg)**

### **Marriage**

Carlson, L. (2020). Marriage in the U.S.: Twenty-five years of change, 1995-2020. *Family Profiles, FP-20-29*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research.  
<https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-20-29>

Goldstein, J. & Kenney, C. (2001). "Marriage delayed or marriage forgone? New cohort forecasts of first marriage for U.S. women." *American Sociological Review*. 664,506-519.

Kuo, J. & K. Raley. (2016). "Is it all about money? Work characteristics and Women's and Men's Marriage Formation in Early Adulthood." *Journal of Family Issues* 37-1046-1073.

Oppenheimer, V. (1988). "A Theory of Marriage Timing." *American Journal of Sociology* 94:563-591.

Schneider, D., Harknett, K., & Stimpson, M. (2018). "What Explains the Decline in First Marriage in the United States? Evidence from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, 1969-2013." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 80: 791-811.

Sweeney, M. (2002). "Two decades of family change: The shifting economic foundations of marriage." *American Sociological Review*, 67,132-147.

\*Martin, S., Astone, N. & Peters, H.E. (2014). Fewer Marriages, More Divergence: Marriage Projections for Millennials to Age 40. Urban Institute.  
<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/413110-Fewer-Marriages-More-Divergence-Marriage-Projections-for-Millennials-to-Age-.PDF>

## **FEBRUARY 19 (Week 6) – NO CLASS (WELLNESS DAY)**

## **FEBRUARY 26 (Week 7) – Guest speaker, Wendy Manning (Gustafson, Yahirun)**

### **Cohabitation**

Bumpass, L, Sweet, J., & Cherlin, A. (1991). "The Role of Cohabitation in Declining Rates of Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 53:913-27.

Ishizuka, P. (2018). "The economic foundations of cohabiting couples union transitions." *Demography* 55:535-557.

Kuo, J. & Raley, R. K. (2016). "Diverging Patterns of Union Transition Among Cohabitators by Race/Ethnicity and Education: Trends and Marital Intentions in the United States." *Demography*, 1-15.

Lamidi, E. (2015). "Trends in Cohabitation: The Never Married and Previously Married, 1994-2014 (FP-15-21). National Center for Family and Marriage Research. Retrieved from: <https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles/lamidi-cohab-trends-never-previously-married-fp-15-21>

Manning, W. (2020). "Young Adulthood Relationships in an Era of Uncertainty: A Case for Cohabitation." *Demography*, 57(3), 799–819.

Perelli-Harris, B. & Amos, M. (2015). "Changes in partnership patterns across the life course: An examination of 14 counties in Europe and the US." *Demographic Research*. 33:145-178.

\*Guzzo, K. (2020). "A Research Brief on Prospective Marital Expectations among Cohabitators with Initial Marital Intentions." *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(11), 1979–2001.

### **MARCH 5 (Week 8) (Julian, Brown)** **Union Disruption**

Goldstein, J. (1999). "The Leveling of Divorce in the United States." *Demography* 36: 409-14.

Kennedy, S. & Ruggles, S. (2014). "Breaking Up is Hard to Count: The Rise of Divorce in the United States, 1980-2010." *Demography* 51:587-598.

Killewald, A. (2016). "Money, Work, and Marital Stability: Assessing Change in the Gendered Determinants of Divorce". *American Sociological Review* 81:696-719.

Manning, W. & Cohen, J. (2012). "Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Dissolution: An Examination of Recent Marriages." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74:377-387.

Reynolds, L. (2020). Divorce rate in the U.S.: Geographic variation, 2019. *Family Profiles, FP-20-25*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research.  
<https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-20-25>

Tumin, D., Han, S., & Qian, Z. (2015). "Estimates and Meanings of Marital Separation." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 77:312-322.

\*Cohen, P. (2014). "Recession and Divorce in the United States, 2008–2011." *Population Research and Policy Review* 33 (5): 615–28. doi:10.1007/s11113-014-9323-z.

\*Tach, L. and Eads, A. (2015). Trends in Economic Consequences of Marital and Cohabitation Dissolution in the United States. *Demography*. 52:401-432.

## **MARCH 12 (Week 9) (Wentzlof, Chin)**

### **Repartnering**

Bzotstek, S., McLanahan, S., & Carlson, M. (2012). "Mothers' Repartnering after a Nonmarital Birth." *Social Forces* 90:817-841.

Cherlin, A. (1978). "Remarriage as an Incomplete Institution." *American Journal of Sociology* 84:634-650.

Guzzo, K. (2018). "Marriage and Dissolution Among Women's Cohabitations: Variations by Stepfamily Status and Shared Childbearing." *Journal of Family Issues* 39:1108-1136.

Raley, K. & Sweeney, M. M. (2020). "Divorce, Repartnering, and Stepfamilies: A Decade in Review." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 81–99.

Schweizer, V. (2019). The retreat from remarriage, 1950-2017. *Family Profiles, FP-19-17*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-19-17>

Shafer, K. & James, S. (2013). "Gender and Socioeconomic Status Differences in First and Second Marriage Formation." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 75: 544-564.

\*de Jong Gierveld, Jenny, and Eva-Maria Merz. 2013. Parents' Partnership Decision Making after Divorce or Widowhood: The Role of (Step) Children. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 75: 1098-1113.

\*Eickmyer, K. & Manning, W. (2018). Serial Cohabitation in Young Adulthood: Baby Boomers to Millennials. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 80:826-840.

## **MARCH 19 (Week 10) (Wiborg, Graham)**

### **The Separation of Marriage and Childbearing**

England, P., Wu, L., & Shafer, E. (2013). "Cohort Trends in Premarital First Births: What Role for the Retreat From Marriage? *Demography* 50: 2075-2104.

Gibson-Davis, C. & Rackin, H. (2014). "Marriage or Carriage? Trends in Union Context and Birth Type by Education. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 76:506-519.

Guzzo, K. & Dorius, C. (2016). "Challenges in Measuring and Studying Multipartnered Fertility in American Survey Data." *Population Research and Policy Review*. 1-27.

Hayford, S., Guzzo, K., & Smock, P. (2014). "The Decoupling of Marriage and Parenthood? Trends in the Timing of Marital First Births, 1945–2002." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 76: 520-538.

Lamidi, E. (2016). "A quarter century of change in nonmarital births. *Family Profiles, FP-16-03*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family and Marriage Research. <https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles/lamidi-nonmarital-births-fp-16-03.html>



Lichter, D. T., Sassler, S., & Turner, R. N. (2014). "Cohabitation, post-conception unions, and the rise in nonmarital fertility." *Social Science Research*, 47, 134-147.

### **MARCH 26 (Week 11) (Brown, Gustafson)**

#### **Family Structure, Family Instability, and Child Outcomes**

Brown, S. L., Stykes, J. B., & Manning, W. D. (2016). Trends in Children's Family Instability, 1995–2010. *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Cherlin, A., Kiernan, K., & Chase-Lansdale, L. (1995). "Parental Divorce in Childhood and Demographic Outcomes in Young Adulthood." *Demography* 32:299-318.

Eickmeyer, K. J. (2019). Composition of cohabiting families. *Family Profiles, FP-19-02*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-19-02>.

Fomby, P. & Cherlin, A. (2007). "Family Instability and Child Well-Being." *American Sociological Review*. 72:181-204.

Guzzo, K. (2018). "A research note on the stability of coresidential unions formed postconception." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 841-852.

Musick, K. & Michelmore, K. (2015). Change in the Stability of Marital and Cohabiting Unions Following the Birth of the Child. *Demography* 52:1463-1485.

### **APRIL 2 (Week 12) (Chin, Wiborg)**

#### **Families and Racial/Ethnic Diversity**

Cross, C. J. (2020). "Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Association Between Family Structure and Children's Education." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(2), 691–712.

Eickmeyer, K. J. (2017). American children's family structure: Two biological parent families. *Family Profiles, FP-17-15*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-17-1>

Iceland, J. (2019). "Racial and Ethnic Inequality in Poverty and Affluence, 1959–2015." *Population Research and Policy Review*, 38(5), 615–654.

And Response: Williams, Deadric T. (2019). "A Call to Focus on Racial Domination and Oppression: A Response to 'Racial and Ethnic Inequality in Poverty and Affluence, 1959-2015.'" *Population Research and Policy Review* 38: 655–663

Lichter, D., McLaughlin, D., Kephart, G., & Landry, D. (1992). "Race and the Retreat from Marriage: A Shortage of Marriageable Men?" *American Sociological Review* 57:781-799.



Raley, K., Sweeney, M., & Wondra, D. (2015). The Growing Racial and Ethnic Divide in U.S. Marriage Patterns. *Future of Children*. 25(2):89-109.

Reyes, A. (2018). "The Economic Organization of Extended Family Households by Race or Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Status." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 80(1), 119–133.

\*McNamee, C. & Raley, R.K. (2011). "A Note on Race, Ethnicity, and Nativity Differentials in Remarriage in the United States." *Demographic Research* 24:293-312.

**APRIL 9 (Week 13) (Julian, Graham)**  
**Families and Economic Inequality**

Edin, K, Kefalas, M., & Reed, J. (2004). "A Peek inside the Black Box: What Marriage Means for Poor Unmarried Parents." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66:1007-1014.

Lichter, D., Graefe, D., & Brown. J. (2003). "Is Marriage a Panacea? Union Formation among Economically Disadvantaged Mothers." *Social Problems* 50:60-86.7

McLanahan, S. & Jacobsen, W. (2015) Diverging Destinies Revisited. In: Amato P., Booth A., McHale S., Van Hook J. (eds) Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality. National Symposium on Family Issues, vol 5. Springer, Cham.

Schneider, D. (2011). "Wealth and the Marital Divide." *American Journal of Sociology* 117:627-677.

Schwartz, C. (2013). Trends and Variation in Assortative Mating: Causes and Consequences. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 39:451-70.

Wu, H. (2018). Homogamy in U.S. marriages, 2016. *Family Profiles, FP-18-18*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/>

**APRIL 16 (Week 14) (Gustafson, Wentzlof)**  
**Aging Families**

Brown, Susan L., and I-Fen Lin. (2014). "The Gray Divorce Revolution: Rising Divorce among Middle-Aged and Older Adults, 1990–2010." *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 67: 731-741.

Carr, D., & Utz, R. L. (2020). "Families in Later Life: A Decade in Review. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 346–363.

Choi, H., Schoeni, R. F., Wiemers, E. E., Hotz, V. J., & Seltzer, J. A. (2020). "Spatial Distance Between Parents and Adult Children in the United States." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(2), 822–840.

Hughes, M. & Waite, L. (2009). "Marital Biography and Health at Mid-Life." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 50:344-358.

Kovert, E., Wright, M. W., Hammersmith, A. M., Brown, S. L., & Lin, I.-F. (2017). The role of union dissolution and repartnering on health later in life. *Family Profiles, FP-17-12*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-17-12>

Lin, I.-F., Brown, S. L., & Cupka, C. J. (2018). “A National Portrait of Stepfamilies in Later Life.” *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 73(6), 1043–1054.

\*Margolis R. & Verdery, A. (2017). “Older Adults Without Close Kin in the United States.” *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, 72(4), 688–693.

\*Preston, Samuel. 1984. “Children and the Elderly: Divergent Paths for America’s Dependents.” *Demography* 21:435-457.

### **APRIL 23 (Week 15) (Yahirun)**

#### **The Future of the Family: Unions and Public Policy**

Brooks, D. (2020). “The Nuclear Family Was a Mistake”. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/03/the-nuclear-family-was-a-mistake/605536/>

Cherlin, A. J. (2020). “Degrees of Change: An Assessment of the Deinstitutionalization of Marriage Thesis.” *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 62–80.

Oppenheimer, V. (1994). “Women’s Rising Employment and the Future of the Family in Industrial Societies.” *Population and Development Review* 20:293-342.

Reczek, C., Spiker, R., Liu, H., & Crosnoe, R. (2017). “The Promise and Perils of Population Research on Same-Sex Families.” *Demography* 54:2385-2397.

Tanner, M, Sawhill, I, Cohen, P., & Wilcox, W. (2018). Is There a Sequence for Success? <https://www.cato-unbound.org/print-issue/2355>

\*Lichter, D. (2018). “The Unsuccessful Family Experiment.” *Pathways*. October: 9-12

### **APRIL 30 – NO CLASS**

**FINAL EXAM DUE ON MONDAY, 5/3 BY 9AM**  
(SUBMITTED VIA CANVAS)