



Gender, Work, and Family 2 | SOU22032

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22
Pre-requisite	
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Annatina Aerne
Contact Email	TBC

Module Outline:

This module focuses on **Families** and **Gender** in contemporary societies. Week by week students will be introduced to key sociological **theories** and **debates** on family life and gender relations, which will be examined with **real-world cases and studies** to inspire their critical analysis and understanding of how gender and families intersect with larger social contexts. The module is structured in three blocks.

Block 1 starts with a critical introduction to the concept of family and to the main theoretical debates on gender and families in sociology by problematising the concepts of gender, sex, sexualities, and families. **Block 2** follows with four sessions using a life course approach spanning from birth to old age: (i) childhood and early socialisation, (ii) mothering and fathering, (iii) dating, partnering, and divorce; and (iv) grandparents and aging. **Block 3** shifts to examine disparities and inequalities at the intersection of race/ethnicity, social class and gender, including (i) global migration and ethnic/race disparities in families; (ii) social inequalities in family life; (iii) gender inequalities in time use; and (iv) gendered wage and occupational gaps. **Block 4** concludes the module with a focus on work-family policies in contemporary societies. The module mostly focuses on examples from the 'Western' Global North (i.e., Ireland, Europe, United States), but it also puts emphasis on specific cases from the 'non-Western' Global South context (i.e., Africa, China, India).

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Develop a critical approach to sociological theories on families and gender;
- Adopt an informed critical analysis of recent changes affecting genders and families;
- Develop conceptual and methodological skills to assess gender roles and families today;
- Engage critically with 'real-world' problems affecting family life and gender relations;
- Think globally about policies and inequalities related to gender and family relations.



Assessment:

- Assignment 1 (40%)
- Assignment 2 (60%)

Recommended Reading List:

- Chambers, D. & Gracia, P. (2021). A sociology of family life. Cambridge: Polity Press. 2nd edition
- Cohen, P.N., (2015). The family: Diversity, inequality, and social change. WW Norton.
- Wharton, A. (2012) The Sociology of Gender: An Introduction to Theory and Research, Second edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Scott, J., Treas, J. and Richards, M. eds., (2014). The Blackwell companion to the sociology of families (Vol. 25). Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.