Professor: Dr. Sandra L. Barnes
Class: T, Th 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. Location: Mandel Center, Room 106
Office: Mather Memorial 223B
Office Hours: T, Th 2:30 - 3:45 p.m. and by appointment
Office Phone: 368-5091, e-mail: sbarnes@case.edu

COURSE CONTENT:
In addition to the primary textbook, students will be expected to read a packet of articles provided by the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The Black Family is a course focusing on the history of ideas and approaches that have shaped and defined our understanding of Black families. You will be introduced to historical and socio-cultural circumstances that affect the Black family and the diverse nature of Black culture. The purpose of this course is to focus on the Black family as a social institution. You will understand and appreciate the strengths of the Black family by being exposed to a variety of challenges they face. This course will also attempt to heighten awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary problems affecting the Black family and thus help discover and evaluate social policies and programs geared towards Black families. Specifically, the course will provide a sociological perspective for understanding and analyzing topics and challenges that impact the Black family. The discussion is also designed to encourage and stimulate critical thinking beyond “common sense” interpretations of the Black family.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
*Attendance:* Students are expected to attend class regularly, on time, and prepared to participate in class assignments. Students will be expected to participate regularly in discussions and any group assignments. Attendance will be taken each class session. More than three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the course grade by one letter grade. If you are absent, be sure to get the notes from a classmate. Students with special academic needs should notify the professor during the first week of classes such that the appropriate arrangements can be made to facilitate their participation in the course. Frequent tardiness will also be considered absences.
Examinations and Assignments:
Course grades will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<td>Examination # 1</td>
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<td>Examination # 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td>20% (mandatory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination #3</td>
<td>30% (mandatory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Class Participation</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Examinations will include a combination of multiple choice, fill-ins, short answer, and essay questions. Exams must be taken as scheduled. In case of an emergency, make-up exams may be offered based upon the discretion of the professor. All make-up exams will be essay format. Each student is also expected to complete a 4-5 paged reflection paper that addresses a topic about the Black family not directly presented in class. Further information regarding the paper is provided below.

Grading: Assignments will be graded as follows:

- 90 - 100 = A
- 80 - 89 = B
- 70 - 79 = C
- 60 - 69 = D
- Below 60 = F

Grades will not be posted or verbally reported over the telephone. Assignments will be devalued one grade per day if submitted late.

Cheating/Plagiarism:
Ethical conduct is expected. Violation of the cheating/plagiarism policy will result in a grade of “F” for the course. Refer to the university catalog for additional information regarding this topic.

Course Environment:
Certain topics often elicit a variety of comments and opinions. Your input is important and encouraged. Students will be expected to provide meaningful, positive input and maintain respectful interaction with fellow classmates. Each student is expected to help create a learning environment that is free from discrimination, intimidation, and harassment. Disruptive students will be removed from the course.

REQUIRED READING:
(Outline is subject to change as dictated by class participation and needs.)

Jan. 15 Course and Student Introductions
Jan. 21 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No Classes)
Theoretical Background:

Foundational Concepts:
Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 5  Billingsley: Chapters 1-2

Historical Context:
Feb. 7, 12, 14  Billingsley: Chapters 3-5

Black Sexuality and Relationships:
Feb. 19, 21  “Single and Married: The Black Male’s Acceptance of the Prince Charming Ideal” (Franklin & Pillow)
Review for Examination #1

Feb. 26  Examination #1

Family Types:
Feb. 28, March 4, 6  Single Parent Families
Billingsley: Chapter 16
Review of Examination #1

March 11, 13  Spring Break

March 18, 20  Nuclear Families
Billingsley: Chapter 10
Submit Paper Outline and Bibliography

March 25, 27  Augmented Families
“The Black Extended Family Revisted” (Hill & Shackleford)

Interracial Marriage:
April 1, 3  Billingsley: Chapter 10
“Interracial Relationships: A Convergence of Desire and Opportunity” (Staples), “A New Marriage Squeeze for Black Women” (Crowder & Tolnay)
Review for Examination #2

April 8  Examination #2
Dynamics That Impact the Black Family:

April 10  Health
   Billingsley: Chapter 7
   Review of Examination #2
   **Finalize Paper Outline**

April 15  Education
   Billingsley: Chapter 8

April 17  Religion
   Billingsley: Chapter 17

April 22  Socioeconomic Class
   Billingsley: Chapters 6, 13-14, 18
   Review for Examination #3

**April 24**  Examination #3

April 28  Classes End

April 29  Review of Examination #3
   (Pick up Exam #3 in Mather Memorial 223B from 1:15-2:30 pm)

May 1  **Reflection Papers due in Mather Memorial 223B**
Each student is required to write a critical review on a topic related to the Black family. The paper should be based on an article from an academic journal (examples, Journal of Black Studies, Social Problems, Western Journal of Black Studies, Social Forces, and Sociological Focus). The selected article must be attached to your paper. You should begin with a review and discussion of the article and expand by linking the article to classroom material and critiquing the article using information presented in class. You will be expected to submit a summary outline of your paper topic and bibliography for acceptance prior to writing your paper.

A well-written paper will include the following:

a. Summary of the selected academic article
b. Summary of the selected theoretical model (i.e., Pathology, Structural Functional, Emergent) and a thorough analysis of the academic paper based on the model
c. At least 4 references/linkages to course readings within the paper
d. Critique of the academic article
e. Reference page with complete citations of all articles/books noted in the paper

Papers are to be no longer than 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced. This length limitation will require you to write concisely about your chosen topic. Be sure to use 1-inch margins on all sides, use a reasonable font size, and check your paper for spelling and grammatical mistakes. The best papers will be organized and thorough, yet concise.

Example of acceptable paper topics:

1. Single, Black Males Who Are Raising their Children
2. Is There A Black Middle Class?
3. Grandparents Who Are Raising Their Grandchildren
4. Interracial Marriage Trends Between Blacks and Non-Whites in the US
5. How the AIDS Pandemic Has Impacted the Black Family
6. Regional Differences in Black Family Patterns
7. Upper Class Black Families and the Child Socialization Process
Soci 355: The Black Family in America
Additional Readings: Citations

Students are expected to read the following 8 articles and be prepared to discuss them on the dates the articles are listed on the syllabus.

**Theoretical Background:**


**Black Sexuality and Relationships:**


**Family Types:**


**Interracial Marriage:**