

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Family relationships and everyday life: a sociological perspective - 34485*

*Last update 16-09-2024*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Education*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Lauren Erdreich*

*Coordinator Email: [lauren.erdreich@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:lauren.erdreich@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Thurs. 930-1030*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. lauren edreich

Course/Module description:

*Our perceptions of family and relationships are foundation aspects of personal experience. This course is interested in how personal life reflects the social, and how the social is experienced and shapes our everyday relationships in and beyond the family. The course adopts the lens of the sociology of personal life. We will consider how this lens affords an expanded understanding of family and relations and will delve into selected aspects of relationality as explained by the sociology of personal life.*

Course/Module aims:

*To gain an understanding of the sociology of personal life  
To consider how different types of personal relations reflect the social  
To provide tools for analyzing personal relationships from a social perspective*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

*Explain the conceptual foundations of the sociology of personal life  
Differentiate the theoretical assumptions about family and relations vis a vis functional and other social theories of the family  
Analyze aspects of personal life from a social perspective*

Attendance requirements(%):

80

*Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Readings, lectures, cooperative learning activities, film discussions*

Course/Module Content:

*Overview of family research  
Family practices  
Sociology of personal life  
Relations and personal life – an anthropological focus  
Kinship and knowledge*

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Queer relations  
Friendship  
Material affinities  
Corporal connections

Required Reading:

Required reading:

1. Overview of family research

Gillies, V. (2003). *Family and intimate relationships: A review of the sociological research*. Families & Social Capital Research Group, South Bank University.

2. Family practices

Morgan, D. (2011). *Rethinking family practices*. Springer. Chap. 2.

3. Sociology of personal life

Smart, C. (2007). *Personal life*. Polity. Chap. 1.

4. Comparative discussion – no additional reading

5. And 6. Relations and personal life – an anthropological focus

Film TBA

Smart, C. (2011). *Relationality and Socio-Cultural Theories of Family Life*. In: Jallinoja, R., Widmer, E.D. (eds) *Families and Kinship in Contemporary Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan Studies in Family and Intimate Life. Palgrave Macmillan, London. pp 13-28.

7. Kinship and knowledge

Carsten, J. (2004). *After kinship*. Cambridge University Press. Introduction.

8. Queer relations

Plaster, J. (2023). *Kids on the Street: Queer Kinship and Religion in San Francisco's Tenderloin*. Duke University Press. Introduction, 1-32.

9. Friendship

Winkler-Reid, S. (2023). *Individually Ourselves: Personhood, Ethics, and Everyday Life in School*. Berghahn Books. Choice of Chap. 4,5, or 6.

10. Material affinities

Holmes, H. (2019). *Material affinities: 'Doing' family through the practices of passing on*. *Sociology*, 53(1), 174-191.

11. Corporal connections

Mason, J. (2018). *Affinities: Potent connections in personal life*. John Wiley & Sons. Pp. 11-28.

12. Research on family and relationality in everyday life

<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgan-centre/research/projects/archive/>

Additional Reading Material:

available upon request

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Grading Scheme:

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 55 %*

*Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 40 %*

*Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 5 %*

Additional information:

*Please note that course requires attendance at a film outside of class hours*

*The course will be taught in English.*