



Stockholm  
University

Department of Sociology

## Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

Spring semester 2024, 7.5 ECTS credits (5 p)

This course is arranged at the advanced level for students who want an introduction to contemporary research on fertility and family dynamics in Europe. The course is offered within the multidisciplinary Master's program in Demography at Stockholm University, but is open also to other students at advanced Social Science levels.

The course provides an overview of recent theory and research on changes and dynamics in family-demographic behavior in contemporary Europe. With its variation in cultural, political, economic, and institutional settings, Europe is the ideal place to test various hypotheses on the causes and consequences of family demographic change in economically developed societies. The recent transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, and the increasing importance of international migration have added to the variety of demographic dynamics of the continent. The seminar series cover changes in living arrangements, union dynamics, and childbearing; causes and consequences of family-demographic change; relationships between social policy and family-demographic change; and family dynamics in relation to international migration. Particular attention is devoted to comparative research within Europe.

### General information

The course consists of 7.5 ECTS credits and is at advanced level in Demography. Course applicants should have a Bachelor's degree and the equivalence of English 6.

### Course organization

The course is provided at half time during 9 weeks. Course participants meet regularly for lectures and discussion of literature. Examination is done by means of paper presentations, active participation in class discussions and an independent course paper related to the course contents. Large emphasis is put on active participation throughout the seminars and preparation before seminars.

### Coordinator/ teacher

Martin Kolk (e-mail: [martin.kolk@sociology.su.se](mailto:martin.kolk@sociology.su.se), office: B879)

## **Learning outcomes**

After completion of this course, participants are expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

- Identify innovative topics of research on family dynamics in Europe

In terms of accomplishment and competence:

- Formulate a research question that can be addressed by means of making references to existing demographic literature in Europe
- Formulate a research question that can be addressed by taking advantage of the variation in contexts across countries in Europe
- Address a research question related to some aspect of family dynamics in Europe by reviewing the most relevant literature on it

In terms of values and evaluation:

- Critically evaluate different approaches to family demographic research by researchers from different disciplines and by researchers from different countries in the world

## **Instruction and examination**

Course work and examination consist of discussion of lecture contents and the writing of a course paper on a topic related to the course contents. The course work is evaluated according to the following degrees:

A = Excellent. This grade is given when the student in his or her work produces novel ideas to specific research question(s), synthesizes them to a higher analytical level, and provides a very relevant, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

B = Very good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work synthesizes ideas at a high analytical level, and provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well formulated and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

C = Good. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant, thorough, critical, well written and well connected review of the topic related to his or her specific research question(s).

D = Satisfactory. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a relevant and accurate review of the topic he or she addresses.

E = Sufficient. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides an accurately formulated but not entirely focused review of the topic he or she addresses.

Fx = Insufficient. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a limited and/or only partly relevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

F = Fail. This grade is given when the student in his or her work provides a limited and irrelevant review of the topic he or she addresses.

In order to pass the course an E or higher grade is required for all parts of the course work. Students with grade F or Fx are entitled to another examination as long as the course is provided in order to achieve at least grade E. A student with E or a higher grade is not entitled to another examination to raise his or her grade. Students who have received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner is entitled to request to be evaluated by another examiner. Such requests should be sent to the Director of Studies. Students can request to be examined according to this syllabus for up to three semesters after it has ceased to be valid.

### **Plagiarism, cheating and unauthorized cooperation**

As part of your responsibility as a student, you need to be familiar with the rules for examination. Detailed information is available at the department's and Stockholm University's website [www.su.se/regelboken](http://www.su.se/regelboken). Teachers are obliged to report suspicion of cheating and plagiarism to the Director of Studies and the Disciplinary Board. Plagiarism and cheating always become a disciplinary matter and may lead to suspension.

One example of plagiarism is to exactly, or almost exactly, copy a text word for word (also applies to single sentences) without indicating where it comes from. This also applies to texts you have previously written yourself (self-plagiarism). Cheating can for example consist of bringing unauthorized equipment or aid, such as a phone, for a written test. Study groups are encouraged, but when it comes to exam assignments you must be careful to work alone (unless otherwise stated) in order not to risk partaking in unauthorized cooperation.

## Literature

The course literature consists of articles that are available through Stockholm University's library and cover the following topics (complete list of papers will be handed out at course start, around 5 articles per seminar):

The Second Demographic Transition – ideational perspectives

Diversity in family demography across Europe – perspectives on cultural differences, family systems, and kinship systems

The “New Europe”: Societies in transition – structural and economic perspectives

Migration and family dynamics – migration perspectives

Social policy and demographic behavior – policy perspectives

## Course Schedule Spring 2024 – Family Dynamics in a Changing Europe

Fr	19-jan	13:00-16:00	Introduction
Tu	23-jan	13:00-16:00	The Second Demographic Transition
Tu	30-jan	13:00-16:00	Diversity in family demography across Europe
Tu	6-feb	13:00-16:00	The “New Europe”: Societies in transition
Tu	13-feb	13:00-16:00	Migration and family dynamics
Tu	20-feb	13:00-16:00	Social policy and demographic behavior
Tu	5-mar	13:00-16:00	Student presentations (compulsory)

Student papers due: 16 March