

# LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY ORILLIA

## FALL/WINTER 2010-11 COURSE OUTLINE

### **SOCI 2501 YAO : Family Sociology**

Times: Wed. & Fri. 10-11:30am  
Location: OA 2015

Instructor: Kristy Marcellus  
Email: kcmarcel@lakeheadu.ca

#### ***Course Overview:***

This course helps students to situate Canadian family life in the broader context of historical and problems-based perspectives on the social study of families. Students will critically engage with taken-for-granted understandings of what 'family' is and what it 'does' in contemporary society. Toward this end, special attention will be paid to 'non-traditional' family formations and to the relationship between the individual and the family throughout the life-course. The role of gender in the family is also considered throughout the course.

#### ***Required Materials:***

Fox, B. (ed.) (2009) *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Mandell, N. and A. Duffy (eds.) (2005) *Canadian Families: Diversity, Conflict, and Change*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Toronto: Thomson-Nelson. [abbreviated as 'M+D' below]

\*All required textbooks are available from Manticore Books. Additional readings by Spigel and Hochschild will be on two hour reserve at the University Avenue location of the LU library.

#### ***Evaluation Scheme:***

##### Fall:

Attendance and Participation	10%	Ongoing
Major Paper Proposal	20%	Due beginning of class, 17 Nov. 2010
Mid-Term Exam	20%	During exam period, TBA

##### Winter:

Attendance and Participation	10%	Ongoing
Major Paper	20%	Due beginning of class, 16 Mar. 2011
Final Exam	20%	During exam period, TBA

**Course Schedule:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING and THINGS TO DO</u>
<i>Fall</i>		
15 Sept.	Introductions and Overviews	no reading
17 Sept.		M+D 1
22 Sept.	What is Family? Family Histories	M+D 1 (con't) Major Paper Topic Sign-up
24 Sept.		M+D 2
29 Sept.	What did 'Family' look like in the past?	Fox 2, 3
01 Oct.		Fox 2, 3 (con't)
06 Oct.	(agricultural society)	Fox 6
08 Oct.	(industrial capitalism)	Fox 7
13 Oct.	(consumer society)	Fox 8
15 Oct.		Spigel (exerpt)
20 Oct.		Fox 10
22 Oct.		Fox 11
27 Oct.	Intimacy	Fox 12
29 Oct.		M+D 5
03 Nov.	(Hetero)Sexuality and Family Life	Fox 13
05 Nov.		Fox 15
10 Nov.		Fox 16
12 Nov.		Fox 17
17 Nov.		Fox 18
19 Nov.		Fox 19
		Major Paper Proposal Due
24 Nov.	'New' Family Formations	M+D 7
26 Nov.		Fox 22
01 Dec.	Mid-Term Review	Fox 24
03 Dec.		no reading
<i>Winter</i>		
05 Jan.	Childrearing and the Work of Mothering	Fox 21
07 Jan.		Fox 20
12 Jan.	Youth in Canada	Fox 9
14 Jan.		M+D 3
19 Jan.		M+D 3 (con't)

21 Jan.	Aging and Families	M+D 11	
26 Jan.	Culture and Family	M+D 4	
28 Jan.		Fox 4, 29	
02 Feb.		Fox 26	
04 Feb.		Fox 26 (con't)	
09 Feb.	Work, Family, Finances	M+D 12	
11 Feb.		Hochschild (exerpt)	
16 Feb.		Fox 25	
18 Feb.		Fox 23	
02 Mar.		Fox 27	
04 Mar.		Fox 30	
09 Mar.		M+D 9	
11 Mar.		M+D 9 (con't)	
16 Mar.	Family Violence	M+D 6	Major Paper Due
18 Mar.		M+D 6 (con't)	
23 Mar.	Divorce	M+D 8	
25 Mar.		Fox 32	
30 Mar.	Public Policy and Family	M+D 10	
01 Apr.	Final Exam Review	no reading	

### ***More Information About...***

Attendance and Participation: Students should come to class prepared to discuss the day's assigned readings, which generally requires reading it with some care. Students are also encouraged to bring to class stories of interest and questions that are related to the day's reading or to the course more generally. *Active engagement in class discussions is required since this course involves a great deal of discussion-based learning.* Failure to attend or to actively participate **will** negatively impact upon your final grade. Contributing to online discussions also counts as participation (but does not excuse or make up for absences); these contributions should demonstrate *thoughtful* engagement with both the course materials and with others' posts, and should be of a substantive nature (at least two paragraphs).

Major Paper Proposal: Students will submit an assignment that is meant to prepare them to research their Major Papers. Each Major Paper Proposal must include an argumentative thesis statement and draft introductory paragraph (these may be

combined), reviews of three *scholarly* sources<sup>1</sup> that will be used for the Major Paper (2 pages each, including the key arguments and applicability to the student's paper), and an outline of the paper that includes the arguments/major points/key questions that will be addressed in each section or paragraph. This assignment will be discussed in further depth in class on 22 September. Carefully consider this assignment and come prepared to ask questions on this day.

Major Paper: Students will write a nine to eleven page formal academic paper on one of the following topics, for which they will sign up on 22 September:

- Sexuality and Family – e.g. heterosexism, new family formations
- The Changing Canadian Family – e.g. immigration, age-based effects
- Family Formation and/or Disintegration – e.g. weddings, divorce
- Conflict Within The Family – e.g. financial, authority-based
- The Family Home – e.g. home building, house work

A maximum of 12 students will write on each topic. In the event of overwhelming interest in a particular topic, a draw will be held. Students who are absent on 22 September, or who join the class after this date, will be assigned a topic. The list of who will write on which topic will be posted on WebCT by 23 September. Changes to your chosen/assigned topic area will not be permitted; changes to your *specific* project should be considered carefully.

The Major Paper must make use of the Major Paper Proposal assignment, and must address comments made on that assignment. Major papers must include a minimum of *seven* scholarly sources, and *must* be thoroughly edited and proofread prior to submission. Having a friend read and comment on your paper can help a great deal.

Exams: Both exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The mid-term will cover material from the fall term; the final, from the winter term. More specific instructions and tips for doing well will be discussed in class during the exam review.

Penalties for Late Assignments: Late submissions will be penalized at 5% per day to a maximum of 5 days including weekends, after which they will not be accepted, and they may not be returned to students on the same day as assignments submitted on time. Extensions will not be granted without formal documentation (doctor's note, death certificate, etc.).

Turn-Around Time: The Major Paper Proposal and Major Paper will both be returned on the last day of the fall and winter terms respectively (at the exam review class). Exam grades will be posted within two weeks of the exam date, which is determined by the University.

---

<sup>1</sup> For help determining what counts as a scholarly source, see <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~janzb/courses/scholarly1.htm> and the various links from that page.

Finding Out Your Grades: Grades will not be released by email under any circumstances. Check MyInfo after the turn-around time noted above has passed. It is your responsibility to let me know in a timely fashion if a grade has not been posted for you or if you have not received work back from me. If I am missing a grade and you do not alert me, I will consider the assignment not submitted.

Requesting a Re-evaluation of Course Work/Challenging A Grade: You may do this after a 24-hour 'cooling-off' period following the release of a grade. You *must* provide a roughly one-page write-up outlining *specifically* why you would like your grade to be revisited (why you think your grade should be higher). I reserve the right to lower the grade if, upon re-examination, this is warranted. If we are unable to resolve the dispute, students have the right to formally appeal a grade through set University guidelines, found here: <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=116>

Getting Information about the Course: Check your LakeheadU email account regularly to get information about this course (changes to the schedule, last-minute cancellations, etc.). You will also need this to access the WebCT site for the course, which is where a copy of this outline, the list of Major Paper topics, discussion boards, and additional resources will be posted.

Academic Accommodation: Students who require accommodation for any reason (disability, injury, etc.) must register with Student Affairs, who will then get in touch with me about your requirements. *It is your responsibility to do this as early as possible.*

Assignment Submission: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy, typed, doubled-spaced, and *carefully proofread*. I prefer that assignments also be double-sided (use good-one-side paper if you cannot print double-sided). NO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Communicating with the Instructor: All email regarding this course *must* originate from your LU email account and should include the course number (SOC1 2501 YAO) in the subject line. I do my best to respond to email in a timely fashion. I suggest making use of the 'Does Anyone Know...' discussion board on WebCT to get answers to questions from fellow course participants (and periodically from me). I will also be posting the answers to questions I receive by email on WebCT (under the 'Q+A' heading), so check this section before emailing your question to me. Use the 'Anonymous Feedback' board to provide me with comments about the course – I will be able to see the comment but not who wrote it. Email me to arrange a time if you need to meet; I will not be holding regular office hours for this course. *Be aware that although I work full-time on campus, I am not available for drop-in meetings. Appointments **MUST** be booked in advance.*

Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct/Plagiarism: As a colleague once put it on her course outlines: "You do not need to cheat. You do not want to cheat. Bad things will happen if you cheat. Do not cheat." See the University's policy for more information: <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>, Article 1.1 (Academic Misconduct).