

**Lakehead University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 2501YA**  
**Family Sociology**

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**Fall and Winter Semesters: 2011-2012**  
**Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 4.00-5.30**  
**Classes are held in: BB 2006**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2.00-3.00**

**Course Description**

Families are shaped by historical and cultural change and it is through examining the social, political, and cultural milieu of Canadian society that a full understanding of family in Canada can be achieved. Family is not static and recognizing the complexity of family provides a starting point for sociological analysis of family. This course will examine the family in Canada by challenging traditional approaches to the study of family. A critical approach will provide a means to engage in discourse on family in a historical context and what this means for family in Canada today. Several substantive areas will be discussed in detail: what family is, family histories, family forms, ethnicity and families, divorce, socialization and youth, economics and poverty, violence, intimacy, work, theoretical perspectives, law and public policy, and aging and families. Central to our discussion are structured inequalities that shape the form of family life.

**Texts**

Mandell, Nancy and Ann Duffy, Eds. 2011. *Canadian Families Diversity, Conflict, and Change*. Toronto: Thomson Nelson.

Fox, Bonnie J., Ed. 2009. *Family Patterns Gender Relations*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussions. As well, reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading list is attached to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure you know the dates and times of all examinations. The in-class mid-term examination is listed below. The December and Final examinations are posted by the registrar and the schedule for these can be found online.

Late papers and rescheduling of examinations must be accompanied by a note from a medical doctor or counsellor.

<b><u>Evaluation</u></b>	<b><u>Marks</u></b>	<b><u>Due Dates</u></b>
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Oct. 18, 2011
December Examination	25%	Set by the Registrar
Assignment	25%	March 13, 2012
Final Examination	25%	Set by the Registrar
Participation	<u>10%</u>	Throughout the course
	100%	

**Examinations**

The examinations will incorporate lectures, class discussions, films and assigned readings.

**Participation**

Your participation mark is based on your contribution to class discussions.

**Assignment**

You are to prepare a Brief to be submitted to the House of Commons. A Brief establishes an argument that can be used to advocate changes in the law. The Brief you write will focus on an issue of concern to the family in Canada. Your brief is to begin with a concise Introduction that outlines the importance of the issue you are discussing and the rationale for submission of the brief. The Introduction will be followed by a Literature Review of the pertinent research conducted on your area of inquiry. The Literature Review should include background information, new developments that may be of importance to your argument, and anything else that is relevant for you to make your case. Your Conclusion will focus on a summation of what you have argued and recommendations to the government for legislative changes.

The Guide for the submission of briefs to the House of Commons Committee recommends:

- the brief should include factual information to substantiate the views expressed and the claims made;
- recommendations to the committee should be as specific as possible, especially in terms of suggested amendments to bills;
- briefs should not exceed 10 pages;
- recommendations should be summarized at the end of the brief;
- explanatory notes should be placed at the end of the brief;
- any reference materials used should be clearly indicated;
- any logos, line drawings, graphs, tables and charts should be done in black ink as other colours may not readily be photocopied;
- any photographs submitted with the brief must be in black and white and have a glossy finish ([www.parl.gc.ca/.../process/house/WitnessesGuides/guide-brief](http://www.parl.gc.ca/.../process/house/WitnessesGuides/guide-brief)).

Your brief is to be 9 to 10 typed pages in length, Times New Roman style, 12 font, and double-spaced.

You are to use the American Sociological Association (ASA) style guide when formatting your paper.

The Assignment is due March 12, 2012, at the beginning of class. Late assignments are penalized at the rate of 5% per day late.

**NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HANDED IN ELECTRONICALLY.**

**American Sociological Association (ASA)**

All assignments in the Department of Sociology are to follow the ASA style guide.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the [Lakehead University Calendar](#).

**Grades**

Midterms and your assignment will be returned in class. You have two weeks, after the day midterms and the assignment are handed back in class, to come and discuss your grade.

**Please Note: I do try to answer email in a timely fashion. I do guarantee a response during my regularly scheduled office hours. I do not discuss marks through email.**

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule**

1. Tues. Sept. 13: Welcome to Family Sociology  
Introductions  
Course Outline
2. Thurs. Sept. 15: Lecture: Introduction to Family Sociology Portraying Canadian Families  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 1
3. Tues. Sept. 20: Lecture: Family Forms  
Reading: Fox – Chapters 1 and 2
4. Thurs. Sept. 22: Lecture: Family Forms  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 3
5. Tues. Sept. 27: Lecture: Theoretical Perspectives  
Reading: No Assigned Reading
6. Thurs. Sept. 29: Lecture: Family Histories  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 4
7. Tues. Oct. 4: Lecture: Family Histories  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 5
8. Thurs. Oct. 6: Lecture: Family Histories  
Reading: Fox – Chapters 6 and 7
9. Tues. Oct. 11: Lecture: Canadian Youth Culture: Consumption, Resistance, and Rave  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 3
10. Thurs. Oct. 13: Lecture: Canadian Youth Culture: Consumption, Resistance, and Rave  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 19
11. Tues. Oct. 18: **Mid-term Examination**
12. Thurs. Oct. 20: Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 4
13. Tues. Oct. 25: Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 28
14. Thurs. Oct. 27: Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 29
15. Tues. Nov. 1: Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 26

16. Thurs. Nov. 3:      Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse  
                              Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 2
17. Tues. Nov. 8:      Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse  
                              Reading: Fox – Chapters 15 and 16
18. Thurs. Nov. 10:    Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse  
                              Reading: Fox – Chapter 14
19. Tues. Nov. 15:     Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course  
                              Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 9
20. Thurs. Nov. 17:    Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course  
                              Reading: No reading assigned
21. Tues. Nov. 22:     Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course  
                              Reading: Fox – Chapter 31
22. Thurs. Nov. 24:    Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course  
                              Reading: No reading assigned
23. Tues. Nov. 29:     Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course  
                              Reading: No reading assigned
24. Thurs. Dec.1:      This will be a catch-up class

**Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule**

1. Tues. Jan. 10: Happy New Year and Welcome Back to Family Sociology  
Review Winter Reading Schedule  
Lecture: Begin LGBTQ Families in Canada: Private Lives and Public Discourse  
Reading: No reading assigned
2. Thurs. Jan. 12: Lecture: LGBTQ Families in Canada: Private Lives and Public Discourse  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 5
3. Tues. Jan 17: Lecture: LGBTQ Families in Canada: Private Lives and Public Discourse  
Reading: Fox – Chapters 22 and 24
4. Thurs. Jan. 19: Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 8
5. Tues. Jan. 24 : Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 9
6. Thurs. Jan. 26: Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 32
7. Tues. Jan. 31 : Film TBA
8. Thurs. Feb 2: Lecture: Families in Tough Times: The Impact of Economic Crises  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 6
9. Tues. Feb. 7: Lecture: Families in Tough Times: The Impact of Economic Crises  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 33
10. Thurs. Feb. 9: Lecture: Family Life in 1950s  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 10
11. Tues. Feb. 14: Lecture: “Politicizing the Personal”: Feminism, Law, and Public Policy  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 8
12. Thurs. Feb. 16: Lecture: “Politicizing the Personal”: Feminism, Law, and Public Policy  
Reading: Fox – Chapter 20
13. Tues. Feb. 21: **Reading Week – No Class**
14. Thurs. Feb. 23: **Reading Week – No Class**
15. Tues. Feb. 28: Lecture: “Politicizing the Personal”: Feminism, Law, and Public Policy  
Reading: No Reading Assigned
16. Thurs. Mar: 1: Lecture: Aging Families  
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 10

17. Tues. Mar. 6:           Lecture: Aging Families  
                                  Reading: No reading assigned
18. Thurs. Mar. 8:        Lecture: Aging Families  
                                  Reading: No reading assigned
19. Tues. Mar. 13:        Lecture: Adoption  
                                  Reading: No reading assigned  
                                  **Assignment: Brief to the House of Commons is Due**
20. Thurs. Mar. 15:      Lecture: Polygamy  
                                  Reading: No reading assigned
21. Tues. Mar. 20:        Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...  
                                  Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 7
22. Thurs. Mar. 22:      Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...  
                                  Reading: Fox – Chapters 11 and 18
23. Tues. Mar. 27:        Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...  
                                  Reading: Fox – Chapters 21 and 17
24. Thurs. Mar. 29:      Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...  
                                  Reading: Fox – Chapters 23and 25
25. Tues. Apr. 3:         Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...  
                                  Reading: Fox – Chapter 27
26. Thurs. Apr. 5:        Catch-up Class