

Lakehead University
Department of Sociology
Sociology/Gerontology/Women's Studies 2501YA
Family Sociology

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Fall and Winter Semesters: 2017-2018

Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 2.30-4.00

Classes are held in: AT 1010

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1.00-2.00

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 the family in Canada can be achieved. Family is not static and recognizing the complexity of family and family as a social construction 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 the 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 the 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. 2014. *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Caragata, Lea and Judit Alcalde. 2014. *Not the Whole Story Challenging the Single Mother Narrative*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier 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 examinations are listed below. The Final examination is posted by the registrar and the schedule for this can be found online.

Course Objectives

Understand the Canadian family.

Use your sociological imagination to examine the complexities of family life in Canada.

Examine the multitude of family forms.

Examine First Nations families in Canada.

Describe and discuss major sociological theories as they relate to the family.

Examine societal issues and concerns such as: family violence, adoption, youth, divorce, poverty, work, law and public policy, and intimate relationships.

Critically examine social structural and historical forces that shape families.

Understand gender, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, age, etc. will have an impact on family and family life.

Enhance writing and analytical skills through a written assignment.

Enhance language and collegial skills through teamwork during class discussions.

Further develop critical skills.

Enjoy the material!

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Oct. 18, 2017
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Nov. 27, 2017
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Feb. 12, 2018
Assignment	25%	March 14, 2018
Final Examination	20%	Set by the Registrar
Participation	<u>10%</u>	Throughout the course
	100%	

Late papers and rescheduling of examinations must be accompanied by a note from a medical doctor or counsellor. Please refer to [Lakehead University Calendar](#).

Examinations

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

Participation

Your participation mark is based on your contribution to class discussions. This entails engaging in meaningful discussion and handing in signed group reports. Should you choose to chat with your fellow classmates, play games, check your emails, etc. and not to be part of your group discussion you will forfeit your participation marks for the class.

Assignment

You are to choose one social policy and examine the policy in detail, noting the impact of the policy on family. For example, you could choose to look at adoption disclosure laws in Ontario. In your examination of adoption disclosure laws you would investigate the arguments for and against adoption disclosure, what impact is there on those adopted? What impact is there for parents who gave a child up for adoption? Were/are there differences between mothers and fathers whose child is/was placed for adoption? Has the law changed? In this assignment the importance of investigating why or why not changes are legislated should be clearly outlined.

For this assignment you are taking an in-depth look at one policy and examining the impact of the policy on family. The intersection of policy on the family has implications on numerous levels.

Your research could entail a look at past legislation to review changes in the policy. Of particular note is historical/social context. For example, if you were examining same-sex marriage laws you might want to note the timing of the passage of these laws, in terms of the social milieu of the time. Why were the laws not changed earlier? The rationale for changed policy is an important statement about the social world and the impact on family.

Your assignment is to be 8 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 14, 2018** at the beginning of class. Late assignments are penalized at the rate of 5 marks a day, including weekends and holidays. No assignments will be accepted 7 days after the due date.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HANDED IN ELECTRONICALLY.

American Sociological Association (ASA)

All assignments in the Department of Sociology are to follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) style guide. The guide can be accessed on the web. Type in ASA Style Guide and a number of examples will be available for you to choose from.

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 day assignments are handed back in class, to come and discuss your grade.

Technology

The use of phones during class is prohibited. Please turn your phone off and put it away during class. Use of computers is fine, as long as they are used for class work and not to play games, check emails, look at photographs, etc. Should you choose to use computers or other electronic devices for purposes other than taking lecture notes your use of such devices will be curtailed and paper and pen/pencil will be the means to take lecture notes.

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.

Discussion

Discussion is an important part of academia. Discussions in this class will be based on principles of respectfulness for diversity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, and socio-economic status. Please refer to the Lakehead University Code of Student Behaviour.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Fall Semester 2017

Wednesday, September 6:

Welcome to Family Sociology
Introductions
Course Outline

Monday, September 11:

Lecture: Introduction to Family Sociology Portraying Canadian Families
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 1

Wednesday, September 13:

Lecture: Family Forms
Reading: Fox Chapter – 1

Monday, September 18:

Lecture: Family Forms
Reading: Fox Chapter – 2

Wednesday, September 20:

Lecture: Theoretical Perspectives
Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, September 25:

Lecture: Family Histories
Reading: Fox Chapter – 3

Wednesday, September 27:

Lecture: Family Histories
Reading: Fox Chapter – 4

Monday, October 2:

Lecture: Family Histories
Reading: Fox Chapter 5

Wednesday, October 4:

Lecture: Canadian Youth Culture: Consumption, Resistance, and Rave
Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 3

Monday, October 9: Thanksgiving No Class

Wednesday, October 11: Fall Reading Week No Class

Monday, October 16:

Lecture: Canadian Youth Culture: Consumption, Resistance, and Rave

Reading: Fox Chapter – 13

Wednesday, October 18:

Midterm Examination

Monday, October 23:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 4

Wednesday, October 25:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapters – 17 and 20

Monday, October 30:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 19

Wednesday, November 1:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 21

Monday, November 6:

Lecture: “Politicizing the Personal”: Feminism, Law, and Public Policy

Reading: Use the reading time to look at sources for your paper.

Wednesday, November 8:

Lecture: “Politicizing the Personal”: Feminism, Law, and Public Policy

Reading: Use the reading time to look at sources for your paper.

Monday, November 13:

Lecture: “Politicizing the Personal”: Feminism, Law, and Public Policy

Reading: Use the reading time to look at sources for your paper.

Wednesday, November 15:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 9

Monday, November 20:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 27

Wednesday, November 22:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 28

Monday, November 27:

Midterm Examination

Wednesday, November 29:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Use the reading time to look at sources for your paper.

Monday, December 4

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Winter Semester 2018

Monday, January 8:

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

Wednesday, January 10:

Lecture: LGBTQ Families in Canada: Private Lives and Public Discourse

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 5

Monday, January 15:

Lecture: LGBTQ Families in Canada: Private Lives and Public Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapter – 15

Wednesday, January 17:

Lecture: Adoption

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, January 22:

Lecture: Adoption and Polygamy

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, January 24:

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 10

Monday, January 29:

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, January 31:

Lecture: Families in Tough Times: The Impact of Economic Crises

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 6

Monday, February 5:

Lecture: Families in Tough Times: The Impact of Economic Crises

Reading: Fox Chapters – 22 and 23

Wednesday, February 7:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 2

Monday, February 12:

Midterm Examination

Wednesday, February 14:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 10 and 11

Monday, February 19: Family Day No Class

Wednesday, February 21: Reading Week No Class

Monday, February 26:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 9 and 12

Wednesday, February 28:

Lecture: Family Life in 1950s

Reading: Fox Chapter – 7

Monday, March 5:

Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 8

Wednesday, March 7:

Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada

Reading: Fox Chapters – 24 and 26

Monday, March 12:

Film TBA

Reading: Not the Whole Story Challenging the Single Mother Narrative.

Wednesday, March 14:

Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada

Reading: Fox Chapters – 25 and 6

Assignment is Due

Monday, March 19:

Lecture: Marriage-Go-Round: Divorce and Remarriage in Canada

Reading: Not the Whole Story Challenging the Single Mother Narrative.

Wednesday, March 21:

Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 7

Monday, March 26:

Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...

Reading: Fox Chapter – 18

Wednesday, March 28:

Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...

Reading: Fox Chapter – 8

Monday, April 2:

Easter Monday No Class

Wednesday April 4:

Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...

Reading: Fox Chapter – 14

Monday, April 9:

This is a regularly scheduled class to make up for Easter Monday

Lecture: Families at Work: Individual versus Collective Strategies ...

Reading: Fox Chapter – 29

Please note: If you lose or misplace your course outline or the dog/cat/pet bird eat it you can find one online by going to the A to Z index, click on Sociology, once on the website click on courses and scroll down until you find this course.