

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

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Fall and Winter Semesters: 2018-2019
Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 4.00-5.30
Classes are held in: AT 2001
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12.00-1.00

Course Description

Families are shaped by historical and cultural change. 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.

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.

Develop critical skills.

Enjoy the material!

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-Term Examination	15%	October 17, 2018
Mid-Term Examination	15%	November 26, 2018
Mid-Term Examination	15%	February 11, 2019
Assignment	25%	March 13, 2019
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. Examinations are not cumulative.

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.

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.

Assignment

You are to choose one Canadian 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? Another example of policy is the Sex Education curriculum in Ontario schools. The recent debate surrounding this policy has made news headlines throughout Ontario. 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. Eight to ten pages is 8 to 10 pages of text.

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

The Assignment is due, March 13, 2019 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. Please note: assignments are due at the beginning of the class.

Assignments handed in after the start time for the class are deemed late and will be penalized with a loss of 5 marks.

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. Search or Google 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.

Medical or Compassionate Consideration

Should you require academic consideration for medical or compassionate reasons, you will need a note from a physician or counsellor. Please refer to the current Lakehead University Calendar for detailed information.

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.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Fall Semester 2018**Wednesday, September 5:**

Welcome to Family Sociology
Introductions
Course Outline

Monday, September 10:

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

Wednesday, September 12:

Lecture: Family Forms
Reading: Fox Chapter – 1

Monday, September 17:

Lecture: Family Forms
Reading: Fox Chapter – 2

Wednesday, September 19:

Lecture: Theoretical Perspectives
Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, September 24:

Lecture: Family Histories
Reading: Fox Chapter – 3

Wednesday, September 26:

Lecture: Family Histories
Reading: Fox Chapter – 4

Monday, October 1:

Lecture: Family Histories
Reading: Fox Chapter 5

Wednesday, October 3:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 3

Monday, October 8: Thanksgiving No Class

Wednesday, October 10: Fall Reading Week No Class

Monday, October 15:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 13

Wednesday, October 17:

Midterm Examination

Monday, October 22:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 4

Wednesday, October 24:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapters – 17 and 20

Monday, October 29:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 19

Wednesday, October 31:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 21

Monday, November 5:

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

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

Wednesday, November 7:

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

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

Monday, November 12:

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

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

Wednesday, November 14:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 9

Monday, November 19:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 27

Wednesday, November 21:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 28

Monday, November 26:

Midterm Examination

Wednesday, November 28:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, December 3

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Winter Semester 2019

Monday, January 7:

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 9:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 5

Monday, January 14:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 15

Wednesday, January 16:

Lecture: Adoption

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, January 21:

Lecture: Adoption and Polygamy

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, January 23:

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 10

Monday, January 28:

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 6

Wednesday, January 30:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 22

Monday, February 4:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 23

Wednesday, February 6:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 2

Monday, February 11:

Midterm Examination

Wednesday, February 13:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 10 and 11

Monday, February 18: Family Day No Class

Wednesday, February 20: Reading Week No Class

Monday, February 25:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 9 and 12

Wednesday, February 27:

Lecture: Family Life in 1950s

Reading: Fox Chapter – 7

Monday, March 4:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 8

Wednesday, March 6:

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 24 and 26

Monday, March 11:

Film TBA

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, March 13:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 25

Assignment is Due

Monday, March 18:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 6

Wednesday, March 20:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 7

Monday, March 25:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 18

Wednesday, March 27:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 8

Monday, April 1:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 14

Wednesday April 3:

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.