

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

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**Fall and Winter Semesters: 2020-2021**  
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**I will be online often reading posts. Should you need any assistance or have a question I am only an email away and happy to help/answer questions.**

**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**

McDaniel, Susan, Tepperman, Lorne, and Sandra Colavecchia. 2019. *Close Relations An Introduction to the Sociology of Family*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. North York, ON: Pearson.

Fox, Bonnie J., Ed. 2014. *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

A bridal magazine is required for lecture 11. You can purchase, borrow, or download a recent (within the last two years) bridal magazine; you require the full magazine.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to regularly check the D2L site and actively participate in group discussions. As well, reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading list is attached to this syllabus. This course is designed to be interactive and group discussion is a central component of the course.

**All times for this course are Thunder Bay time, Eastern Daylight Time.**

**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 Indigenous 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!

<b><u>Evaluation</u></b>	<b><u>Marks</u></b>	<b><u>Due Dates</u></b>
Examination	15%	November 2, 2020
Examination	10%	January 25, 2021
Examination	15%	March 29, 2021
Assignment	25%	March 30, 2021
Participation	<u>35%</u>	Throughout the course
	100%	

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

### **Lectures**

Each week is designed to be a 3 hour class, not including weekly readings, assignments, or studying for examinations. The three hours is to go over the lecture material, clicking on and reading the links provided, searching for information when requested to do so, watch any videos listed, answer group questions, etc.

### **Examinations**

The examinations will incorporate lectures, class discussions, films and assigned readings. Examinations are not cumulative. Examinations are designed, in such a way, those who have carefully read the required readings, carefully read the links, watched the videos, understood the lectures, fully addressed the discussion questions, and worked to clearly understand course material, should have no trouble answering the questions.

**All examinations are at 6.00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time. Everyone will write the examinations at the same time. The examination times are firm.**

### **Research Assignment**

You are to choose one Canadian social policy and examine the policy in detail, noting the impact of the policy on family. You will create a poster outlining the policy, why the policy was implemented, what the social issues surrounding the policy are, what is the impact of the policy, etc. 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.

The research projects will be posted for the entire class to read. There will be time devoted to reading the posters, posing questions, and answering questions. Research Projects are to be posted by 9.00 am on March 30, 2021. Posters posted after 9.00 am March 30 and before 9.00 am on March 31, 2021 will be docked 5 late marks. Should you submit your poster any time after 9.00 am and before 6.00 pm on March 31, 2021 you will be docked 10 late marks. No posters will be accepted after 6.00 pm on March 31, 2021.

Posters must be submitted in a readable format. Posters not in a readable format will be treated as late posters, with marks docked until they are readable. Should the poster not be resubmitted in a readable format by March 31, 6.00 pm, there will be no grade assigned.

There will be a forum set up to post your poster. Classmates can ask questions or make comments simply by hitting reply under your posting and you can make your response in the same way. Responding in this way keeps all questions/comments/responses in one place, which makes it easier for all concerned. You can post your poster beginning March 28, 2021. Comments to posters can begin on March 30 at any time. Questions/comments must be made prior to Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 2.00 pm.

Remember to post your poster in the open poster forum specifically designed for posters. You also need to post your poster in assignments. The poster will be graded in the assignment folder and only you can see the comments and grade in the assignment folder. Should you choose not to submit your poster in the assignment folder, on or before 6.00 pm on March 31, 2021, no comments will be made on your poster, your grade will appear in myinfo.

Google has a number of sites that tell you how to design a poster. Type in academic posters and you will find a number of examples. If you were handing in a hardcopy of the poster it would be on standard Bristol board, which is 22 X 28 inches; this is the size your poster is to be. If you type in how to make a poster online it will bring you to sites that will help you

You are to use a minimum of 6 academic sources in your poster.

You are to use the American Sociological Association (ASA) style guide when formatting your paper. You must cite all your sources, a reference page is not citing sources, they must be cited in the poster.

### **Participation**

Participation is a significant part of your overall mark. Your participation mark is based on your contribution to group discussions and asking questions/making comments and answering questions/comments on the poster assignment. This entails fulsome responses to group discussions/poster questions/comments; stating “I agree” or “I disagree” without adding why you agree or disagree is not considered a fulsome discussion. Repeating what a group member has said in discussion posts/questions/comments is not a fulsome discussion. Participation means engaging with the material. You are to answer each discussion question in each lecture. While you certainly can agree or disagree with a post, you need to outline your rationale for doing so. Critical thinking is not about opinions. Critical thinking is rational, unbiased, evidence based thought.

If you are concerned you will be repeating what a group member has posted you might want to answer the question offline, cut and paste it into the discussion forum, and then comment on what your group members have said.

Each of you was randomly assigned to a discussion group forum and will work with your group throughout the course. Discussion forums can only be viewed by the members of the group and me. Respectfulness of answers is to be practiced. You do not have to agree with your classmates, you can respectfully disagree. Academia is about discourse and critical thought.

Each question, in each lecture and the questions/comments on posters will be marked out of 4 possible marks, following the list below. Your answers should not only reflect that you have read the material/watched the videos in question, but have thought about and further analysed it. Additionally, you should read the responses of your peers to avoid repeating or copying their answers, as well as to further your group discussion regarding that question.

- 0 Marks: No answer or answer reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of the question or content being asked about.
- 1 Mark: Answer reveals you have read the relevant material and provided an answer.

- 2 Marks: Answer shows an understanding of the material being asked about and appropriately addresses the question.
- 3 Marks: Answer illustrates a full understanding of the material and the question, as well as the capacity to engage with the discussion beyond merely answering the question.
- 4 Marks: Answer proves that you have not only understood the material and question, but are able to deeply discuss the sociological relevance provoked by the question and the material.

Discussions are not marked for length, only for content. While each post is read and graded, those who post before 11.00 pm, each Wednesday, can expect a comment on at least one post.

Discussion posts for lectures open at 8.00 am on Monday, with the exception of week 1, which begins on Tuesday. The last posts for discussion questions need to be made by 2.00 pm on Thursday. Discussion posts will close each week on Thursday at 2.00 pm. The poster forum will open, for discussion, Tuesday, March 30, 2021 and will close on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

While you are to read all the posters, you are to select at least 15 of your classmates' poster assignments to read in-depth and ask questions/make comments on these. As well, you are to answer questions/comments asked of your poster. Please ask questions/make comments of the posters of your group members before examining the posters of those in other groups. Doing so ensures everyone has questions/comments to address and everyone's work is read in-depth by some classmates. Respectfulness is expected when asking questions/making comments or responding to questions/comments. Questions/comments/responses are to be fulsome. Saying nice colours is not a fulsome comment.

### **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. Google ASA Style Guide and a number of examples will be available for you to choose from. One example is posted in content.

### **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 counselor. Please refer to the current [Lakehead University Calendar](#) for detailed information.

**Please use Lakehead Email to converse with me [lforbes@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:lforbes@lakeheadu.ca) . Any notices I send will be through your Lakehead Email account.**

As noted earlier on, I will be online often reading posts. Should you need any assistance or have a question I am only an email away and happy to help/answer questions.

**The Following is Lakehead University's Policy for Students Engaged in Remote Learning at Lakehead University.**

**(1) Copyright Compliance:**

I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law:

- (1) I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and
- (2) I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor.

I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

**(2) Exam/Assignment Integrity:**

I understand and agree that:

- (1) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.
- (2) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

“A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students should view the Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity – for a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.”

## Fall Semester Reading and Lecture Schedule

**Week 1: Tuesday, Sept. 8 to Thursday, Sept. 10**

Lecture 1: Introduction to Family Sociology (1½ hours)

Reading: McDaniel Preface

**Week 2: Monday, Sept. 14 to Thursday, Sept. 17**

Lecture 2: Families and Family-Like Relationships 1 (3 hours)

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 1

**Week 3: Monday, Sept. 21 to Thursday, Sept. 24**

Lecture 3: Families and Family-Like Relationships 2 (3 hours)

Reading: Fox Chapter 1

Reading: Fox Chapter 2

**Week 4: Monday, Sept. 28 to Thursday, Oct. 1**

Lecture 4: Historical Perspectives on Canadian Families 1 (3 hours)

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 2

Reading: Fox Chapter 3

**Week 5: Monday, Oct. 5 to Thursday, Oct. 8 (3 hours)**

Lecture 5: Historical Perspectives on Canadian Families 2 (3 hours)

Reading: Fox Chapter 4

Reading: Fox Chapter 5

**Week 6: Monday, Oct. 12 to Thursday, Oct. 15**

**Thanksgiving and Study Week No classes**

**Week 7: Monday, Oct. 19 to Thursday, Oct. 22**

Lecture 6: Historical Perspectives on Canadian Families 3 (3 hours)

Reading: Fox Chapter 20

**Week 8: Monday, Oct. 26 to Thursday, Oct. 29**

Lecture 7: Historical Perspectives on Canadian Families 4 (3 hours)

Reading: Fox Chapter 19

Reading: Fox Chapter 21

**Week 9: Monday, Nov. 2 to Thursday, Nov. 5**

**Examination: Monday, November 2, 2020, 6.00 pm, Eastern Standard Time**

**Library Session: November 4, at 1.00 pm. This will be a zoom session.**

**Week 10: Monday, Nov. 9 to Thursday, Nov. 12**

Lecture 8: How Families Begin Dating and Mating 1 (3 hours)

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 3 Pages 69 to 88

Reading: Fox Chapter 10

**Week 11: Monday, Nov. 16 to Thursday, Nov. 19**

Lecture 9: How Families Begin Dating and Mating 2 (1½ hours)

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 3 Pages 88 to 107

Reading: Fox Chapter 9

Lecture 10: Happy and Healthy Relationships (1½ hours)

**Please note:** you are to read McDaniel Chapter 5 for this lecture. As there are already two readings assigned for this week, the hour and a half scheduled for this lecture includes time to read chapter 5 and answer a discussion question.

**Week 12: Monday, Nov. 23 to Thursday, Nov. 26**

Lecture 11: Types of Intimate Couples (3 hours)

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 4

Reading: Fox Chapter 11

**Week 13: Monday, Nov. 30 to Thursday, Dec. 3**

Lecture 12: Types of Intimate Couples (3 hours)

Reading: Fox Chapter 15

Reading: Fox Chapter 7

**Winter Semester 2021 Reading and Lecture Schedule**

**Week: 14: Monday, Jan. 4 to Thursday, Jan. 7**

Lecture 13: Parenting 1

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 6

**Week: 15: Monday, Jan. 11 to Thursday, Jan. 14**

Lecture 14: Parenting 2

Reading: Fox Chapter 13

Reading: Fox Chapter 1

**Week: 16: Monday, Jan. 18 to Thursday, Jan. 21**

Lecture 15: Parenting 3

Reading: Fox Chapter 12

**Week: 17: Monday, Jan. 25 to Thursday, Jan. 28**

**Examination: Monday, Jan, 25, 2021, 6.00 pm, Eastern Standard Time**

Lecture 16: Work and Family Life 1

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 7

**Week: 18: Monday, Feb. 1 to Thursday, Feb. 4**

Lecture 17: Work and Family Life 2

Reading: Fox Chapter 18

Reading: Fox Chapter 8

**Week: 19: Monday, Feb. 8 to Thursday, Feb. 11**

Lecture 18: Stress and Violence 1

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 8

**Week: 20: Monday, Feb. 15 to Thursday, Feb. 18**

**Family Day and Study Week No classes**

**Week: 21: Monday, Feb. 22 to Thursday, Feb. 25**

Lecture 19: Stress and Violence 2

Reading: Fox Chapter 27

**Week: 22: Monday, Mar. 1 to Thursday, Mar. 4**

Lecture 20: Divorce and Ending Relationships 1

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 9

**Week: 23: Monday, Mar. 8 to Thursday, Mar. 11**

Lecture 21: Divorce and Ending Relationships 2

Reading: Fox Chapter 25

Reading: Fox Chapter 26

**Week: 24: Monday, Mar. 15 to Thursday, Mar. 18**

Lecture 22: Family Transitions and Diversity 1

Reading: McDaniel Chapter 10

**Week: 25: Monday, Mar. 22 to Thursday, Mar. 25**

Lecture 23: Family Transitions and Diversity 2

Reading: Fox Chapter 17

Reading: Fox Chapter 22

**Week: 26: Monday, Mar. 29 to Thursday, Apr. 6**

**Examination: Monday, Mar. 29, 2021, 6.00 pm, Eastern Standard Time**

**Posters are due Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 8.00 am**

**This week will be spent reviewing the posters and asking and answering questions on the posters.**

**Please note: as you have all the course material available to you, there will be no reviews. You might want to create your study notes as you go through each unit.**