

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

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Fall and Winter Semesters: 2015-2016
Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 10.00-11.30
Classes are held in: AT 2001
Office Hours Fall Semester Monday 1.30-3.30
Office Hours Winter Semester Monday 3.00-5.00

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 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 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.

Silver, Jim. 2014. *About Canada Poverty*. Nova Scotia. Fernwood Publishing.

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.

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 teamwork through class discussion
Further develop critical skills

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Oct. 21, 2015
December Examination	25%	Set by the Registrar
Assignment	25%	March 9, 2016
Final Examination	25%	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 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 a decade, prior to 2000, and examine family within that decade. Your paper is to focus on how macro structures impact upon family. You are to include political, economic, and social issues within the decade that affected family life. For example, did the economy facilitate or restrict family formation, the number of children families had, etc.

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 9, 2016** 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 recording 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 2015

Monday, September 14

Welcome to Family Sociology
Introductions
Course Outline

Wednesday, September 16

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

Monday, September 21

Lecture: Family Forms
Reading: Fox Chapter – 1

Wednesday, September 23

Lecture: Family Forms

Reading: Fox Chapter – 2

Monday, September 28

Lecture: Theoretical Perspectives

Reading: No Assigned Reading

Wednesday, September 30

Lecture: Family Histories

Reading: Fox Chapter – 3

Monday, October 5

Lecture: Family Histories

Reading: Fox Chapter – 4

Wednesday, October 7

Lecture: Family Histories

Reading: Fox Chapter 5

Monday, October 12 Thanksgiving No Class

Wednesday, October 14

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 3

Monday, October 19

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 13

Wednesday, October 21

Midterm Examination

Monday, October 26

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 4

Wednesday, October 28

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapters – 17 and 20

Monday, November 2

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 19

Wednesday, November 4

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 21

Monday, November 9

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 2

Wednesday, November 11

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 10 and 11

Monday, November 16

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 9 and 12

Wednesday, November 18

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 9

Monday, November 23

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 27

Wednesday, November 25

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 28

Monday, November 30

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, December 2

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, December 7

This is a regularly scheduled class and will be a catch-up class

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Winter Semester 2016

Monday, January 4

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 6

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 5

Monday, January 11

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 15

Wednesday, January 13

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 8

Monday, January 18

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 24 and 26

Wednesday, January 20

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 25 and 6

Monday, January 25

Film TBA

Reading: Silver *About Canada Poverty*

Wednesday, January 27

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

Reading: Silver *About Canada Poverty*

Monday, February 1

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 6

Wednesday, February 3

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 22 and 23

Monday, February 8

Lecture: Family Life in 1950s

Reading: Fox Chapter – 7

Wednesday, February 10

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

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Monday, February 15: Family Day – No Class

Wednesday, February 17: Reading Week – No Class

Monday, February 22

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

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Wednesday, February 24

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

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Monday, February 29

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 10

Wednesday, March 2

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, March 7

Lecture: Adoption

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, March 9

Lecture: Adoption

Reading: No reading assigned

Assignment is Due

Monday, March 14

Lecture: Polygamy

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, March 16

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 7

Monday, March 21

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 18

Wednesday, March 23

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 8

Monday, March 28 Easter Monday – No Class

Wednesday, March 30

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 14

Monday, April 4

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 29