

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

Dr. Laurie Forbes
Office: UC 0034
Phone: 343-8966
Email: lforbes@lakeheadu.ca

Fall and Winter Semesters: 2016-2017
Class Times: Monday and Wednesday 5.30 – 7.00
Classes are held in: BB 1021
Office Hours: Monday 10.00 – 12.00

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.

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 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. 19, 2016 |
| December Examination | 25% | Set by the Registrar |
| Assignment | 25% | March 15, 2017 |
| 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 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 taking 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.

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 15, 2017** 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 2016

Wednesday, September 7:

Welcome to Family Sociology
Introductions
Course Outline

Monday, September 12:

Lecture: Introduction to Family Sociology Portraying Canadian Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 1

Wednesday, September 14:

Lecture: Family Forms

Reading: Fox Chapter – 1

Monday, September 19:

Lecture: Family Forms

Reading: Fox Chapter – 2

Wednesday, September 21:

Lecture: Theoretical Perspectives

Reading: No Assigned Reading

Monday, September 26:

Lecture: Family Histories

Reading: Fox Chapter – 3

Wednesday, September 28:

Lecture: Family Histories

Reading: Fox Chapter – 4

Monday, October 3:

Lecture: Family Histories

Reading: Fox Chapter 5

Wednesday, October 5:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 3

Monday, October 10: Thanksgiving No Class

Wednesday, October 12: Fall Reading Week No Class

Monday, October 17:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 13

Wednesday, October 19:

Midterm Examination

Monday, October 24:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 4

Wednesday, October 26:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapters – 17 and 20

Monday, October 31:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 19

Wednesday, November 2:

Lecture: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Reading: Fox Chapter – 21

Monday, November 7:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 2

Wednesday, November 9:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 10 and 11

Monday, November 14:

Lecture: Intimacy as Discourse

Reading: Fox Chapters – 9 and 12

Wednesday, November 16:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 9

Monday, November 21:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 27

Wednesday, November 23:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: Fox Chapter – 28

Monday, November 28:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, November 30:

Lecture: Violence in Canadian Families Across the Life Course

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, December 5

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

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Winter Semester 2017

Monday, January 9:

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 11:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 5

Monday, January 16:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 15

Wednesday, January 18:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 8

Monday, January 23:

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 24 and 26

Wednesday, January 25:

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 25 and 6

Monday, January 30:

Film TBA

Reading: Silver *About Canada Poverty*

Wednesday, February 1:

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

Reading: Silver *About Canada Poverty*

Monday, February 6:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 6

Wednesday, February 8:

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

Reading: Fox Chapters – 22 and 23

Monday, February 13:

Lecture: Family Life in 1950s

Reading: Fox Chapter – 7

Wednesday, February 15:

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

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Monday, February 20: Family Day No Class

Wednesday, February 22: Reading Week No Class

Monday, February 27:

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

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Wednesday, March 1:

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

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Monday, March 6:

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 10

Wednesday, March 8:

Lecture: Aging Families

Reading: No reading assigned

Monday, March 13:

Lecture: Adoption

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, March 15:

Lecture: Adoption

Reading: No reading assigned

Assignment is Due

Monday, March 20:

Lecture: Polygamy

Reading: No reading assigned

Wednesday, March 22:

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

Reading: Mandell and Duffy – Chapter 7

Monday, March 27:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 18

Wednesday, March 29:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 8

Monday, April 3:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 14

Wednesday 5:

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

Reading: Fox Chapter – 29