

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

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Fall and Winter Semesters: 2019-2020
Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 1.00-2.30
Classes are held in: RC 1002
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3.00-4.00

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

Belanger, Marc and Margaret Ward. 2019. *The Family Dynamic Canadian Perspectives*. 7th ed. Toronto, ON: Nelson.

Fox, Bonnie J., Ed. 2014. *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*. 4th ed. Don Mills, ON: 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 midterm 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 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!

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Midterm Examination	15%	October 8, 2019
Midterm Examination	15%	November 21, 2019
Midterm Examination	15%	February 13, 2020
Assignment	25%	March 16, 2020
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 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**Tuesday, Sept. 3**

Welcome to Family Sociology
Introductions
Course Outline
Class Protocol

Thursday, Sept. 5

Lecture: What is Family?
Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 1

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Lecture: What is Family?
Reading: Fox Chapter 1

Thursday, Sept. 12

Lecture: Theoretical Perspectives
Reading: Fox Chapter 2

Tuesday, Sept. 17

Lecture: History, Culture, and Canadian Families
Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 2

Thursday, Sept. 19

Lecture: History, Culture, and Canadian Families
Reading: Fox Chapter 3

Tuesday, Sept. 24

Lecture: History, Culture, and Canadian Families
Reading: Fox Chapter 4

Thursday, Sept. 26

Lecture: History, Culture, and Canadian Families

Reading: Fox Chapter 5

Tuesday, Oct. 1

Lecture: History, Culture, and Canadian Families

Reading: Fox Chapter 20

Thursday, Oct. 3

Lecture: History, Culture, and Canadian Families

Reading: Fox Chapters 19 and 21

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Midterm Examination

Thursday, Oct. 10

Lecture: Getting Together

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 3

Tuesday, Oct. 15 Fall Study Break

Thursday, Oct. 17 Fall Study Break

Tuesday, Oct. 22

Lecture: Getting Together

Reading: Fox Chapter 10

Thursday, Oct. 24

Lecture: Getting Together

Reading: Fox Chapter 9

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Lecture: Wedding Bells ... Or Not

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 4

Thursday, Oct. 31

Lecture: Wedding Bells ... Or Not

Reading: Fox Chapter 11

Tuesday, Nov. 5

Lecture: Family Life in 1950s

Reading: Fox Chapter – 7

Thursday, Nov. 7

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

Reading: Fox Chapter 15

Tuesday, Nov. 12

Lecture: Policy

Reading: Fox Chapter 17

Thursday, Nov. 14

Lecture: Policy

Reading: Fox Chapter 22

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Lecture: Children – Yes or No?

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 5

Thursday, Nov. 21

Midterm Examination

Tuesday, Nov. 26

Lecture: Lecture: Children – Yes or No?

Reading: Fox Chapter 13

Thursday, Nov. 28

Lecture: Children – Yes or No?

Reading: Fox Chapter 16

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule Winter Semester

Happy New Year! Welcome back!

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Lecture: Bringing Up Baby

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 6

Thursday, Jan. 9

Lecture: Bringing Up Baby

Reading: Fox Chapter 12

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Lecture: The Middle Years of the Family and the Not-So-Empty Nest

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 7

Thursday, Jan. 16

Lecture: Grey Power and the Sunset Years

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 8

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Lecture: The Lone-Parent Family-The Future Majority?

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 9

Thursday, Jan. 23

Lecture: Coming Apart the Divorce Experience

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 10

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Lecture: Coming Apart the Divorce Experience

Reading: Fox Chapter 24

Thursday, Jan. 30

Lecture: Coming Apart the Divorce Experience

Reading: Fox Chapter 25

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Lecture: Coming Apart the Divorce Experience

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Thursday, Feb. 6

Lecture: Coming Apart the Divorce Experience

Reading: Fox Chapter 6

Tuesday, Feb. 11

Lecture: The Second Time Around

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 11

Reading: Fox Chapter 26

Thursday, Feb. 13

Midterm Examination

Tuesday, Feb. 18 Winter Study Break

Thursday, Feb. 20 Winter Study Break

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Lecture: The Family, Work, and Caregiving

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 12

Thursday, Feb. 27

Lecture: The Family, Work, and Caregiving

Reading: Fox Chapter 8

Tuesday, Mar. 3

Lecture: The Family, Work, and Caregiving

Reading: Fox Chapter 18

Thursday, Mar. 5

Lecture: The Family, Work, and Caregiving

Reading: Fox Chapter 29

Tuesday, Mar. 10

Lecture: Home Dangerous Home-Violence in the Family

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 14

Thursday, Mar. 12

Lecture: Home Dangerous Home-Violence in the Family

Reading: Fox Chapter 27

Tuesday, Mar. 17

Lecture: Home Dangerous Home-Violence in the Family

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Assignment is due

Thursday, Mar. 19

Lecture: Home Dangerous Home-Violence in the Family

Reading: No Reading Assigned

Tuesday, Mar. 24

Lecture: Poverty and the Family

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 15

Thursday, Mar. 26

Lecture: Poverty and the Family

Reading: Fox Chapter 23

Tuesday, Mar. 31

Lecture: The Family Beleaguered-When Problems Come

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 13

Thursday, Apr. 2

Lecture: The Crystal Ball-Predicting the Future of the Family

Reading: Belanger and Ward Chapter 16