Global Family and Sexual Politics
SOCIOLOGY 4UU3

Winter 2018
Class meets: Wednesdays 2:30 - 5:20pm
Class Location: LRW 1056

Professor Melanie Heath
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00am
KTH-638

Course Description
This class will examine how globalization affects the ways in which family, gender, and sexualities are imagined, regulated and experienced through a sociological lens. The course engages sociological and political debates on global issues of sexual diversity, transracial and transnational families and inequality; gay/lesbian identities; marriage—same-sex, polygamous, and arranged forms; sex work; and mail-order bridges, among others. We will engage in cooperative activities, such as listening practices, short writing exercises relating to lecture materials, and group exercises to apply course materials to news, media, politics, and legal matters relating to globalized forms of sexuality and family life.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, you will be able to
- understand key sociological theories of globalization, family, and sexualities
- identify debates over political movements concerning gender, family, and sexuality
- conduct original research using the qualitative method of textual analysis
- design a research project and write a research paper
- demonstrate improved analytic, writing, and communication skills
- pose thoughtful questions concerning debates over family and sexual politics

Required Readings
The following required readings are available at Titles Bookstore:

The remaining assigned readings can be downloaded as a pdf file. The links are available in Avenue to Learn (A2L).

Course Requirements
This seminar will teach you how to use your sociological imagination to think critically about the global aspects of social change in relation to family and sexualities. It is a seminar and requires attendance of every class meeting having thoughtfully completed the readings and being prepared to discuss them. In addition to class participation, the course requirements include: weekly summaries, two in-class exams, a group proposal, a group media analysis project and presentation. All written work should follow the style standards of the APA or ASA. It should be double-spaced, in a 12-point font, with page numbers and appropriate citations for all sources.

Weekly Summaries and Participation: Students are expected to attend every class meeting having thoughtfully completed the readings and be prepared to participate actively in discussion. In preparation for the week’s discussion, you must submit a summary of the week's readings on Avenue by Wednesday at 9am before class. The summary should provide a thesis statement regarding the main arguments of the assigned reading(s) and summarize the methods and findings of each article or
chapter. Put the main arguments into your own words; **do not directly quote from the texts.** The summary should be one-page, single-spaced, and written in paragraph form. Attendance and participation in class discussion and group activities is a key component of this class. Your final grade will be based on your written summaries and your class attendance and participation.

**In-class exams:** The two class exams will assess reading comprehension, knowledge of key concepts, critical inquiry of course material, and a working knowledge of evidence presented in class through both readings and class activities. You are responsible for all materials covered in course presentations, discussion, and assigned readings.

**Group research project:** Group projects are term-length efforts, starting the first week of class and ending with a finished product at the end of term. You will choose a topic in the area of the sociology of globalization, family, and sexuality and conduct an in-depth review of the sociological literature. Next, you will employ the sociological literature to develop a sociological research question on your selected topic, collect a small amount of media data, and analyze it to address your research question.

This project will be submitted in four components:

- Research proposal
- Data collected
- Research paper
- Research presentation

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data collected</td>
<td>March 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>April 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research presentation</td>
<td>April 4</td>
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All group members will evaluate the participation of themselves and their peers, and individual grades will be adjusted for level of contribution.

**Additional Information on Assignments**

Assignments must be turned in electronically to Avenue to Learn by the deadline on the course schedule. This course will use the originality-checking feature in Avenue to Learn to screen all assignments for plagiarism (see Academic Dishonesty, below). All pages must be numbered and have 1” to 1.25” margins on all sides. All text should be double-spaced in an easy-to-read 12-point font. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be reflected in the mark for the assignment.

**Grade Breakdown**

Marks will be assigned for each course requirement, as follows (Total 100%):

- Seminar participation and summaries: 20%
- In-class exam 1: 15%
- In-class exam 2: 20%
- Research proposal: 10%
- Data: 5%
- Research paper: 25%
- Research presentation: 5%
Late Assignments
The McMaster Student Absence Form is a self-reporting tool for undergraduate students to report absences that last up to 3 days. This form allows students to request accommodation for any missed academic work. This tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of one Academic Work Missed request per term. It is your responsibility to follow up with your professor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a non-medical reason, you must visit the office of the Associate Dean of your Faculty. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. Any disruption this causes to turning in assignments on time, completing exams, and so forth, must be addressed directly with your professor as soon as possible.

For late assignments without approved excuses, you must make arrangements directly with your professor to submit the assignment. Assignments will be marked down 5 percentage points for each day it is late, including weekend days and holidays.

Other Requirements and Expectations
Please act respectfully and courteously toward all members of the class. This means not using cell phones (cell phones should be turned off during class meetings) or Facebook, iMessage, etc., not engaging in conversations with your classmates unless told to do so, not sleeping, and so forth. The instructor reserves the option of deducting points from your grade for persistent disrespectful behavior.

Accommodations
The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences about how to request accommodation.

I am committed to working with students with disabilities to make individualized accommodations according to your specific needs. All such arrangements must be made through Student Accessibility Services. Please drop by my office hours at the beginning of the term to make individual arrangements and to complete the necessary paperwork. All details regarding accommodation arrangements will be kept strictly confidential.

Email
Please consider email equivalent to any other form of written communication. Students are expected to follow rules of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In addition, please include a proper greeting, such as "Dear Dr. Heath," and a closing that includes your full name, such as "Sincerely, Jane Lee." I do not check the separate Avenue to Learn email, so please do not contact me that way. It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors, and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Jan. 10: Introduction to the course

Jan. 17: Globalization, Intimacy, and Rights
What is globalization and how does it relate to the concept of intimacy and rights?

Jan. 24: Media Portrayals of Gender, Sexuality, and Culture
How does the Western media portray issues concerning gender, sexuality, and non-Western cultures?

Jan. 31: The Global Organization of Familial and Sexual Intimacy
How are global transformations altering definitions and practices of love and marriage?

Feb. 7: The Challenge of Same-Sex Marriage and Parenting
Is marriage important for the LGBT population? Is gender important to parenting? How is same-sex parenting similar/different to other types of parenting?

Research proposal due today.

Feb. 14: In-Class Exam
Group projects at 4pm

Feb. 21: Mid-term recess

Feb. 28: Transnational Adoption
Who gets to adopt and why? What kinds of stigma do non-normative, adoptive families face? What are the implications of the movement of children, almost entirely from poor nations, to the more affluent West?

Mar. 7: Same-Sex Sexuality, LGBT Activism, and Political Homophobia
What are the global public debates around homosexuality? How do these relate to “political
homophobia”? What are the consequences of these politics on LGBT activism?


**Mar. 14: Comparative Regulation of Polygamy, Same-Sex Marriage, and Prostitution**

How do governments seek to regulate family and sexuality globally?


**Coded data due today**

**Mar. 21: Globalization and Sex Work**

How does globalization shape sex work? What are the global debates over trafficking and sex work?


**Mar. 28: In class exam**

**Apr. 4: Project presentations**

Group research papers due today.
The Sociology staff will not date-stamp assignments or monitor the submission or return of papers. Turn in assignments via Avenue to Learn. Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g., class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.