

SOCIOL 2PP3 Sociology of Families

Professor Sandra Colavecchia

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Day and Time of Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:20 ABB102

Course Objectives

Most of us are embedded in families and/or intimate relationships and although every family and relationship is unique, one of the most exciting things about sociology is that it can help us to better understand and contextualize our experiences. Sociology allows us to connect our personal experiences to a broader social context and to understand the historical, social, economic, political, and legal forces that shape family life. The course provides an introduction to theoretical, historical, contemporary, and comparative perspectives on intimate relationships, households, and families. We examine family life in earlier historical periods including foraging society, pre-industrial society, the early industrial period, and the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of this course are consistent with McMaster's Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations, which can be found at:

<http://ell.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>

In this course students will develop a comparative and critical analysis of a topic using peer-reviewed sociological articles. This connects to several of the undergraduate degree level expectations including developing a depth and breadth of knowledge and development of communication skills.

Avenue-to-Learn

Please check Avenue-to-Learn regularly for: announcements, lecture slides, and other resources. Please do not email the instructor from Avenue. Please use colaves@mcmaster.ca to email me.

Required Reading (available in the bookstore)

Fox, Bonnie J. 2014. Family Patterns Gender Relations. 4th Edition. Oxford University Press.

Professor Colavecchia will upload copyright chapters she has written to Avenue (no cost).

Evaluation

Tutorial Mark: Participation, Attendance, 4 Quizzes (long answer format)	7% (tutorial attendance and participation) 8% (four quizzes, each worth 2%) Total=15%
Mid-term (Multiple choice and True or False questions) Written during lecture time	25%
Essay (6 double-spaced pages, paper copy submitted in lecture; electronic copy submitted to turnitin.com)	30%
Final Exam (non-cumulative; Multiple choice and True or False questions) Written during final exam period	30%

Tutorial Mark (Participation, Attendance, and Quizzes)

15% of your final mark will be based on your tutorial attendance, participation, and 4 quizzes. Each quiz is worth 2% (total of 8%). Remaining 7% of tutorial mark will be based on participation and attendance.

Quizzes will be held in tutorial during the weeks of:

Tutorial Quiz 1: Week of Sep 18

Tutorial Quiz 2: Week of Oct 2

Tutorial Quiz 3: Week of Nov 6

Tutorial Quiz 4: Week of Nov 20

Examples of the kind of long answer questions you can expect:

1. Why are definitions of family important?
2. How was family life structured in foraging society, pre-industrial society, and the early industrial period?
3. How was family life different in the 1950s as compared to the decades before and since?
4. Identify two contemporary trends in family life and discuss the underlying causes for these trends.

Essay: Select a families-related topic that interests you and has been studied by sociologists. Find 3 peer-reviewed sociological articles using Sociological Abstracts database. In 6 double-spaced pages compare and contrast the research questions and research findings presented in the 3 articles you have selected. Use in-text citations to show your comparative analysis. Please note: essay should be double-spaced, 12-point font, number your pages, include a title page and list of references. **Penalties:** 5% per day late. **Referencing:** You must use APA (American Psychological Association) referencing format.

Marking of Paper:

Selection of Sources	30 marks
Discussion	50 marks
Format and Referencing	20 marks

Requirements for Selection of Sources (30 marks)

Requirement #1: All 3 articles must be closely-related reflecting a narrow focus.

You must use Sociological Abstracts database to locate these articles.

Requirement #2: All 3 articles must be sociological. Not all articles within Sociological Abstracts database are sociological. There are various ways of determining whether your article is sociological. First, check the journal name. Sometimes these explicitly include “Sociology” or “Sociological”, however there are sociological journals that don’t have “sociology” in their name (i.e. Journal of Marriage and Families). Additionally, sometimes sociological research is published in related or interdisciplinary fields, such as criminology. Thus you shouldn’t necessarily exclude an article because it is published in a non-sociological journal. A second way of determining whether the article is sociological is to check the author’s institutional affiliation (whether they are working in a sociological department or not). The best way of ensuring that the article is sociological is to read the article and make this determination based on the content of the article. If you are uncertain about whether an article is sociological meet with your Teaching Assistant during their office hours and bring your article.

Requirement #3: All 3 articles must be peer-reviewed

Deduction of 5 marks for each non peer-reviewed article included. To ensure that your articles are peer-reviewed select the “peer-review” option when searching for articles.

Requirement #4: 2 out of the 3 articles must have been published after Jan 1 2006.

Deduction of 5 marks if one article is not recent. Deduction of an additional 5 marks if two articles are not recent.

Requirement #5: Length of articles must be acceptable.

Deduction of 5 marks for each article that is deemed to be of insufficient length (less than 8 pages).

Turnitin.com: In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and to submit a paper copy in lecture. To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity. Instructions for using Turnitin.com will be provided.

Discussion (50 marks)

Comparative analysis of the research questions and research findings addressed in the 3 articles you have selected. Careful engagement with sociological research. Specificity in discussing articles. Organized discussion.

Format (20 marks)

Proper use of APA format and in-text citations.

Calendar of Topics and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Tuesday Sep 5	Introduction to the Course	No readings
Thursday Sep 7	Defining Families	Ch 1: pages 1-7 (Fox and Luxton) Chapter 2 (Edholm)
Tuesday Sep 12	Introduction to Sociology of Families; Family Trends	Copyright chapter written by Professor Colavecchia will be uploaded to Avenue
Thursday Sep 14	Introduction to Sociology of Families; Family Trends Overview of Essay Requirements	Copyright chapter written by Professor Colavecchia will be uploaded to Avenue
Tuesday Sep 19 (week beginning Sep 18 quiz 1 in tutorial)	Theoretical Perspectives on Families	Ch 1: 7-27 (Fox and Luxton)
Thursday Sep 21	Families and Foraging Societies	Chapter 3 (Leacock)
Tuesday Sep 26	Families and Agricultural Societies	Chapter 4 (Tilly and Scott)
Thursday Sep 28	Families and Industrialization	Ch 5 (Hareven)
Tuesday Oct 3 (week beginning Oct 2 quiz 2 in tutorial)	Families and Industrialization	Ch 6 (Margolis)
Thursday Oct 5	Mid-term Review	No readings assigned
Mon Oct 9-Oct 15	Mid-term Recess	
Tuesday Oct 17	The 1950s Nuclear Family	Ch 7 (Adams)
Thursday Oct 19	Mid-term Exam in Lecture	
Tuesday Oct 24	Canadian Families in the Past	Ch 8 (Luxton)
Thursday Oct 26 Essay Due in Lecture	Closing Decades of the 20 th C	Copyright chapter written by Professor Colavecchia will be uploaded to Avenue
Tuesday Oct 31	Closing Decades of the 20 th C	Copyright chapter written by

		Professor Colavecchia will be uploaded to Avenue
Thursday Nov 2	21 st Century Families	Ch 10 (Sassler and Miller) Ch 14 (Worts)
Tuesday Nov 7 (week beginning Nov 6 quiz 3 in tutorial)	21 st Century Families and Diversity	Ch 19 (Man)
Thursday Nov 9	Ethnicity, Immigration, and Family Life	Ch 20 (Creese et al) Ch 21 (Somerville)
Tuesday Nov 14	Ethnicity, Immigration, and Family Life	Ch 20 (Creese et al) Ch 21 (Somerville)
Thursday Nov 16	Partnering, Cohabitation, and Marriage	Ch 11 (Currie)
Tuesday Nov 21 (week beginning Nov 20 quiz 4 in tutorial)	Partnering, Cohabitation, and Marriage	Copyright chapter written by Professor Colavecchia will be uploaded to Avenue
Thursday Nov 23	Partnering, Cohabitation, and Marriage	Copyright chapter written by Professor Colavecchia will be uploaded to Avenue
Tuesday Nov 28	Sexuality	Ch 12 (Beres)
Thursday Nov 30	Review	No readings assigned
Tuesday Dec 5	Return of Graded Essays	
Dec 8-21 Final Exam Period	Final Exam During Final Exam Period	

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.

2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor 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 reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

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 (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, balloting, 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.

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail 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.