

SOCIOL2PP3 Sociology of Families

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Day and Time of Classes: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:30-10:20 MDCL 1110

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 intimate relationships and families. 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://csl.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.

McDaniel, S., L. Tepperman, & S. Colavecchia. 2018. *Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families* (6th edition). Toronto: Pearson.

Please do not use earlier editions of the textbooks.

Evaluation

Evaluation

Tutorial Mark: Participation and Attendance	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%

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 in 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 journals that don’t have

“sociology” in their name that sociologists publish in (i.e. Journal of Marriage and Families). You can search the databases by publication name and use “Sociology” OR “Sociological” which will give you only those articles that were published in journals that have Sociology or Sociological in the journal name (i.e. American Journal of Sociology, Qualitative Sociology).

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 an interdisciplinary journal (i.e. Sex Roles, Gender and Society). 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 check with your Teaching Assistant.

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 5 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
Tues Sep 3	Introduction to the Course	Ch 1 McDaniel et al
Friday Sep 6	Defining Families	Ch 1 Fox : pages 1-7 (Fox

		and Luxton) Chapter 2 Fox (Edholm)
Tues Sep 10	Historical Perspectives on Canadian Families	Ch 2 McDaniel et al
Friday Sep 13	Family Trends Overview of Essay Requirements	Ch 10 McDaniel et al
Tues Sep 17	Theoretical Perspectives on Families	Ch 1 Fox : 7-27 (Fox and Luxton)
Friday Sep 20	Families and Foraging Societies	Chapter 3 Fox (Leacock)
Tues Sep 24	Families and Agricultural Societies	Chapter 4 Fox (Tilly and Scott)
Friday Sep 27	Families and Industrialization	Ch 5 Fox (Hareven)
Tues Oct 1	Families and Industrialization	Ch 6 Fox (Margolis)
Friday Oct 4	Mid-term Review	No readings assigned
Tues Oct 8	Mid-term Exam in Lecture	
Fri Oct 11	The 1950s Nuclear Family	Ch 7 (Adams)
Oct14-18	Mid-term Recess	
Tues Oct 22	Canadian Families in the Past	Ch 8 (Luxton)
Friday Oct 25	Closing Decades of the 20 th C: Work and Family Life Essay Due in Lecture	Chapter 7 McDaniel et al
Tuesday Oct 29	Closing Decades of the 20 th C: Work and Family Life	Chapter 7 McDaniel et al
Friday Nov 1	21 st Century Families and the Future	Ch 11 McDaniel et al
Tuesday Nov 5	21 st Century Families	Ch 10 Fox (Sassler and Miller) Ch 14 Fox (Worts)
Friday Nov 8	21 st Century Families and	Ch 19 (Man)

	Diversity	
Tues Nov 12	Ethnicity, Immigration, and Family Life	Ch 20 Fox (Creese et al) Ch 21 Fox (Somerville)
Friday Nov 15	Ethnicity, Immigration, and Family Life	Ch 20 Fox (Creese et al) Ch 21 Fox (Somerville)
Tues Nov 19	Partnering, Cohabitation, and Marriage	Ch 11 Fox (Currie) Ch 3 McDaniel et al
Friday Nov 22	Intimate Relationships	Chapter 4 McDaniel et al
Tues Nov 26	Intimate Relationships	Chapter 4 McDaniel et al
Friday Nov 29	Sexuality	Ch 12 Fox (Beres)
Tues Dec 3	Review	No readings assigned
Dec 6-19 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:

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, 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.

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

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.