

COURSE OUTLINE: SOCI 200 Sociology of the Family (Mon-Wed-Fri 12-1pm DMP-110)

Contact Details: neil.armitage@ubc.ca (Room: 123 / Office Hour: Wed 1.30-2.30)

An introduction to contemporary family forms and relations; exploring the continuity, change and diversity in intimate relationships and family life. Drawing on sociological perspectives the course encourages an understanding of families in transition, both in Canada and abroad, and in relation to other sociological areas. It will prepare you for upper level Sociology and Family Studies courses.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a developing critical awareness of sociological perspectives of the family;
2. Appreciate the diversity of family living and the contested definitions of 'family';
3. Evaluate contemporary sociological explanations for family formation and change;
4. Autonomously identify and research a case study

Course Structure, Assessment and Format

After week 1, where you will be introduced to sociological perspectives on the family, the course is organised into **three blocks** of four weeks; **Family Organisation and Change, Family Life, and Family Policy and Practice.**

Critical Writing (45%): To encourage your analytical and critical development over the course, for each block you will submit a 500 word think piece (3 x 500) that critically engages with readings and concepts introduced in the block. **The final grade for this assignment will be determined once all three have been submitted to deadline.** Emphasis is placed on your development over the three pieces evidenced by your response to feedback provided. In-class writing exercises will help you plan and prepare for these assignments, and informative grading will be given with the feedback. Submission and feedback will be via Connect and the process will be fully outlined in class.

The lectures will provide an overview of the topics within each block, complementing the assigned readings. Time will be dedicated in class to discussion points, critical writing tasks, and group exercises designed to facilitate your learning of the course material.

Two in-Class Tests (20%): In the final week of Blocks 1 and 2 an in-class test will evaluate your knowledge of core concepts and literature covered in the block. These tests will consist of multiple-choice and short response questions. To do well on these tests it is essential that you read all the required readings and participate actively in lecture discussions and exercises as questions on the test will draw on these. There is no test in Block 3 or final exam.

Case Study (35%): To enhance autonomous working and research skills, you will locate, analyse and synthesise relevant empirical and theoretical sources to produce a 2000 word case study. While the choice of case study is up to you, it must demonstrate engagement with ideas from each block and will be submitted via Turnitin. Case Study Examples:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) State Provided Child Care | d) Divorce and Custody in Canada |
| b) China's one child policy | e) Living Apart Together |
| c) Gay Marriage and Adoption | |

Course Materials

There is no set textbook for this course. Required readings are in the form of journal articles and book chapters, which are provided on CONNECT (and potentially as a course pack). The readings are listed in the course schedule below. Further suggested readings are also provided after the schedule.

The following books available in the library will provide useful companions to the course;

Chambers, D. (2012) *A Sociology of Family Life: Change and Diversity in Intimate relations*, Cambridge: Polity

Fox, B. (2014) *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

McDaniel, S.A. & Tepperman, L. (2014) *Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families*, Toronto: Pearson

White, J.M., Martin, T.F., & Bartolic, S.K. (2013) *Families across the life course*, Toronto: Pearson Education

Week by Week Schedule

Introduction & Perspectives

Week 1
9 & 11th Sep This week will introduce the course, assessments will be outlined and expectations of you, as students, will be set. We also explore the origins of family studies, early theories and basic concepts regarding the family, and contemporary theories that aim to explain family formation and family change.

Reading: McDaniel, S.A. & Tepperman, L. (2014) 'Families and Family-Like Relationships' in *Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families*, Toronto: Pearson

Block 1: Family Organisation & Change

Week 2
14, 16 & 18th Sep ***Demographics of Family Life in Canada – from Dating & Divorce to Debt***
This week social trends of family formation and life in Canada will be outlined

Reading: Mitchell, B. (2012) 'Canadian Families in Anthropological, Cross-Cultural and Global Perspective' in *Family Matters: An Introduction to Family Sociology in Canada*, Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press

Week 3
21, 23 & 25th Sep ***The Politics of Family - the Fabric and Foundation of Society?***
How the institution of family has been defined and used as a tool by governments

Reading: Hesketh, T., Lu, L. & Xing, Z.W. (2005) 'The effect of China's one-child policy after 25 years', *The New England journal of medicine*, 353(11):1171-6

Week 4
28, 30 & 2nd Oct ***Welfare and Family – Intergenerational Reciprocity?***
To understand how family life is organised we need to see how social welfare policy and culture intersect to form differing family norms and values internationally

Reading: Morgan, P. (2006) *Family Policy, family changes: Sweden, Italy and Britain compared* (London: Civitas)

Week 5 ***Intimacy, Globalisation and Migration – Skype Families***

5, 7 & 9th Oct How these processes create new multidimensional and transnational family structures, from marriage to child conception and family care arrangements

Reading: Chambers, D. (2012) 'Globalisation, Migration and Intimate Relations' in *A Sociology of Family Life: Change and diversity in intimate relations* (Cambridge: Polity Press)

IN CLASS TEST - 1st TEST ON WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER in WEEK 5 COVERING TOPICS IN BLOCK 1

CRITICAL WRITING - 1st PIECE TO BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER WK5 PRIOR TO BLOCK 2

Block 2: Family Life

Week 6 ***Relationship Formation: Cohabitation and Marriage***

14 & 16th Oct Love and commitment, and why do people still marry?

Reading: White, J.M., Martin, T.F. & Bartolic, S.K. (2013) 'Cohabitation' (Ch.4) and 'Marriage' (Ch.5) in *Families across the lifecourse* (Toronto: Pearson)

Week 7 ***Parenthood & Childhood – from 'seen and not heard' to 'helicopter parents'***

19, 21 & 23rd Oct What is meant by parenthood and childhood being social constructions? We will answer this by looking at them across different historical and cultural contexts

Reading: Smart, C. (2011) 'Children's Personal Lives' in May, V. (ed) *Sociology of Personal Life* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan)

Week 8 ***Relationship Breakdown: Separation and Divorce***

26, 28, 30th Oct We will look at why relationships breakdown and the ways it is dealt with in law for cohabiting couples, civil partnerships and marriage.

Reading: Kanji, S. and Schober, P. (2014) 'Are couples with young children more likely to split up when the mother is the main or an equal earner?', *Sociology* 48(1):38-58

Week 9 ***Family Troubles - Stress, Conflict and Abuse***

2, 4 & 6th Nov We look at the darker side of the family by looking at some of the social problems that arise and are often concealed within the institution of the family

Reading: Dobash, R., Dobash, E., Wilson, M. & Daly, M. (1992) 'Myth of Sexual Symmetry in Marital Violence', *Social Problems* 39(1): 71-91

IN CLASS TEST – 2nd TEST ON WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER IN WEEK 9 COVERING TOPICS IN BLOCK 2

CRITICAL WRITING – 2nd PIECE TO BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY 6th NOV WEEK 9 PRIOR TO BLOCK 3

CASE STUDY TITLE – Please submit proposed title with your second critical writing

Block 3: Family Policy and Practice

Week 10 *Fertility, Surrogacy, Donor Conception – Regulate or Procreate?*

9 & 13th Nov

Two post-war trends are mapped, the need to regulate population growth against improving fertility due to the delay of motherhood; and a moral landscape that recognises the rights of same-sex couples to have children

Reading: Nordqvist, P. (2010) 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Family Resemblances in Lesbian Donor Conception', *Sociology* 44(6): 1128-1144

Week 11 *Employment, Childcare and Family Labour - Rotas and Responsibilities?*

16, 18 & 20th Nov

We look at the division of caring, emotional and family labour within the household. We will focus on gender inequalities in child care, household labour and paid labour.

Reading: Bradley, H. (2013) 'Gendered Worlds: Reproduction' in *Gender* (Cambridge: Polity Press)

Week 12 *Reinventing Families? - LAT, same-sex families, families of choice*

23, 25 & 27th Nov

This week we look at changing family formations, from 'living apart together', same-sex families and 'families of choice', including friendship networks

Reading: Holmes, M. (2006) 'Love Lives at a Distance: Distance Relationships over the Lifecourse', *Sociological Research Online* 11(3)

Week 13 *Conclusions and wrap up*

30, 2 & 4th Dec

CRITICAL WRITING – 3rd PIECE TO BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER OF WEEK 13

CASE STUDY SUBMISSION – The turnitin window will be open from the 4th to the 22nd of December

FURTHER READINGS

Week 1 & 2 *Perspectives & Demography*

Allen, G. (1999) *The Sociology of the Family: A Reader*. Blackwell

Charles, N., Davies, C. A. & Harris, C. (2008) *Families in Transition: Social Change, Family Formation and Kin Relationships*. The Policy Press

Jackson, S. (2009) 'Families, Domesticity and Intimacy: Changing Relationships in Changing Times' in D. Richardson and V. Robinson (eds) *Introducing Women's Studies* (3rd edn) Macmillan

Williams, F. (2004) *Rethinking Families*. Calouste Gulbenhian Foundation

Week 3 *The Politics of Family*

Barlow, A., Duncan, S., James, G. and Park, A. (2005) *Cohabitation, Marriage and the Law: Social Change and Legal Reform in the 21st Century*. Hart Publishing

Agrawal, A. (2014) 'Situating marriage payments', *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 48(2):223-247

Hale, B. (2009) *The family, law & society* (6th ed) Oxford University Press

Hampden-Thompson, G. (2013) 'Family policy, family structure, and children's educational achievement', *Social science research* 42(3): 804-17

Ouyang, Y. (2013) 'China relaxes its one-child policy' *The Lancet* 82(9907): e28

Week 4 *Welfare and Family*

Finch, J. and Mason, J. (1993) *Negotiating Family Responsibilities*. Routledge

Kamerman, S. B. and Kahn, A. J. (eds.) (1997) *Family change and family policies in Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States. Vol. 1*. Clarendon

Morgan, K. J. (2013) 'Path Shifting of the Welfare State: Electoral Competition and the Expansion of Work-Family Policies in Western Europe', *World Politics* 65(1): 73-115

Sanford N. K., Eekelaar, J. and Maclean, M. (2000) *Cross currents: family law and policy in the United States and England*. Oxford University Press

Williams, F. (2004) *Rethinking Families*. Calouste Gulbenhian Foundation

Week 5 *Intimacy, Globalisation and Migration*

Anderson, B. (2000) *Doing the dirty work?: The global politics of domestic labour*. Zed books

Ehrenreich, B. and Russell Hochschild, A. (2003) *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Granta Books.

Hochschild, A. R. (2003) *The Commercialization of Intimate Life: Notes from Home and Work*. University of California Press.

Week 6 *Relationship Formation: Cohabitation and Marriage*

Beck-Gernsheim, E. (2002) *Reinventing the Family: In Search of New Lifestyles*. Blackwell

Charles, N., Davies, C. A. and Harris, C. (2008) *Families in Transition: Social Change, Family Formation and Kin Relationships*. The Policy Press

Lau, C. Q. (2012) 'The Stability of Same-Sex Cohabitation, Different-Sex Cohabitation, and Marriage', *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74(5): 973-988

Lewis, J. (2001) *The End of Marriage?*. Edward Elgar Publishing

Week 7 Parenthood & Childhood

Gatrell, C. (2004) *Hard Labour: The Sociology of Parenthood; Family Life and Career*, Maidenhead: Open University Press

Aries, P. (1973) *Centuries of Childhood*. Harmondsworth: Penguin

James, A. and Prout, A. (Eds.) (1997) *Constructing and Reconstructing Childhood: Contemporary Issues in the Sociological Study of Childhood*. Routledge.

Mizen, P., Bolton, A. and Pole, C. (2001) *Hidden hands: international perspectives on children's work and labour*. Routledge.

Week 8 Relationship Breakdown: Separation and Divorce

Charles, N., Davies, C. A. and Harris, C. (2008) *Families in Transition: Social Change, Family Formation and Kin Relationships*. The Policy Press

Coltrane, S. and Adams, M. (2003) 'The Social Construction of the Divorce "Problem": Morality, Child Victims, and the Politics of Gender', *Family Relations* 52(4): 363-372

Hasson, E. (2006) 'Wedded to 'fault': the legal regulation of divorce and relationship breakdown', *Legal Studies* 26(2): 267-290

Week 9 Family Troubles - Stress, Conflict and Abuse

Gill, A. and Mitra-Kahn, T. (2012) 'Modernising the other: assessing the ideological underpinnings of the policy discourse on forced marriage in the UK', *Policy & Politics* 40(1): 104-119

Week 10 Fertility, Surrogacy, Donor Conception

TBC

Week 11 Employment, Childcare and Family Labour - Rotas and Responsibilities?

Bjornberg, U. & Kollind, A-K. (2005) *Individualism and Families*, New York-Routledge

Finch, J. and Mason, J. (1993) 'Understanding family responsibilities' in *Negotiating Family Responsibilities*, London: Routledge

Jackson, S. (2009) 'Families, Domesticity and Intimacy: Changing Relationships in Changing Times' in D. Richardson and V. Robinson (eds) *Introducing Women's Studies* (3rd edn) Macmillan

Oerton, S. (1997) "'Queer housewives?": Some problems in theorising the division of domestic labour in lesbian and gay households', *Women's Studies International Forum* 20(3): 421-430

Shelton, B. A. (1992) *Women, men and time : gender differences in paid work, housework and leisure*. Greenwood Press

Week 12 Reinventing Families? - LAT, same-sex families, families of choice

Beck-Gernsheim, E. (2002) *Reinventing the Family: In Search of New Lifestyles*. Blackwell

Duncan, S., Carter, J., Phillips, M., Roseneil, S. and Stoilova, M. (2013) 'Why do people live apart together?', *Families, Relationships and Societies* 2(3): 323-338

Smart, C. (2007) *Personal Life*. Polity Press

Spencer, L. and Pahl, R. (2006) *Rethinking Friendship: Hidden Solidarities Today*. Princeton University Press

Weeks, J. (2007) *The World We Have Won*. Routledge

Weeks, J., Heaphy, B. and Donovan, C. (2001) *Same sex intimacies: families of choice and other life experiments*. Routledge