

Family Patterns
SOC 214H1F
Dept. of Sociology, St. George
Summer 2012

Instructor:	Krista Whitehead
Office:	Department of Sociology, rm. TBD
Class Hours and Location	Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2pm; SS2117
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-4:30pm Rm. 225
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

What is a family? This is the core question that forms the basis of this course. Most of us take for granted what “family” means given our “embedded-ness” in it. This is not surprising given that we all come from one type of family or another; our personal histories inform the core definition we assign to the family. In this course, we will aim to move beyond understanding the family in a solipsistic manner instead moving to a more nuanced, and sociologically based conceptualization of the family. Sociology is enticing and engaging because it has the ability to help us contextualize our personal experience and histories. This course aims to provide students with the tools to contextualize their experience, allowing them to critically evaluating mainstream perspectives about the family, family life and the social factors that influence the institution of the family. We will investigate a variety of empirical realities, sociological research and social historical research of Canadian families (although some readings will be American). We will examine diverse family patterns, to illustrate various cultural, political and economic factors that influence the family. Special attention will be paid to the role of gender relations at the core of the family. This course also aims to provide students with important academic skills including: library research, effective writing, critical thinking, and active reading.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The prerequisite to take this course is SOC 101Y1 or SOC 102H1 or SOC 103H1. Students without this prerequisite will be removed at any time they are discovered.

REQUIRED READINGS AND TEXTS:

- Bonnie Fox, editor, 2009. *Family Patterns, Gender Relations. Third Edition.* Toronto: Oxford University Press – available from the University of Toronto Bookstore
- **Some readings are not in the textbook. You will be required to obtain these readings through the U of T online library system. I will go through how to do this on the first day of class.**

COURSE EVALUATION/REQUIREMENTS:

Mid-Term Exam (take-home)	35%
Final Test (in-class)	25%
Photographic Essay Assignment	30%
Participation	10%

Writing skills are essential for the exams and assignments of this course. St George campus has various writing centers in Arts and Sciences. Students are encouraged to seek out assistance from their college's writing center should they anticipate problems in this area or wish to improve their writing skills. Here is the link:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science>

Mid-Term Exam (Take home): Due May 31st, 2012

This test will cover the material from weeks 1-3 of the course. The exam will consist of 1-3 essay questions. The test will be handed out on May 24th, 2012 and will **BE DUE ON MAY 31st, 2012, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Final Test (in-class): June 21st, 2012

This test will cover the material from weeks 4-6 of the course. The exam will consist of 50 - 60 multiple-choice questions.

Photographic Essay Assignment: Due June 12th, 2012

For this assignment you will construct a photographic essay about a specific topic dealing with the family. Additional instructions and requirements for the assignment can be found on Blackboard.

Participation

This will be taken periodically over the semester in the form of in-class writing, thus you should attend class in order to get these marks!

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW:

Students are responsible for reading and analyzing a considerable amount of material for each class. You should come to class prepared to discuss any questions you have and engage meaningfully with the material. Students are also expected to engage at a critical and analytical level of communication. Here are some useful guidelines to follow while you're in this course:

1. **Accessibility Needs:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.
2. **NO extensions!** Papers will incur a 5% late penalty for every day they are late. Papers are due at the beginning of class. If they are handed in at the end of class, they are considered late. Papers that are more than 7 days late will not be accepted and will be assigned a grade of zero. You may hand in late papers electronically, however you are also required to hand in

a hardcopy to me at our next class.

3. **FOLLOW UNIVERSITY ILLNESS GUIDELINES!** The U of T Medical Certificate (at Department and College Registrar offices) must confirm the student's inability to attend a test, examination or complete an assignment. It must include the dates of the illness, and show the physician was consulted at the time of the illness. Students do not have the right to take a make-up exam, thus *make-up tests and assignments will be determined at the discretion of the instructor and will be granted only for certifiable reasons beyond a student's control.* The make-up tests may come in a different format than the original test and must be scheduled and completed 2 weeks after the original test was administered.

4. **MAKE FRIENDS!** Make contacts in the class. It is your fellow classmates, not the instructor, whom you should consult when you miss a class for a non-medical emergency.

5. **ASK QUESTIONS!** This is how you and I both learn. Chances are that if you have a question, someone else probably has the same one.

6. **THINK BEFORE YOU SEND!** Email to the instructor should be **carefully considered** before being sent. Nothing will be conveyed in a separate email to you that has been covered during the class period. Make sure your email does not function as a written record of your irregular attendance. Correspondence through email must be sent from an official U of T address. You can expect us to respond to your email within 2 business days, not counting the weekends.

7. **PLAGIARISM.** Don't do it! There is a great deal of information regarding plagiarism on the University of Toronto website. Please familiarize yourself with what constitutes plagiarism and know how not to plagiarize. The following link is useful:
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

8. **GRADES.** Students who are dissatisfied with their exam or paper grade have one week to address their concerns, in writing, to the TA. Should you wish to contest a grade you need to indicate in a 1-2 page typed document, submitted to both the TA and instructor, why the grade was inappropriate. The instructor and TA will consult and respond to the claim in writing (i.e. email or hard copy). **Upon reconsideration the grade may be raised or lowered.**

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1:

May 15 **Introduction: What is the sociology of families? Why does it matter?**

May 17 **Conceptualizing Family**

Luxton, Meg and Bonnie Fox. 2009. "Chapter 1: Conceptualizing 'Family'" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 3-20.

Edholm, Felicity. 2009. "Chapter 2: The Unnatural Family" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 21-28.

Collier, Jane, Rosaldo, Michelle Z., and Sylvia Yanagisako. 2009. "Chapter 3: Is there a Family? New Anthropological Views" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations, 3rd Edition*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 29-39.

Week 2:

May 22

Contemporary Family Patterns: An historical overview

Margolis, Maxine, L. 2009. "Chapter 9: Putting Mothers on a Pedestal" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations, 3rd Edition*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 118 – 133.

Adams, Mary-Louise. 2009. "Chapter 10: Sexuality and the Post-war Domestic 'Revival'" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations, Third Edition*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 136-155.

May 24

Take –home Midterm Distributed!!

Marriage and Cohabitation: Trends and Ideologies

Ingraham, Chrys. 2009. "One is not Born a Bride: How Weddings Regulate Heterosexuality" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations, Third Edition*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 236-240.

Edin, Kathryn. 2000. "What do Low-Income Single Mothers Say about Marriage?" *Social Problems* 47:112-134.

Lauster, Nathanael, and Adam Easterbrook. 2011. "No Room for New Families? A Field Experiment Measuring Rental Discrimination against Same-Sex Couples and Single Parents," in *Social Problems*, 58: 3: 389-409.

Week 3:

May 29

Children and Parenthood: What is motherhood? What is fatherhood? What is child-rearing? What about NOT having children?

Fox, Bonnie. 2009. "When Baby comes home: The Dynamics of Gender in the Making of Family" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations, 3rd Edition*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 292 – 309.

Gillespie, Rosemary. 2003. "Childfree and Feminine: Understanding the Gender Identity of Voluntarily Childless Women" in *Gender & Society*, 17: 1: 122 – 136.

May 31

Take-home Midterm Due!!

Dual Earner Families and Labour in the Home – Who is doing the (re)productive labour? How is it divided?

Coltrane, Scott. 2009. “Chapter 23: Household Labour and the Routine Production of Gender” in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 367-384.

Thebaud, Sarah. 2010. “Masculinity, Bargaining, and Bread-winning: Understanding Men’s Housework in the Cultural Context of Paid Work” in *Gender & Society*, 24: 3: 330-354.

Week 4:

June 5

Passing on Traditions: names, inheritance, practices and the culture(s) of families

Nugent, Colleen. 2010. “Children’s Surnames, Moral Dilemmas: Accounting for the Predominance of Fathers’ Surnames for Children” *Gender & Society*, 24: 5: 499-525.

Twine, France Winddance. 2004. “A white side of Black Britain: the concept of racial literacy” in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 27: 6: 878-907.

June 7

Divorce, The Blended Family, Step-parents....

Cherlin, Andrew J., and Frank F. Furstenberg. 2009. “Children’s Adjustment to Divorce” in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations, 3rd Edition*, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 543-551.

Gerson, Kathleen. 2011. “Falling back on Plan B: The Children of the Gender Revolution Face Uncharted Territory” in *Families as the Really Are*, edited by Barbara Risman, pp. *****. – posted on Blackboard

Week 5:

June 12

Paper Assignment Due!

What about all the “other” families? Gay, Lesbian, Single-parent, Childless, Polyamorous...

Moore, Mignon. 2011. "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Revising Analyses of Lesbian Sexuality and Family Formation Through the Study of Black Women" in *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 15: 1: 58-68.

Sheff, Elizabeth. 2011. "Polyamorous Families, Same-sex marriage and the Slippery Slope" in *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 40: 5: 487-520.

June 14 Deliberate Family Planning: the Question of Fertility

Martin, Jade Lauren. 2010. "Anticipating Infertility: Egg Freezing, Genetic Preservation, and Risk" in *Gender & Society*, 24: 4: 526-545.

Dunne, Gillian. 2009. "Opting into Motherhood: Lesbians Blurring the Boundaries and Transforming the Meaning of Parenthood and Kinship" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, 3rd Edition, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 343 – 363.

Week 6:

June 19 The future of the family: The effects of neo-liberal policies on all families

Phipps, Shelley A. (2009). "Lessons from Europe: Policy Options to Enhance the Economic Security of Canadian Families" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, 3rd Edition, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 552-573.

Arat-Koc, Sedef. 2009. "Chapter 26: The Politics of Family and Immigration in the Subordination of Domestic Workers in Canada" in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations*, 3rd Edition, edited by Bonnie Fox, pp. 428 – 452.

June 21 In-class Final Test