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**Syllabus**  
**SOC 6017H: Sociology of Families I**  
**Winter 2019**

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**Instructor:** Professor Rania Salem

**Time & Location:** Tuesdays 10 am - 2 pm, Room 240

**Office Hours & Office:** By appointment, Room 358

**Email:** [rsalem@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:rsalem@utsc.utoronto.ca)

**Course Description & Objectives:**

This graduate seminar will expose students to themes and debates in the literature related to the sociology of families. In our first session, we will evaluate the main theoretical perspectives found in the literature. We will spend the next ten sessions surveying broad trends in the literature dealing with a number of discrete substantive topics. Readings will focus largely on research conducted on contemporary high-income societies, and will span the fields of sociology, demography, and anthropology. Students will have the opportunity to read more deeply on a substantive area of interest in the course of writing a final paper, which they will present to their peers in the final session of the semester.

**Requirements & Evaluation:**

*Participation:* This course is organized as a seminar. While I will provide a brief overview of each session's topic, class sessions will consist primarily of student presentations and discussions focused on the readings. (10%)

*Critical Reviews:* Over the course of the semester, each student will prepare a total of three critical reviews. These consist of short critical essays concerning the current session's readings, and should be no more than 2-3 double-spaced pages in length. Critical review guidelines will be handed out separately. We will work out the schedule for each student's reviews during the first class meeting. Students should email their reviews to me (as a Word attachment) by no later than 5 pm on the day preceding the class session dealing with the readings they have been assigned to cover. (30%)

***Presenting and Leading Discussions:*** Over the course of the semester, each student will lead 2 discussions on the assigned readings. Starting from week 2, the student will start the class by presenting a critical assessment of the assigned readings (of no more than 10 minutes) and leading a discussion on those readings (for approximately 20 minutes). We will work out the schedule for each student's presentations during the first class meeting. Please note that, depending on class enrollment, you may be working with another student on a given session's presentation. Discussion leaders should forward to me a list of at least 5 discussion questions (as a Word attachment) by no later than 5 pm on the day preceding the class session dealing with the readings they have been assigned to cover. (20%)

***Final Research Paper or Proposal:*** The course's core requirement is the preparation of an original research paper or research proposal (of no more than 15-20 double-spaced pages). The paper should define a research question, review the existing literature, and either: a) analyze appropriate data and present the findings and their implications, or b) propose a detailed justification and strategy for conducting an original empirical research project. Students are encouraged to use this project to develop a conference paper, dissertation prospectus, or journal article. More detailed guidelines will be provided separately. A 3-4 page proposal is due by email (as a Word attachment) before week 6 on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Penultimate drafts of the final paper will be presented in a 12-15 minute oral presentation (5%) during the final session of the semester on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, when students will have the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers. The final paper will be due by email (as a Word attachment) on April 18<sup>th</sup> (35%).

### **Course Policies:**

***Academic Integrity:*** By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university's rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters>) and *Code of Student Conduct* (<http://www.vicereprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm>) which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.

***Accessibility:*** It is the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please see the University of Toronto Governing Council

“Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities” at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf>.

*Equity and Diversity:* The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of Toronto is available at <http://equity.hrandequity.utoronto.ca>.

### Readings:

You can access the course readings through the course’s Quercus site. Further details and a link will be provided in the first session.

### **Week 1: January 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### **A Selection of Theoretical Approaches to Studying Families**

Bianchi, Suzanne M. 2014. “A Demographic Perspective on Family Change.” *Journal of Family Theory and Review* 6: 35-44. (9)

De Reus, Lee Ann, April L. Few, and Libby Balter Blume. 2005. “Multicultural and critical race feminisms: Theorizing families in the third wave” In *Sourcebook of family theory and research*, edited by Vern L. Bengston, Alan C. Ackock, Katherine R. Allen, Peggye Dilworth-Anderson, and David M. Klein. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (14)

England, Paula, & Budig, Michelle J. 1998. Gary Becker on the Family: His Genius, Impact, and Blind Spots. In: Clawson, Dan (Ed.), *Required Reading: Sociology’s most influential books* (p. 95-111). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press. (16)

Laslett, Barbara and Johanna Brenner. 1989. “Gender and Social Reproduction: Historical Perspectives.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 15: 381-404. (23)

Thorne, Barrie. 1982. "Feminist Rethinking of the Family: An Overview." In *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions*, edited by Barrie Thorne with Marilyn Yalom. New York: Longman. (24)

**Week 2: January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Heterosexual Marriage**

Cherlin, Andrew J. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66: 848-861. (13)

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas. 2005. "What Marriage Means" pages 104-138 in *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (34)

Fox, Bonnie with Jessica Yiu. 2009. "As Times Change: A Review of Trends in Family Life" In Bonnie Fox (ed) *Family Patterns, Gender Relations* (3rd edition). Don Mills: Oxford University Press. (29)

Sweeney, Megan M. 2002. "Two Decades of Family Change: The Shifting Economic Foundations of Marriage." *American Sociological Review* 67:132-147. (15)

**Week 3: January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Heterosexual Cohabitation**

Kalmijn, Mathijs. 2011. "The Influence of Men's Income and Employment on Marriage and Cohabitation: Testing Oppenheimer's Theory in Europe" *European Journal of Population* 27: 269-293. (24)

Huang, Penelope, Pamela Smock, Wendy Manning and Cara Bergstrom-Lynch. 2011. "He Says, She Says: Gender and Cohabitation." *Journal of Family Issues* 32, 7: 876-905. (19)

Le Bourdais, Celine and Evelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk. 2002. "Changes in Conjugal Life in Canada: Is Cohabitation Progressively Replacing Marriage?" *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66 (4): 929 - 942. (13)

Sassler, Sharon and Amanda Miller. 2011. "Class Differences in Cohabitation Processes." *Family Relations* 60: 163-77. (14)

Smock, Pamela J. 2000. "Cohabitation in the United States: An Appraisal of Research Themes, Findings, and Implications." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 1-20. (19)

**Week 4: January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Transitions to Adulthood in an Uncertain Economy**

Newman, Katherine S. 2012. *The Accordion Family: Boomerang Kids, Anxious Parents and the Private Toll of Global Competition*. Boston: Beacon Press. [Chaps. Intro, 2, 3] (56)

Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. *Coming Up Short: Working-Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty*. N.Y.: Oxford University Press. [Chaps. 1, 3] (49)

**Week 5: February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Heterosexual Divorce**

Amato, Paul. 2010. "Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72(3): 650-666. (16)

Kalmijn, Matthijs and Anne-Rigt Poortman. 2006. "His or Her Divorce? The Gendered Nature of Divorce and its Determinants." *European Sociological Review* 22(2): 201-214. (13)

Reissman, Catherine K. 2014. "Mourning Different Dreams: Gender and the Companionate Marriage" pages 450-467 in *Family Patterns, Gender Relations* (4th edition), edited by Bonnie Fox. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. (17)

Smock, Pamela. 1994. "Gender and the Short-Run Economic Consequences of Marital Disruption." *Social Forces* 73(1): 243-62. (19)

Sweeney, Megan and Julie Phillips. 2004. "Understanding Racial Differences in Marital Disruption: Recent Trends and Explanations." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66 (3): 639-650. (11)

**Week 6: February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Same Sex Partners and their Families**

Biblarz, Timothy and Evren Savci. 2010. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Families" *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 480-497. (17)

Carrington, Christopher. 1999. "Housework in Lesbigay Families" Pages 67-108, and "The Division of Domestic Labor in Lesbigay Families" Pages 175-206, in *No Place Like Home: Relationships and Family Life Among Lesbians and Gay Men*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (72)

Stacey, Judith and Timothy J. Biblarz. 2001. "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?" *American Sociological Review* 66(2): 159-183. (24)

-----**Reading Week**-----

**Week 7: February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Structure and Child Outcomes**

Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67: 747-776. (29)

Martin, Valerie et al. 2005. "The Consequences of Parental Divorce on the Life Course Outcomes of Canadian Children." *Canadian Studies in Population* 32(1): 29-51. (22)

Sigle-Rushton, Wendy and Sara McLanahan. 2004. "Father Absence and Child Well-Being: A Critical Review." Pp. 116-155 in *The Future of the Family*, edited by Daniel P. Moynihan, Timothy M. Smeeding, and Lee Rainwater. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. (39)

McLanahan, Sara and Wade Jacobsen. 2015. "Diverging Destinies Revisited." In *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality*, edited by Paul Amato, Alan Booth, S. McHale and J. Van Hook. Springer. (19)

**Week 8: March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Fatherhood and Motherhood**

Doucet, Andrea. 2004. "'It's Almost Like I Have a Job, but I Don't Get Paid': Fathers at Home Reconfiguring Work, Care, and Masculinity" *Fathering* 2 (3): 277-303. (26)

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette and Ernestine Avila. 1997. "I'm Here, but I'm There: The Meanings of Latina Transnational Motherhood." *Gender & Society* 11(5): 548 - 571. (23)

Milkie, Melissa A. and Kathleen E. Denny. 2014. "Changes in the Cultural Model of Father Involvement: Descriptions of Benefits to Fathers, Children and Mothers in *Parents' Magazine*, 1926 – 2006." *Journal of Family Issues* 35:223-53. (30)

Wall, Glenda. 2001. "Moral Constructions of Motherhood in Breastfeeding Discourse." *Gender & Society* 15: 592-610. (18)

### **Week 9: March 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Carework**

Blair-Loy, Mary and Jerry A. Jacobs. 2003. "Globalization, Work Hours, and the Care Deficit Among Stockbrokers." *Gender & Society* 17: 230-249. (19)

Fox, Bonnie. 2009. "Taking Care of the Baby: Reproducing Gender Differences and Divisions?" pages 154-184 in *When Couples Become Parents*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (30)

Gauthier, Anne H., Timothy M. Smeeding, and Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr. 2004. "Are Parents Investing Less Time in Children? Trends in Selected Industrialized Countries." *Population and Development Review* 30(4):647-671. (24)

### **Week 10: March 19<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Household Work and the Gender Division of Labor**

Bianchi, Suzanne, Liana Sayer, Melissa Milkie and John Robinson. 2012. "Housework: Who Did, Does or Will Do It, and How Much Does It Matter?" *Social Forces* 91(1): 55-63. (8)

Gupta, Sanjiv. 2007. "Autonomy, dependence or display? The relationship between married women's earnings and housework." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 69(2): 399-417. (18)

Hochschild, Arlie. 1989. "The Economy of Gratitude," pages 95-111 in *The Sociology of Emotions: Original Essays and Research Papers*, edited by Thomas Hood. Greenwich: JAI Press. (16)

Luxton, Meg and June Corman. 2001. "Families at Work: The Dynamics of Paid Employment and Unpaid Domestic Work" pages 36-63, and "Domestic Labor as Maintaining

a Household” pages 151-184, in *Getting By in Hard Times*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. (60)

**Week 11: March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Violence**

Anderson, Kristin. 2010. “Conflict, Power, and Violence in Families” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72: 726 – 742. (16)

Cherlin, Andrew, Linda Burton, Tera Hurt, and Diane Purvin. 2004. “The Influence of Physical and Sexual Abuse on Marriage and Cohabitation.” *American Sociological Review* 69: 768-789. (21)

Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Jennifer. 2010. “Controversies Involving Gender and Intimate Partner Violence in the United States” *Sex Roles* 62: 179–193. (14)

Miller, Jody and Norman White. 2003. “Gender and Relationship Violence: A Contextual Examination.” *Criminology* 41: 1212-1248. (37)

**Week 12: April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Student Final Paper Workshop**