

Aging in Modern and (Post-Modern) Families

Winter 2021

January 11th - April 14th

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Lecture: Asynchronous and Synchronous
content - See description below

Office Hours: See [description](#) below for
more details about online office hours.

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Course Description

In this course, we will summarize and critically evaluate the major empirical, conceptual, and theoretical directions that studies of aging families have taken in the 21st century. Through and interdisciplinary lens, this course is based on four overarching themes: (a) Complexity in family relations, (b) Diversity in family/gender roles, structures, and households, (c) Interdependence of family roles and functions, and (d) Patterns, outcomes and future directions. Interwoven throughout the course is also recent scholarship in light of COVID 19 and its implications on the family.

Course Objectives

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

- Describe the life course, transitions, and trajectories in aging families
- Identify and explain theories and concepts key to the study of aging and modern families
- Describe the diversity of families in their dynamics, structure, and form

- Explain the demographic shifts that have led to population aging
- Discuss how institutional and cultural discourse influence individual experience for how families are constructed
- Identify and explain challenges facing older people and their families in later life
- Advance writing, critical thinking, and skills necessary for research

The central objective of the course is to provide an opportunity for students to think critically about families, gender, and aging and to demonstrate this knowledge both descriptively and analytically through assignments and engaging creative work.

Required Material:

- All reading material links will be available on A2L to access at the appropriate time.

Class Format

This is an online course that is held predominately asynchronously with one discussion-based class once a month. Meaning that other than scheduled discussion dates/times and assignment due dates, students will self-direct their learning of the course content at their own pace within the given time frame set aside for each lecture. Each lecture will be released weekly and scheduled discussion sessions with students is scheduled in advance and will be detailed below. Mark these days and times in your calendars.

The class is organized in this way to ensure equitable access to course materials without needing to be online at a given time or date (other than scheduled once a month session). Please review the course schedule below for more information. Each lecture will be made available at 10am on the first day of the week within which it begins in the content section of Avenue. For example, lecture one will be available at 10am on Monday, January 11th, 2021, while lecture 2 will be available at 10am on January 18th, 2021. Each lecture will contain: (1) PowerPoint slides, along with an identical PDF document, containing self-directed learning content; (2) a Word (and identical PDF document) containing additional notes to compliment the content in the self-directed learning PowerPoint (and PDF) slides; (3) A lecture recording that summarizes the content in each lecture. It is important read and listen to all material to succeed in this course. Slides will augment the required reading but will not cover all content presented in the text (if you read this far, super proud prof! send me your favorite meme/gif/clip to let me know).

Synchronous sessions will be more interactive. A place where we can go through any of your overarching thoughts or questions about lecture material and a place to get to know each other. Think of it as the collective question/answer period during a typical synchronous lecture but cumulated. They will not take up the full three-hour time slot.

In addition to the course content for each lecture, students are required to read the assigned readings. Please review the course schedule below for more information on the assigned readings. It is strictly prohibited to post, distribute, transmit, copy, etc., lecture and tutorial material/notes in any shape or form (electronically, audio, etc.,) outside of Avenue to Learn and the SAS notetaking program. This includes but is not limited to: online note sharing sites, Facebook, YouTube, Google documents, etc.,. If you miss the notes from a particular class, there is a discussion board in Avenue where you can connect with classmates to obtain the missed notes. McMaster University is

committed to an inclusive and respectful community. These principles and expectations extend to online activities including email communication, electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms. It is the expectation of this course that all members of the HLTH AGE 2M03 community (students, faculty and staff) are respectful, inclusive, considerate and professional in all course related activities and communication with one another.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. A2L and Discussion Participation - 10% (weekly - on-going)
2. Essay Proposal 25 %, (February 22nd, 2021)
3. Group Creative Project - 30% (March 29th, 2021)
4. Major Essay – 35% (April 16th, 2021, see below extension possibility)

Essay Proposal (25%) February 22nd, 2021

You are asked to complete a 3-page essay proposal that outlines a research question that you will explore in the Major Essay. The proposal should outline the question that you wish to explore, highlight why the question is significant, and incorporate relevant academic literature. Students should use at least 2 peer-reviewed academic sources in constructing their proposal. Please include a bibliography (separate from the page count). More Information to follow on Avenue to Learn.

Essay proposal's will be due in the Avenue Drop box on February 22nd 2021 by 11:59pm. More detailed instructions and a grading will be posted on Avenue in due time.

Creative Group Project worth (30%) due March 29th, 2021

Students will complete a group creative term project (worth 30%) that assesses an aging and family topic covered within one of the weekly course-based themes. You will be assigned group members at the beginning of the term (max 5 in one group) and will be evaluated as a whole but also peer evaluated (more details will be on avenue). More Information to follow on Avenue to Learn.

OFFICE 365 @ McMaster

McMaster University offers [Microsoft Office 365](#) at no charge to students, staff, and faculty, and includes access to leading productivity and collaboration tools for everyone in the community. Office 365 also includes access to download the Office 365 ProPlus applications which can be installed on up to 5 devices, Windows or Mac, as well as unlimited mobile devices for iOS, Android, & Windows Phone. Microsoft Teams is a great way to freely and accessibly video chat and connect for groups projects.

Creative projects will be due in the Avenue Drop box on March 29th 2021 by 11:59pm. More detailed instructions and a grading will be posted on Avenue in due time.

Major Essay (35%) April 16th, 2021

There will also be a final essay. Students are required to complete an 8-10 page essay on a topic related to aging and families. The paper itself should involve some degree of critical thinking and the essays should incorporate at least ten peer-reviewed academic sources and must include a

bibliography (separate from the page count). Essays should be double spaced, using a 12-point font and APA style margins. More Information to follow on Avenue to Learn.

Major Essay proposal's will be due in the Avenue Drop box on April 16th2021 by 11:59pm. More detailed instructions and a grading will be posted on Avenue in due time.

Optional Major Essay Extension

Students may opt for the Major essay extension until April 21st. If you opt for this extension, however, you will not receive any comments or feedback on your paper. Your grade will be posted on Avenue, but you will not receive the essay back. The professor will not meet with you to discuss your paper or your grade in any fashion – no exceptions. It is not necessary to request this extension, as it will be automatically granted if not submitted on the due date.

A2L Discussion Groups (10%) (weekly – ongoing)

Starting from Week 2, discussion questions will be posted weekly for groups to engage with. During the week students will be expected to actively participate on A2L. Students will be evaluated on their attentiveness in answers and participation in posted discussion exercises. No accommodation will be provided for missed discussion exercises (exceptions may potentially include approved SAS accommodations and religious holiday accommodations- see p 7).

Participation will be based on contribution to discussions and activities, in class attentiveness, and thoughtful completion and sharing of discussion.

- Based on lectures, reading will be a routine component of the course. Active participation is required on A2L. It is therefore important that all students, complete readings and be attentive and participate enthusiastically in discussion.
- Each week you will be provided with the opportunity to participate in collaborative learning with your peers. Working in groups of 4-5, students will be expected to engage in discussion about the lecture, readings and provide responses to questions/exercises posed by the instructor. The purpose of the group work is to provide you with an opportunity to actively reflect on and discuss course material, enhance your ability to critically reflect on age related issues and to work collaboratively with group members in synthesizing responses in written formats.
- In a 'word document' provide a (double spaced 300-500 words) written response to the assigned question/exercise. Provide a title page that has the name of each group member who participated in the activity, the name of the activity and the date. Write the response in an essay style; that is, using proper grammar, paragraph, and sentence structure. Submit your in-class group response to the Avenue drop box no later than 11:59 pm on the date that it is due. Submissions will be assessed for logical, thoughtful reflection, completeness, and writing mechanics. Completed assignments will result in the accumulation of group participation credits but will not be individually graded.

Course Schedule and Topics

Week 1: January 11th, 2021

Introduction to the Course

Readings: No readings this week

Notes: *** Read and Listen to Course Outline Recording **

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 2: January 18th, 2021

Understanding family: Situating 'age' in a shifting demographic

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 3: January 25th, 2021

Family matters: Gender and age relations

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 4: February 1st, 2021*

Following the script: Roles and the 'as you do' of family

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 5: February 8th, 2021

Sexual orientation and family configurations: Polyamory, Open Relationships, and Blended Families

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 6: February 15th, 2021:

Reading week

Week 7: February 22nd, 2021:

Tinder but make it better: Dating and intimacy

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 8: March 1st, 2021*

Cultural Diversity: The fabric and institutions that makes us, us

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 9: March 8th, 2021

Generations: Inter/Intra generational relations, Grandparent hood, and Care

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 10: March 15th, 2021

Oh brother: Sibling Ties, Stepties, Pets, and Fictive kin

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 11: March 22nd, 2021

The Life-Course Regime: Dynamics of Gender and Employment in later life

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 12: March 29th, 2021

Globalization, space, and place: Family transitions and trajectories of care

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 13: April 5th, 2021

Policy and Research within families: Public issue or private trouble?

Readings: To be posted on A2L

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Week 14: April 12th, 2021*

Course Review and Discussion

Readings: No readings

Material Provided: PowerPoint slides, Recording, Transcript

Important dates and times:

*Live discussion sessions (Links to be provided in due time)

1. February 1st, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00pm
2. March 1st, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00pm
3. April 12th, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00pm

February 22nd, 2021: Essay Proposal due

March 29th, 2021: Creative Group Project due

April 16th, 2021: Major Essay due

April 23rd, 2021: Major Essay Extension Due date (see extension option)

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

The written assignment should be submitted via Avenue To Learn on the respective due dates. It is your responsibility to review this syllabus prior to each class to recall deadlines. It is also your responsibility to contact me about submitting assignments via email regardless of whether they are being submitted on time or not.

All pages of the assignment must be numbered and have 1" margins on all sides. All text should be double-spaced in Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font. You should use APA citation style in the assignment. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be reflected in the mark for the assignment.

Online Course Behaviour

McMaster is committed to an inclusive and respectful community. These principles and expectations extend to online activities including electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms. If you are concerned about your virtual classroom experiences, the Equity and Inclusion Office (EIO) is available to advise and assist students who may be experiencing any equity, accessibility, inclusion, harassment, discrimination or sexual violence concerns. You can reach the EIO at equity@mcmaster.ca. Thank you for joining us in ensuring that our McMaster online communities are spaces where no one feels excluded and everyone is able to enjoy learning together.

Sharing and Posting of Course Material is Prohibited

Those who have access to authorized recorded lectures in a course may use these recordings only for personal or group study and should not reproduce, share or upload the recording to any publicly accessible web environment. Similarly, notes, slides, evaluations and tests are for personal use and should not be shared with others outside of a course.

Email

Send all emails to my McMaster email account: hatzifis@mcmaster.ca. Please consider email equivalent to any other form of written communication. Students who write to their instructors are expected to follow rules of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In addition, please include a proper greeting, such as "Dear Stephanie or Ms. Hatzifilalithis," and not "Hey Fam". Add a closing that includes your full name, such as "Sincerely, John Smith." Email failing to meet these standards may be returned unanswered. Emails that require a very short reply will be answered within 3 working days (I will generally not respond to emails over the weekend). Email questions requiring a more detailed response will only be answered during office hours or by appointment.

Effective September 1, 2010, 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 their discretion.

Office Hours

Every Wednesday of the term, I will host a drop-in zoom session available from 10:00am -11:00am for questions you have about the course content. Please be aware: this is not a private discussion; this is open to those who want to ask questions or need queries answered. Alternatively, I am also available by email (hatzifis@mcmaster.ca) or by appointment. Emails will be answered Monday-Friday between 9am and 4:30pm. You can expect a response to your email within 72 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Without approved justification, you must make arrangements directly with me to hand in the assignment. Assignments will be marked down 5% if turned in late on the day it is due, and an additional 5 percentage points for each day it is late after that; this includes weekend days and holidays. If an assignment is due at the start of a class, it will be considered one day late any time after the end of class that day.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

All reasons for illness, injury and family emergency must be addressed through the office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences who will notify the Professor of your absence. The policy contains the following requirements:

1. If you are seeking relief for missed academic work because of an absence lasting up to 3 days in duration, you must use the McMaster Student Absence Form. The course work you have missed must be worth 24% or less of your grade.
2. You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your Instructor immediately (NORMALLY WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS) regarding the nature of the accommodation.
3. If you are absent for reasons other than medical reasons, for more than 3 days, or exceed 1 request per term you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out

immediately when you are about to return to class after your absence. Additional requests for relief of academic missed work must be reported to your Faculty's Associate Dean's Office (Be prepared to submit appropriate documentation. Relief for missed academic work is not guaranteed).

MSAF is now available in MOSAIC Student Center (in the drop down menu under Academics)

4. You should expect to have academic commitments Monday through Saturday but not on Sunday or statutory holidays. If you require an accommodation to meet a religious obligation or to celebrate an important religious holiday, you may use the McMaster Student Absence Form or contact your Faculty's Associate Dean's Office.
5. In deciding whether or not to grant relief for missed work, factors such as the following may be taken into account: the timing in relation to the due date of the missed work and the degree of the student's incapacitation.
6. You are responsible to contact your Professor(s) promptly to discuss the appropriate relief.
7. It is the prerogative of the Professor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.

See the Faculty of Social Sciences web page on [Student Absence Information](#)

Avenue to Learn

Course information will be posted here throughout the term. Please check this site often to keep informed of assignment instructions, links to course resources, important announcements, and interim grades. It is the responsibility of all students to be aware of all information posted on Avenue to Learn.

Step 1: Make sure you are in the Avenue to Learn system. If you officially registered for the course, you were automatically enrolled in the Avenue To Learn system. Go directly to step 2. Students who registered late for this course need to be added to the Avenue to Learn database before they can perform the next step. The best way to do this is to make sure that you are officially registered for this course.

Step 2: Logon to Avenue to learn. Go to <http://Avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

All the information you need for logging on to the site, for configuring your web browser, and for adding this course to your account are available here.

Step 3: Support

If you are interested in viewing the support for Avenue to Learn, including quick help guides and other resources please visit <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/help/>

Course Modification

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any 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 their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Courses with an On-line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

I am committed to making appropriate accommodations for students’ observance of religious holidays. Please contact me as early in the term as possible to make individual arrangements.

I am also committed to working with students with disabilities to make individualized accommodations according to your specific needs. All such arrangements must be made through Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Please drop by my office at the beginning of the term to review individual arrangements. All such arrangements will remain confidential. Student Accessibility Services: For information about academic support services, contact SAS at MUSC B107 (ext. 28652) or go to the [SAS website](#).

If you require this course outline in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society (ext. 27227 | e-mail: hasdept@mcmaster.ca).

Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Academic Accommodation For Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office *normally within 10 working days* of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright And Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.