**Sociology 2QQ3**

**Dynamics and Transitions in Intimate Relations and Families**

Winter 2021 - ONLINE FORMAT

**Course Instructor**: Dr. Elizabeth Dennis

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**Office:** Virtual

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1-2 PM

“*At no other time in history has there been as much diversity, choice, and fluidity in different aspects of intimate relationships and families including relationship status, living arrangements, family structure, childbearing, parenting, sexual orientation, sexuality, and emotional intimacy*.”

(Close Relations, 6th ed.)

**Course Objectives**

This course will explore intimate relationships and families in Canada today, focussing on the impact and opportunities of changing social structures and norms. We will see how family dynamics and the family life course have shifted along with the choices and constraints of our social worlds. We will also explore new family patterns, along with the accompanying challenges for shaping social policy.

**Course Format**

The course is organized into Learning Modules that begin on Tuesday evening of each week during the term. Video lecturettes and/or topic overviews are provided with each module, along with a checklist to keep you on track. For each module you will also be completing required readings and some weeks you will participate in required small group discussions. There are no set meeting times; this course is asynchronous.

**Learning Outcomes**

The learning outcomes of this course are consistent with McMaster’s Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations, which can be found at: <http://cll.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>

This connects to several of the undergraduate degree level expectations including developing a depth and breadth of knowledge, critical thinking, and effective writing.

**Important Notice**

***Due to the delayed start of classes provided by the University, some details and deadlines regarding course content and assessments in the published course outline may be changed. Please check Avenue to Learn on the first day of class for the most up-to-date information for this course. The course outline on Avenue to Learn will supersede previously published outlines until published course outlines are update***

**Required Texts**

Please use these editions:

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.

Additional readings will be made available online.

**Evaluation:**

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| **Test 1**This will be taken online and is a combination of Multiple Choice and Short Answer questions**.** | 20  |
| **Test 2**This will be taken online and is a combination of Multiple Choice and Short Answer questions | 20  |
| **Test 3**This will be taken online and is a combination of Multiple Choice and Short Answer questions | 20  |
| **Test 4**This will be taken online and is a combination of Multiple Choice and Short Answer questions | 10 |
| **Response Paper**Students will write a short response to one of the chapters in the Fox text. Details will be provided in the Course Module 3. | 20 |
| **Small Group Discussion** Students will participate in small group discussions related to course content (Mark given at end of term) | 10 |

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| **Course Schedule & Topics***Due to the delayed start of classes provided by the University, some details and deadlines regarding course content and assessments in the published course outline may be changed. Please check Avenue to Learn for the most up-to-date information for this course. The course outline on Avenue to Learn will supersede previously published outlines until published course outlines are updated.* |
| 1 | Jan 11  | Introduction to the course.  |  |
| 2 | Jan 18 | Trends in Family Diversity Chapter 10 McDaniel et al Pages 338-355 |  |
| 3 | Jan 25 | Intimate Relationships and Families: Chapter 4 McDaniel et al pages108-134; 139-144 |  |
| 4 | Feb 1 | Parenthood  Chapter 6 McDaniel et al; Ch13 (Fox) | Short Test 1 |
| 5 | Feb 8 | Parenthood continued Chapter 15 Fox (Dunne) Chapter 16 (Fox Doucet) |  |
|  | Feb 15 | Term Recess at McMaster |  |
| 6 | Feb 22 | Paid and Unpaid Work Chapter 17 Fox (Arat-Koc) | Short Test 2 |
| 7 | March 1 | Work and Family Life Chapter 7 McDaniel et al |  |
| 8 | Mar 8  | Review and Reflect week  There are no assigned readings this week, but we will hold a Q&A devoted to writing the Response Paper.  |  |
| 9 | Mar 15 | Family Stress and Violence Chapter 8 McDaniel Ch 27 Fox (Gartner et al) | Short Test 3 |
| 10 | Mar 22 | Ending Relationships  Chapter 9 McDaniel; Ch 25 Fox (Smart et al) |  |
| 11 | Mar 29 | Family Challenges Chapter 10 McDaniel pages 356 - 366 |  |
| 12 | April 5 | Family Policy and Family Law Ch 28 Fox (Mossman) | Short Test 4 |
| 13 | April 12 | Course Wrap Up No assigned readings | Response Paper Due |

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**

All course assignments and tests will be submitted online.

**Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

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”.

**Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted without approval for late submission will be penalized at 5% per day. Assignments more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

**Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, 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 this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academiccredentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academiccredit 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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

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.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.mcmaster.ca/) (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*](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)policy.

**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 requiring a [RISO](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf) accommodation 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.

**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](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Code-of-Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities.pdf) (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.

**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.

**Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

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 his or her discretion.

**Course Modification**

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.

**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.

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| **MARK** | **GRADE** |
| --- | --- |
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-89 | 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 |