

## **SOCIOL2QQ3: Dynamics and Transitions in Intimate Relationships and Families**

Professor Sandra Colavecchia

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Office hours: by appointment

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Day and Time of Classes: Mondays 2:30-3:20pm; Wednesdays 2:30-4:20pm MDCL1110

### **Course Objectives**

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. What is particularly remarkable about this seismic societal shift is that it has happened in a relatively short period. The private and family lives of Canadians today contrasts earlier generations who had fewer choices around intimate relationships and family life. The course examines transitions and dynamics in intimate relationships and families, including relationship formation and dissolution, caregiving, paid and unpaid labour, and social policy.

### **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.

### **Avenue-to-Learn**

Please check Avenue-to-Learn regularly for: announcements, lecture slides, and other resources. Please do not email the instructor from Avenue. Please use [colaves@mcmaster.ca](mailto:colaves@mcmaster.ca) to email me.

### **Required Readings** (available in the bookstore)

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* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: Pearson.

Please do not use earlier editions of the textbooks.

## Evaluation

<b>Test 1</b> (Multiple choice, True or False questions, and long answer). Written during lecture time	30%
<b>Test 2</b> (Multiple choice, True or False questions, and long answer). Written during lecture time	30%
<b>Test 3</b> (Multiple choice and True or False questions, and long answer). Written during lecture time	30%
<b>Test 4</b> (Multiple choice, True or False questions) Written during lecture time	10%

## Calendar of Topics and Readings

Monday Jan 6	Introduction to Course	No readings assigned
Wed Jan 8	Transitions and Diversity	Chapter 10 McDaniel et al Pages 338-369
Monday Jan 13	Transitions and Diversity	Chapter 10 McDaniel et al Pages 338-369
Wed Jan 15	Intimate Relationships and Families	Chapter 4 McDaniel et al pages108-134; 139-144
Monday Jan 20	Intimate Relationships and Families	Chapter 4 McDaniel et al pages108-134; 139-144
Wed Jan 22	The Transition to Parenthood	Chapter 6 McDaniel et al; Ch13 (Fox)
Monday Jan 27	The Transition to Parenthood	Ch 15 (Dunne) Ch 16 (Doucet)
Wed Jan 29	Test 1 (Multiple choice, True/False, and Long Answer)	
Monday Feb 3	Paid and Unpaid Labour	Ch 17 (Arat-Koc)
Wed Feb 5	Paid and Unpaid Labour	Ch 17 (Arat-Koc)
Monday Feb 10	Work and Family Life	Chapter 7 McDaniel et al
Wed Feb 12	Divorce and Relationship Dissolution	Chapter 9 McDaniel et al; Ch 24 (Riessman) Ch 25 (Smart et al) Ch 26 (Church)
Monday Feb 17-Feb 21	Mid-term Recess	
Monday Feb 24	Gender and Families	Ch 9 (Le Espiritu)
Wed Feb 26	Test 2 (Multiple choice, True/False, and Long Answer)	

Monday March 2	Money in Families	Chapter 4 McDaniel et al Pages 134-139
Wed March 4	Family Finances and Economic Stress	Ch 22 (Fiske and Johnny) Ch 23 (Bezanson)
Monday March 9	Family Violence	McDaniel et al Chapter 8; Ch 27 (Gartner et al)
Wed March 11	Family Lives of the Middle- Aged and Elderly in Canada	Chapter 10 McDaniel et al Pages: 369-374
Monday March 16	Social Policy: Relationship Dissolution and Family Law	Ch 28 (Mossman)
Wed March 18	Test 3 (Multiple choice, True/False, and Long Answer)	
Monday March 23	Social Policy	Ch 28 (Mossman)
Wed March 25	Social Policy	Ch 29 (Tremblay)
Monday March 30	Social Policy	Ch 29 (Tremblay)
Wed April 1	Test 4 (Multiple choice, True/False)	
Monday April 6	Course Wrap Up	

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities* 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 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.

### **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence. Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, balloting, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

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.

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.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

\*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link