

SOCIOL 2PP3 (Online Course): Sociology of Families, Fall 2020

Professor Sandra Colavecchia

Office: Kenneth Taylor Hall 612

E-mail: colaves@mcmaster.ca (Do not use email through Avenue-to-Learn)

Course Description

Most of us are embedded in families and/or intimate relationships and although every family and relationship is unique, one of the most exciting things about sociology is that it can help us to better understand and contextualize our experiences. Sociology allows us to connect our personal experiences to a broader social context and to understand the historical, social, economic, political, and legal forces that shape intimate relationships and families. The course provides an introduction to theoretical, historical, contemporary, and comparative perspectives on intimate relationships, households, and families. We examine family life in earlier historical periods including foraging society, pre-industrial society, the early industrial period, and the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Course Objectives

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>

In this course students will develop a depth and breadth of knowledge and will also develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

Required Readings

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.

Please do not use earlier editions of the textbooks. Textbooks are available in electronic format from McMaster bookstore.

Class Format

This is an online course available through Avenue-to-Learn. Students will work through weekly online modules to complete the course. There are no in-person lectures or tutorials

All tests are online. Please note that the tests for this course are written on the specific dates (and windows of time) listed below. Students do not get to choose when they write their tests. Regular MSAFs cannot be used for work that is 25% or more of the final mark for the course. Students who are unable to write a test during the scheduled time due to illness or some other extenuating circumstance need to email Professor Colavecchia. Make-up tests are permitted for students who are unable to write a test due to illness or some other extenuating circumstance. Please note that make-up tests are written after the class writes the test and may include a written component in place of multiple choice, true/false questions.

Academic Misconduct

Students are required to complete tests on their own. Working with others on tests is considered cheating and all universities have significant penalties for academic misconduct. Copying test questions also constitutes academic misconduct. Please read the section at the end of the syllabus about penalties for academic misconduct. It is important for all students to understand what the penalties are for cheating. It is particularly important for students who take online courses with online tests to understand that they must complete this work on their own without the help of others. The penalties for cheating (working with others or copying test questions) can include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Course Evaluation-Overview

Test 1: Wed Oct 7 2020 7pm-8:30pm (worth 30%)
 Test 2: Wed Nov 18, 2020 7pm-8:30pm (worth 30%)
 Essay: Due Wed Nov 25, 2020 7pm-8:30pm (worth 30%)
 Quiz: Wed Dec 9, 2020 7pm-8:30pm (worth 10%)

Course Evaluation-Details

<p>Test 1: Wed Oct 7, 2020 7pm-8:30pm</p> <p>Multiple Choice, True/False questions</p> <p>*Avenue will make the test available for 90 minutes, however once the test is open the student will only have 60 minutes to complete it. This means that you need to open the test by 7:30pm to be able to have the full 60 minutes to complete the test.</p>	<p>Worth 30%, Test will cover Modules 1-4</p>
<p>Test 2: Wed Nov 18, 2020 7pm-8:30pm*</p> <p>Multiple Choice, True/False questions</p> <p>*Avenue will make the test available for 90 minutes, however once the test is open the student will only have 60 minutes to complete it. This means that you need to open the test by 7:30pm to be able to have the full 60 minutes to complete the test.</p>	<p>Worth 30%, Test will cover Modules 5-9.</p>

Essay: Due Wed Nov 25, 2020 by 7pm.	Worth 30%
Quiz: Wed Dec 9, 2020 7pm-8:30pm* Multiple Choice, True/False questions *Avenue will make the test available for 90 minutes, however once the test is open the student will only have 30 minutes to complete it. This means that you need to open the test by 8 pm to be able to have the full 30 minutes to complete the test.	Quiz worth 10%, quiz will cover Modules 10-12.

***All times Eastern**

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Dates	Topic/Module and Readings	Evaluation
Sep 8-11	Module 1: Defining Families Readings: Ch 1 McDaniel et al; pages 1-11 Ch 1 Fox : pages 1-7 (Fox and Luxton) Chapter 2 Fox (Edholm)	
Sep 14-18	Module 2: Introduction to Sociology of Families and Family Trends Readings: Ch 2 McDaniel et al Ch 10 McDaniel et al	
Sep 21-25	Module 3: Theoretical Perspectives on Families Readings: Ch 1 Fox : 7-27 (Fox and Luxton)	

Dates	Topic/Module and Readings	Evaluation
	Ch 1 McDaniel et al; pages 13-28	
Sep 28-Oct 2	Module 4: Families and Foraging Societies Readings: Chapter 3 Fox (Leacock)	
Oct 5-Oct 9	Module 5: Families and Agricultural (Pre-industrial) Societies Readings: Chapter 4 Fox (Tilly and Scott)	Tests 1 Wed Oct 7 (worth 30% of final mark) Avenue will make the test available for 90 minutes between 7pm and 8:30pm, however once the test is open the student will only have 60 minutes to complete the test. Test 1 will cover Modules 1-4 and will include multiple choice and true/false questions.
Oct 12-Oct 18	Mid-Term Recess	No Readings Assigned
Oct 19-23	Module 6: Families and Industrialization Readings: Ch 5 Fox (Hareven) Ch 6 Fox (Margolis)	
Oct 26-30	Module 7: The 1950's Family Readings: Ch 7 Fox (Adams)	
Nov 2-Nov 6	Module 8: Canadian Families in the Past & Closing Decades of the 20 th C Readings: Ch 8 Fox (Luxton) Chapter 7 McDaniel et al	

Dates	Topic/Module and Readings	Evaluation
Nov 9-13	<p>Module 9: 21st C Families</p> <p>Readings: Ch 11 McDaniel et al Ch 10 Fox (Sassler and Miller)</p> <p>Ch 14 Fox (Worts)</p> <p>Ch 19 (Man)</p>	
Nov 16-20	<p>Module 10: Ethnicity, Immigration, and Family Life</p> <p>Readings: Ch 20 Fox (Creese et al) Ch 21 Fox (Somerville)</p>	<p>Test 2 Wed Nov 18 7pm-8:30 (worth 30% of final mark)</p> <p>Avenue will make the test available for 90 minutes between 7pm and 8:30pm, however once the test is open the student will only have 60 minutes to complete the test.</p> <p>Test 2 will cover Modules 5-9 and will include multiple choice and true/false questions.</p>
Nov 23-27	<p>Module 11: Partnering, Cohabitation, and Marriage</p> <p>Readings: Ch 11 Fox (Currie) Ch 3 McDaniel et al</p>	<p>Essay Due Wed Nov 25 by 7pm. Essay is 5 pages double-spaced and based on 3 peer-reviewed journal articles.</p>
Nov 30-Dec 4	<p>Module 12: Intimate Relationships and Sexuality</p> <p>Readings: Chapter 4 McDaniel et al Ch 12 Fox (Beres)</p>	
Dec 7-Dec 9	No New Topic; No readings	<p>Quiz Wed Dec 9 7pm-8:30 (worth 10% of final mark)</p> <p>Avenue will make the quiz available for 90 minutes between 7pm and 8:30pm, however</p>

Dates	Topic/Module and Readings	Evaluation
		<p>once the test is open the student will only have 30 minutes to complete the quiz.</p> <p>The quiz will cover modules 10-12 and will include multiple choice and true/false questions only.</p>

Essay: Select a families-related topic that interests you and has been studied by sociologists. Find 3 peer-reviewed sociological articles using Sociological Abstracts database. In 5 double-spaced pages compare and contrast the research questions and research findings presented in the 3 articles you have selected. Use in-text citations to show your comparative analysis.

Referencing: You must use APA (American Psychological Association) referencing format. Please note: essay should be double-spaced, 12-point font, number your pages, include a title page and list of references. **Penalties:** 5% per day late.

Marking of Paper:

Selection of Sources	30 marks
Discussion	50 marks
Format and Referencing	20 marks

Requirements for Selection of Sources (30 marks)

Requirement #1: All 3 articles must be closely-related reflecting a narrow focus.

You must use Sociological Abstracts database to locate these articles.

Requirement #2: All 3 articles must be sociological.

Not all articles in Sociological Abstracts database are sociological. There are various ways of determining whether your article is sociological. First, check the journal name. Sometimes these explicitly include “Sociology” or “Sociological”, however there are journals that don’t have “sociology” in their name that sociologists publish in (i.e. Journal of Marriage and Families). You can search the databases by publication name and use “Sociology” OR “Sociological” which will give you only those articles that were published in journals that have Sociology or Sociological in the journal name (i.e. American Journal of Sociology, Qualitative Sociology).

Additionally, sometimes sociological research is published in related or interdisciplinary fields, such as criminology. Thus you shouldn’t necessarily exclude an article because it is published in

an interdisciplinary journal (i.e. Sex Roles, Gender and Society). A second way of determining whether the article is sociological is to check the author's institutional affiliation (whether they are working in a sociological department or not). The best way of ensuring that the article is sociological is to read the article and make this determination based on the content of the article. If you are uncertain about whether an article is sociological check with your Teaching Assistant.

Requirement #3: All 3 articles must be peer-reviewed

Deduction of 5 marks for each non peer-reviewed article included. To ensure that your articles are peer-reviewed select the "peer-review" option when searching for articles.

Requirement #4: 2 out of the 3 articles must have been published after Jan 1 2005.

Deduction of 5 marks if one article is not recent. Deduction of an additional 5 marks if two articles are not recent.

Requirement #5: Length of articles must be acceptable.

Deduction of 5 marks for each article that is deemed to be of insufficient length (less than 5 pages).

Turnitin.com: In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and to submit a paper copy in lecture. To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity. Instructions for using Turnitin.com will be provided.

Discussion (50 marks)

Comparative analysis of the research questions and research findings addressed in the 3 articles you have selected. Careful engagement with sociological research. Specificity in discussing articles. Organized discussion.

Format (20 marks)

Proper use of APA format and in-text citations.

Suggested Topics

You can select any topic that relates to sociological analyses of intimate relationships, households, and families. Even though part of the course covers historical perspectives you may select a contemporary topic. Examples of broad topics that you can pick (and would need to narrow) include: social media and relationship formation/dissolution, social media and dating, cohabitation, new reproductive technologies, contemporary sexual relationships (i.e. non-monogamous relationships), polyamorous relationships, lone parent households, LAT (Living

Apart Together) relationships, newcomer families, multigenerational households, LGBTQ+ couples and families, delayed home-leaving, newcomer families.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Essays are to be submitted through Avenue to Learn. We will be using Turnitin.com.

Late Assignments

5% penalty per day late.

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”.

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.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. 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 information please refer to the Turnitin.com Policy.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

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.

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.

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.

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 (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.

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.

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.

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