

FMLY 2500 Diversity & Families - Syllabus

Welcome to FMLY 2500! This course will be an examination of diverse sociological issues that impact families in Canada, using an intersectionality approach to explore issues that impact family relationships and family dynamics, including class, ethnicity/race, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion, caregiving, and citizenship status. This course uses human rights and anti-racism educational pedagogy.

Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter link in your course website.

Course Description

This course is described in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar as:

Using the theoretical frameworks of intersectionality and social ecology, this class addresses how diversity in Canada is influenced by age, gender, ability, ethnicity, race, as well as family relationships, institutions and social policy. A focus on human rights and anti-racism education is emphasized.

The purpose of this course is to promote critical dialogue about stereotypes and discrimination of diverse families, as well as a way to recognize family resiliency. The readings in this course are chosen to encourage exploration and development of a personal understanding of relevant theoretical and practical aspects that address family diversity, issues of equity, and the implications of these for individuals, families, and communities in Canada. Students will be encouraged to:

- ④ examine various terms, concepts, and theories related to families and diversity in Canada;
- ④ reflect on how attitudes, behaviors, and family values impact relationships between family members, and between diverse families in society; and
- ④ explore how social policy makers may respond more effectively to the diversity of Canadian families.

While all aspects of family diversity are important, the focus of this course will be primarily on family structures and social factors that create barriers and inequities for diverse families.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to describe key issues that diverse families face during interaction with the dominant Canadian society, and apply the concept of family resiliency to explain the unique strengths of diverse families.
2. Students will be able to define and analyze key concepts and apply social ecological theory at the individual, family, community, and cultural levels to diverse family issues.
3. Students will be able to identify key areas of variation in family structure including differences

based on class, gender, age, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, ability, citizenship, and religion.

4. Students will be able to critique government policies that affect diverse family structures, and to generate examples of how policy and social programming affect families.
5. Students will be able to apply principles of diversity education within a multicultural family context (i.e., learning community).

This course will include a) online lectures and discussions, b) a learning journal, d) an online collaborative learning-community group work project, e) content quizzes for each required Module, and f) a diverse family reflection paper.

Course Materials

Required textbooks

The following required materials are available for purchase from the University of Manitoba Bookstore. Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook for instructions on how to order your materials.

Mandell, N., & Duffy, A. (2011, 2005). *Canadian families: Diversity, conflict, and change* (4th ed.). Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

Cheal, D., & Albanese, P. (Eds.) (2014). *Canadian families today: New perspectives* (3rd ed.). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

In addition to the required textbooks, additional required readings and other course materials are listed in the units for download from University of Manitoba's e-library system and for viewing on the World Wide Web.

Suggested resource

All assignments for this course are based on the American Psychological Association (APA) editorial style guidelines. For students who are unfamiliar with this referencing style, access to the following APA style manual may be particularly useful resource:

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association

Course Overview

The course is divided into five modules, which are closely linked to the goals stated for the course. The module introduction and learning objectives provide the framework that integrates the major themes and topics of the units.

Module 1: Diversity in Canadian Families

Unit 1: Introduction to Diversity and Canadian Families: Historical Developments, Current Trends, and Theoretical Perspectives

Unit 2: Social Exclusion, Human Rights, Family Resiliency, and Community Mapping

Module 2: Ethnicity/Race in the Family

Unit 3: Democratic Racism

Unit 4: Immigrant and Racialized Families

Unit 5: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Families

Module 3: Diverse Family Structures

Unit 6: Divorce and Remarriage

Unit 7: LGBTQ* Families

Unit 8: Families and Geographic Distance: Military, LAT, and Transnational Families

Module 4: Social Issues in Diverse Families

Unit 9: Family Poverty in Canada

Unit 10: Disabilities and Families

Unit 11: Violence and Families

Unit 12: Aging and Families

Module 5: Family Policies and the Future of Canadian Families

Unit 13: Family Policies and the Future of Canadian Families

Evaluation and Grading

There are four major assignments that you are required to complete in this course: a series of online module content quizzes (one content quiz per module for a total of 5 separate content quizzes), a learning journal (one journal entry per module for a total of 5 separate submissions), a digital community mapping/photo voice group project, and a diverse family reflection paper.

Distribution of Marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Module Content Quizzes (5 separate quizzes worth 5% each)	25% (5 quizzes x 5% each = 25% total)

Learning Journal (5 separate submissions worth 5% each)	25% (5 submissions x 5% each = 25% total)
Community Mapping/Photo Voice Group Project	25%
Diverse Family Reflection Paper	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Description
A+	93.0 – 100.0	Exceptional
A	85.0 – 92.9	Excellent
B+	80.0 – 84.9	Very Good
B	75.0 – 79.9	Good
C+	70.0 – 74.9	Satisfactory
C	65.0 – 69.9	Adequate
D	60.0 – 64.9	Marginal
F	0.0 – 59.9	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Assignments

Module Content Quizzes

There will be a short, multiple choice content quiz for each of the five modules covered in the course. Content quizzes will cover the course readings and instructional content from each specific module. Each Module Content Quiz will consist of 15 multiple choice questions, and students will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. There will be five separate Module Content Quizzes throughout the course. In total, the five separate Module Content Quizzes will be worth 25% (5 quizzes x 5% each = 25%) of your final grade in the course.

Learning Journal

Each student is required to write a 350 - 500 word journal entry for each of the five Modules in the course. These learning journal entries will demonstrate how the student has reflected on the readings and class content for each module. It is important to use vocabulary that has been used in the course texts, and connect the text and discussion with your own personal experiences and insights into diversity and families. In total, the five separate learning journal submissions will be worth 25% (5 entries x 5% each = 25%) of your final grade in the course.

Digital Community Mapping Project/Photo Voice Research Project

Students will be asked to develop a written and visual picture of the diverse families living in a specific school community by identifying the social service *assets* and *deficits* in the area including, but not limited to, educational programs, health, and social resources; a description of the socioeconomic community; and the challenges and supports available to students in that school community. This assignment has two components: (1) a six-page written report will be due for each group, and (2) a visual digital report, using photos, maps, and other visual representations that demonstrate what was observed by the group members during the community mapping project. This assignment will be a group assignment, with 4 to 6 students per group. This project is worth 25% of your final grade in the course.

Diverse Family Reflection Paper

Students will be required to write a 7-8 page reflection paper about intersectionality issues and diverse family patterns in a culture that you are interested in. This can be your own culture, or another culture that you have always wanted to learn more about. Students will be required to evidence mastery of the vocabulary, concepts, and ideas learned throughout the course in their final term paper. The diverse family reflection paper is worth 25% of your final grade in the course.

Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day, unless documented medical reasons are provided.

Note: More detailed instructions about the assignments are found in the Assignments section in your course website.

Assignment Due Dates

Consult the course Calendar for assignment due dates.

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

Distance and Online Education (DE) Student Resources

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contact Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

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