

SOC 2460 The Family

Syllabus

Welcome to the Sociology of the Family. This is a great course that offers insight into a topic all of us are intimately aware of: the family.

While, on the one hand, we all have a background in this subject matter, the fact is that our personal experience often skews our thinking on matters pertaining to the family. Here we will examine a number of family-related topics from different theoretical perspectives within the discipline of sociology. This will enable each of us to critically analyze both personal and common misperceptions about the experience of Canadian families.

Contacting your instructor

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

Course description

The University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar* describes this course as follows:

(Formerly 077.246) This course represents a sociological analysis of the various family arrangements and practices in contemporary societies and their historical roots. It will examine the relationships between the family and other institutions in the context of widespread social changes. Students may not hold credit for both SOC 2460 (077.246) and SOC 2461 (077.246). Prerequisite: [a grade of "C" or better in SOC 1200 (077.120) or SOC 1201 (077.120)] or [a grade of "C" or better in both SOC 1211 (077.121) and SOC 1221 (077.122)].

We are going to deal with the complex process by which individual, family, society, and culture interact in the shaping of human behaviour and family life; the social inequalities that exist among families, and the impact of social institutions on family patterns.

Course goals

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. describe the various concepts that enable us to analyze the experience of Canadian families;
2. discriminate the various historical similarities and differences among various types of Canadian families;
3. demonstrate the various theoretical arguments used by sociologists to examine the experience of different families;
4. identify the historical differences in what has come to be considered acceptable child-rearing practices;
5. analyze the impact family arrangements have on how families divide home work and paid work;
6. analyze the impact of government policies on Canadian families;
7. explain how an aging Canadian population is affecting the family; and
8. evaluate the relative benefits of current family practices on its members.

Course materials

Required

Bookstore

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.

- **Textbook**
Baker, M. (2009). *Families: Changing Trends in Canada* (6th ed.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
- **Readings package**
Distance and Online Education Readings Package. *SOC 2460, Sociology of the Family*, Online Study. 2009.

Additional required hardware and software

You will need to install the following software on your computer for this course:

- Current version of Real Player to play guest speaker audio files

We strongly recommend that you install and test all required software immediately. If you encounter difficulties installing your software contact de_support@umanitoba.ca.

Course overview

Overview

I would like you to examine your own experience in terms of family and relate that experience to a broader context. I want you to consider what sociologists refer to as the “sociological imagination.” How do people’s personal experiences connect with the social milieu? How does abuse within the family have so much to do with the economy? How does the way partners relate to each other relate to patriarchy? I want you to offer consideration of the interconnectedness of families and the broader society.

Topics

Module 1: Introduction to Family Sociology

- Unit 1 Introduction to Family Sociology: variations and contemporary trends in Canadian families
- Unit 2 Theoretical Frameworks: an examination of the different theories employed by sociologists
- Unit 3 The Historical Development of Canadian Families: an analysis of conflicting models of the Canadian family

Module 2: An Examination of Childhood and Family Experiences throughout 20th Century Canada

- Unit 4 Childhood: an examination of cultural conceptions of both childhood and advice in child-rearing
- Unit 5 Division of Family Labour: an elaboration of differing conceptions on how families divide both paid and unpaid labour
- Unit 6 Ethnicity, Immigration, and Family Life: an analysis of how government immigration policies affect family well-being

Module 3: Government Policies, Aging in Canada and Trends in Family Research

- Unit 7 The State and Family Policies: an analysis of how changing governments institute policies that differentially affect Canadian families
- Unit 8 Aging and the Family: an examination of the challenges mid-life and older families face in the twenty-first century
- Unit 9 Family Research and Practices: discussions of some of the current directions Canadian families are moving toward.

Learning activities

For each module of this course, students are expected to read and critically analyze both the text and required articles. Additionally, students are expected to review posted notes in units 1, 2, 4, and 6. Finally, the content of audio files in units 7 and 8 are to be critically reviewed. The notes and audio files are intended as supplementary material to the text and, therefore, should be reviewed in the context of the text book readings.

Students need to mutually take advantage of on-line discussions and attend to student discussion posts.

Learning activities based on this material will be assessed through three term tests and a final exam.

Evaluation and grading

Module tests

Each of the 3 module tests will be 80 minutes in length and will form 20 percent of your final grade (for a total of 60 percent). Module tests will be written online and will be comprised of 35 multiple choice and two long answer questions.

Each test will be written on a designated date (please consult course schedule). Since the test will be administered online, it is up to you when, on the assigned day, you would like to write the test.

Remember, however, that as soon as you begin the test, you have 80 minutes to complete it. There is no way to “pause” the test. Finally, all questions will be individually randomized to discourage cheating.

The test will be open for a 24 hour period beginning at 8:00 a.m. central time on the date noted in your schedule and will close at 8:00 a.m. central time on the following day. Check local time in Winnipeg (central time) compared to your city on The World Clock at www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/ to confirm the availability period in your location.

Once you log in you will have 80 minutes to complete the test. After the 80 minutes has passed you will be locked out of the test even if you have not completed it. A timer in the upper right corner of the test shows the amount of time remaining. Clicking on the Save button does not stop the timer. You can only resume the test after saving if there is time remaining on the timer. Your test will be automatically submitted at 8:00 a.m. on the following day if you have not already submitted before then.

Note: You need to ensure that you have 80 minutes to complete the test before it closes. For example, if you start the exam at 7:30 a.m. on the following morning you will only have 30 minutes to work on it before you are locked out.

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Module test 1	20%
Module test 2	20%
Module test 3	20%
Final examination	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	90 – 100	Exceptional
A	80 – 89	Excellent
B+	76 – 79	Very good
B	70 – 75	Good
C+	66 – 69	Satisfactory
C	60 – 65	Adequate
D	50 – 59	Marginal
F	less than 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Examination

Note: The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare** an exam location. The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

The final exam will be comprised of ten short essay questions. It will be invigilated and limited to 120 minutes.

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

Acknowledgements

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Dr. Foui's areas of academic specialty include: the family, courtship and marriage, sociological social psychology, and the first year experience of university.

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