

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 371-01**  
**Sociology of Families**  
**Winter 2012**

**Instructor:** Diane Field

**Class Hours & Location:** Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45; Earth Sciences (ES) 162

**Office No. & Phone No.:** SS952/ (403) 220-5982

**Office Hour:** Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

**Course email:** [djfield@ucalgary.ca](mailto:djfield@ucalgary.ca) (please write “Soci 371” in Subject box)

\* Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, during office hours, or during an appointment time.

NOTE: this course outline is subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class and on the Blackboard site.

**Required Text & Other Readings:**

- 1) Baker, Maureen (2010). **Choices and Constraints in Family Life (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)**. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2) Supplementary Readings – (posted on the Blackboard site under Weekly Readings. Also listed on last page of Course Outline).

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the sociology of families from various sociological perspectives. It will be the goal of this course to provide students with a thorough grounding in both the theoretical and substantive issues in the sociological study of families and family life. Topics that we will explore include: defining a family, theoretical perspectives in the study of the family, the historical family, family organization, marriage and parenting, work and the family, family stress, the transitional family, and the changing Canadian family.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide a broad, introductory view of the sociological study of families, particularly Canadian families.
2. To introduce the student to both theoretical and empirical issues in the study of families.
3. To develop skills to critically examine, evaluate, and understand the social issues of the family which impact the student within his/her own life and within the larger society.

## **Course Requirements:**

Students are required to complete two midterm exams, one Registrar-scheduled final exam, and one written assignment. The midterm exams will consist of both multiple-choice and written responses. All exams will be non-cumulative.

For midterm exams and the final exam, students will be responsible for **all material covered in lectures (including guest speakers), required readings, and films. Please note that the lectures will include additional material that is not available in the readings.**

If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes from another student. Therefore, finding a “student buddy” will be necessary. I will **not** distribute my lecture notes to students.

Details of the written assignment will be provided at a later date.

<b>Midterm #1</b>	Thursday, February 16, 2012	25%
<b>Midterm #2</b>	Thursday, March 22, 2012	25%
<b>Final Exam</b>	(TBA – exam period)	25%
<b>Written Assignment</b>	April 12, 2012 (Due in class)	25%

Late written assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day, except in cases of *documented* emergencies.

## **Grading System:**

A+ (95-100%)	B+ (80-84%)	C+ (67-69%)	D+ (55-59%)
A (90-94%)	B (75-79%)	C (63-66%)	D (50-54%)
A- (85-89%)	B- (70-74%)	C- (60-62%)	F (49% or below)

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

## **Emergency Evacuations:**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point by the ICT Food Court. (Alternate assembly point: Social Sciences Food Court).

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75>

### **Deferrals:**

If at all possible, you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

#### *Deferred Final Exam Application:*

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>.

#### *Deferred Term Work Form:*

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

### **Ethics Research:**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends or family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Department Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g. outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to the students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours. If a student is unable to pick up his/her assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **Safewalk:**

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the L.R.T., parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

### **Academic Accommodation:**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

### **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:**

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e. outside the instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise, final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

**Course Topics and Related Readings (Textbook & Supplementary):**

Week	Date	Topics	Required Readings
1	January 10 & 12, 2012	Course Introduction	No readings required
2	January 17 & 19, 2012	Conceptualizing Families	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 1
3	January 24 & 26, 2012	History of the Canadian Family	Reading # 1 & Reading #2
4	January 31 & February 2, 2012	Forming Relationships	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 2 Reading # 3
5	February 7 & 9, 2012	Cohabitation & Marriage	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 3 Reading #4
6	February 14, 2012	Cohabitation & Marriage conclusion/ Review for Midterm #1	Continuation of Wk. 5 Readings
6	February 16, 2012	<b>MIDTERM # 1</b>	
7	February 21 & 23, 2012	<b>NO CLASS (READING WEEK)</b>	
8	February 28 & March 1, 2012	Child-bearing, Child-rearing & Childhood	Choices & Constraints text: Ch.4 Reading # 5
9	March 6 & 8, 2012	Household Work & Money	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 5 Readings # 6 & # 7
10	March 13 & 15, 2012	Family Stress & Violence	Readings # 8, #9, & # 10
11	March 20, 2012	Family Stress and Violence conclusion/ Review for Midterm #2	Continuation of Wk. 10 Readings
11	March 22, 2012	<b>MIDTERM # 2</b>	
12	March 27 & 29, 2012	Separation, Divorce & Re-partnering	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 6 Readings # 11 & # 12
13	April 3 & 5, 2012	Midlife, Aging and Retirement	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 7 Reading # 13
14	April 10 & 12, 2012	Constraints on Personal Choice/Future Scenarios/ Review for Final Exam <b>(WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS – Last Class April 12)</b>	Choices & Constraints text: Ch. 8 Reading # 14

**FINAL EXAM – TBA (REGISTRAR-SCHEDULED FINAL)**

## **List of Supplementary Readings:**

### **Week 3:**

#### **Reading # 1:**

Bradbury, Bettina (2000). 'Single Parenthood in the Past: Canadian Census Categories, 1891-1951, and the "Normal" Family'. *Historical Methods* Fall 33 (4): 211-217.

#### **Reading # 2:**

McLanahan, Sara (2004). 'Diverging Destinies: How Children are Faring Under the Second Demographic Transition'. *Demography* 41 (4): 607-627.

### **Week 4:**

#### **Reading # 3:**

Whitty, Monica (2008). 'Revealing the 'real' me, searching for the 'actual' you: Presentations of self on an internet dating site'. *Computers in Human Behavior* 24 (4): 1707-1723.

### **Week 5/6:**

#### **Reading # 4:**

Kaufman, Gayle and Frances Goldschneider (2007). 'Do Men "Need" a Spouse More Than Women?: Perceptions of the Importance of Marriage for Men and Women'. *The Sociological Quarterly* 48 (1): 29-46.

### **Week 8:**

#### **Reading # 5:**

Henly, Julia and Sandra Lyons (2000). 'The Negotiation of Child Care and Employment Demands Among Low-Income Parents'. *Journal of Social Issues* 56 (4): 683-706.

### **Week 9:**

#### **Reading #6:**

Berridge, Clara and Jennifer Romich (2011). ' "Raising Him ..... to Pull His Own Weight" : Boys' Household Work in Single –Mother Households'. *Journal of Family Issues* 32 (2): 157-180.

#### **Reading # 7:**

Baker, Maureen (2008). 'Managing the Risks of Childhood Poverty: Changing Interventions by the State'. *Women's Health and Urban Life* 6 (2): 8-21.

## **Week 10/11:**

### **Reading # 8:**

DeKeseredy, Walter, Martin Schwartz, and Shahid Alvi (2000). 'The Role of ProFeminist Men in Dealing with Woman Abuse on the Canadian College Campus'. *Violence Against Women* 6 (9) (Summer): 918-935.

### **Reading # 9:**

Butts Stahly, Geraldine (1999). 'Women With Children in Violent Relationships: The Choice of Leaving May Bring the Consequence of Custodial Challenge'. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment and Trauma* 2 (2) (#4): 239-251.

### **Reading # 10:**

Spiwak, Rae and Douglas Brownridge (2005). 'Separated Women's Risk for Violence: An Analysis of the Canadian Situation'. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 43 (3/4): 105-117.

## **Week 12:**

### **Reading # 11:**

Hetherington, Mavis (2003). 'Social Support and the Adjustment of Children in Divorced and Remarried Families'. *Childhood* 10 (2): 217-236.

### **Reading # 12:**

Michaels, Marcia (2006). 'Factors that Contribute to Stepfamily Success: A Qualitative Analysis'. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 44 (3/4): 53-66.

## **Week 13:**

### **Reading # 13:**

Cloutier-Fisher, Denise, Karen Kobayashi, and Andre Smith (2011). 'The subjective dimension of social isolation: A qualitative investigation of older adults' experiences in small social support networks'. *Journal of Aging Studies* 25 (4): 407-414.

## **Week 14:**

### **Reading # 14:**

Risman, Barbara and Danette Johnson-Sumerford (1998). 'Doing It Fairly: A Study of Postgender Marriages'. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 60 (February): 23-40.

