

Sociology 471 - Lecture 01
Special Topics in the Sociology of Families: Childhood and Youth
Winter 2013
TR 9:30-10:45 - SH 288

Instructor: Dr. Fiona Nelson
Office Location: SS 940
Office Phone: 403-220-5267
E-Mail: nelsonf@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays, 13:00 – 15:00
Other times available by appointment

Course Description

Families are built, in part, around historically and culturally situated constructions of childhood and youth, which we will examine in this course, with an eye to/on contemporary Canadian families. We will explore how social scientists study childhood and youth, and some of the central issues and areas of inquiry that have arisen in this field of study.

Objectives of the Course

This will be a quasi-seminar styled course, requiring students to actively, closely and critically engage with the assigned reading materials. It will be imperative that students come to class with the assigned readings completed, and that they bring their books with them. While the first part of the course will include some lectures in which foundational material is covered, the latter third of the course will be entirely student-led. Throughout the semester, a high degree of interaction and discussion is expected.

Core objectives of the course are that students develop their critical thinking skills, engage in academic discourse, gain experience working in groups and leading group discussions, and have opportunities to practice various forms of academic writing including a term paper on a topic of their choosing.

Required Readings:

Albanese, Patrizia. 2009. *Children in Canada Today*. Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Lesko, Nancy. 2012. *Act Your Age! A Cultural Construction of Adolescence: 2nd Edition*. New York and London: Routledge.

Assignments and Evaluation

Grade Components:

-In-class group assignments (2 x 10%)	20%
-Midterm Exam	25%
-In-Class Written Responses (10 x 2%)	20%
-Group-led class Discussion	10%
-Final Paper	25%

About the In-Class Group Assignments:

Dates: Thursday, January 24 & Thursday, March 7

You will be asked to get into groups and I will give you a topic/assignment, directly related to the readings. You will have the full class period to talk through the assignment with your group-mates and write up a response. The grade will be a group-grade.

If you are absent for either of these assignments, you **MUST** present a doctor's note, or other valid documentation, and you will be allowed to complete the assignment by yourself.

About the Midterm Exam:

Date: Thursday, February 14

This short answer/short essay exam will cover all materials to date, including readings, lectures, class discussions, films, and assignments.

You will have the full 75 minutes to write.

If you must miss the midterm exam, you should inform me before the exam and you must present a doctor's note or other documentation. With appropriate documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

About the In-class Written Responses:

Due: in class, March 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th, and April 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th

These class sessions will be spent discussing the Lesko book – most of these discussions will be group-led. The last 15 minutes of each class will be set aside to write a brief response to a question arising from the day's reading/discussion. The question will be posed by the group who led the discussion.

Written responses are due the day they are assigned. Late submissions will not be accepted and there are no provisions for making up the grade.

About the Group-led Class Discussion:

Dates: March 14th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th, and April 2nd, 4th, 9th, 11th

A group of three to five will have been assigned to each of these dates. The group will have gone through the day's assigned reading and each member will have chosen a topic/idea/concept/ argument (etc) about which they will speak briefly and on which they will lead a class discussion. Each group member will submit a one-page write-up of their thoughts on their chosen topic and the questions they would like to pose to the class for discussion. Each group will also submit a question for the In-class Written Response. Half of the grade (5 points) for this assignment will be group-based and half (5 points) will be individual.

This will be discussed in class in much more detail.

If you miss class the day of your presentation, you will lose the full 10% and there are no provisions for making up this grade.

About the Final Paper/Project:

Paper Due: Thursday, April 16th by 11:00 a.m.

****The paper must be submitted electronically, via Digital Dropbox in Blackboard.**

Length: 12-15 pages (double-spaced)

The paper can be on any topic you choose that relates in some way to the course material. It can be a critical literature review, a secondary data analysis or a primary data analysis. All students should have discussed with me their plans for this paper, at least once, by February 28th.

Further details about the final paper will be discussed in class.

****It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of their submitted paper.***

Policy for Late/missed Assignments/exam

This applies to the In-class Group Assignments, the Midterm Exam and the Final Paper. If at all possible you must provide *advance* notice to the professor if you are unable to attend or to submit 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 deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

Course components submitted after the deadline, without documentation or my approval, will be penalized by 10% of the grade weight for each day late.

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>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean (Students) through the Program Information Centre: SS110 (first floor social sciences). Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-3580.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about applying for research ethics approval see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>. There is no requirement of human-subject research in this course, although you do have the option of conducting some. If you choose human-subject research, you must work closely with the professor to design your research, and the ethics proposal must be ready for submission by February 14th.

Grading System

The following grading system will be used:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Internet and electronic communication device information

Face-to-face, engaged, interaction is the key feature of a seminar course. In classes where there are lectures, students may use their computers for taking notes. During sessions built around class discussion, students are requested *not* to use their computers. Cellphones should be turned off at all times.

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. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 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 a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if 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.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (efwr.ucalgary.ca) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Writing Skills Statement

All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: www.efwr.ucalgary.ca

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Emergency evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by *[check link to find assembly point for your building:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75>]

Students' Union:

Students' Union contacts can be found at:
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Schedule of Readings

- January 8: First Class – NO ASSIGNED READING
January 10: Introducing the Topic – NO ASSIGNED READING
- January 15: Albanese – Chapter 1
January 17: Albanese – Chapter 2
- January 22: Albanese – Chapter 3
January 24: In-Class Written Assignment (#1) – NO ASSIGNED READING
- January 29: Albanese – Chapter 4
January 31: Albanese – Chapter 5
- February 5: Albanese – Chapter 6
February 7: NO ASSIGNED READING
- February 12: Albanese – Chapter 7
February 14: Midterm Exam – NO ASSIGNED READING

February 19 & 21: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

- February 26: Albanese – Chapter 8
February 28: Albanese – Chapter 9
- March 5: Albanese – Chapters 10 & 11
March 7: In-Class Written Assignment (#2); Albanese – Chapter 12
- March 12: Lesko – Intro
March 14: Lesko – Chapter 1
- March 19: Lesko – Chapter 2
March 21: Lesko – Chapter 3
- March 26: Lesko – Chapter 4
March 28: Lesko – Chapter 5
- April 2: Lesko – Chapter 6
April 4: Lesko – Chapter 7
- April 9: Lesko – Chapter 8
April 11: Lesko – Chapter 9

April 16: BSD: No Class