

Canadian Families and Parenting
Sociology 327 | Women and Gender Studies 328

Winter 2018

St. Francis Xavier University

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Calendar Course Description

This course explores the impact of social, political, economic and cultural changes on families and parents. Topics include the diversity of family relations, work-life balance, family time, parenting expert industry, intensive parenting, boomerang generation and 'grand' relations. Across this range of topics, we consider how gender, race, sexuality, and social class influence families and parents. Three credits

Required Readings and Documentaries

You will find a digital *course pack* on Moodle. The course pack includes all required readings. It is comprised of primarily peer-reviewed Sociology journal articles. You pay for 'use' of this material – available from the library - through your tuition fees. Pdf copies of the readings are posted on the Moodle page the week the reading is due. If you cannot open a pdf (check to see if you have Adobe on your computer), you can access the reading by logging on to the StFX library webpage, and doing a Google Scholar search for the reading assigned (be sure you do it through the library website to get access to the full article at no cost). Also, links are provided for any readings available to the public online. If you prefer to work offline:

1. Create a course folder on your computer: *Readings for SOC/327/ WMGS328*
2. Copy and save the pdfs by the author's name or article title. OR
3. Print a copy of the readings for your notebook.

Documentaries will be assigned to be viewed on your own or to watch in class. If you miss a documentary, it is your responsibility to access it and watch it.

- The Schedule of Readings is presented on Moodle and listed below.

Grading Scheme

Midterm 1	25%	February 6
Midterm 2	25%	March 9
Seminar work	25%	
Final examination	25%	t.b.a.

Midterms and Final Exam

The exam includes multiple choice essay-style questions. The midterm has short-answer questions, and the final has both and short and long essay questions.

Seminar leadership

Students will work in pairs to lead one seminar. Your goal for the seminar is to come up with a presentation that covers the reading assigned for the class in an illuminating way. *Consider different ways that you can highlight key ideas and help your classmates better understand the sociological approach and/or findings in the reading.* This could involve discussing how the topic is discussed in the news or entertainment media, or using various visual images or video clips to illustrate ideas about its social meaning or factors influencing people's experiences. It could involve doing interactive activities with the class. You may want to introduce a few key, relevant statistics or trends, or find ways to explain key concepts or perspectives used by the author(s). Use of Powerpoint is permitted, but don't rule out other creative ways of delivering your presentation (debate, drama, etc). The seminar will be evaluated based on student engagement and the illuminating the key points and themes of the assigned reading.

You are required to submit your seminar plan to the professor by email two days prior to your seminar. Further instructions will be explained in class. The seminar leadership counts as 10% of your course grade.

Class Attendance and Seminar Participation

Class attendance will be taken: repeated, unexplained absences will be reported to the Dean. You are encouraged to participate in class discussion. To benefit from class participation, strive to integrate new concepts and core substantive issues when you ask questions or respond to commentary. If you miss class, *you are responsible to find out what you missed* (e.g., lectures, announcements, presentations, videos). Please do not send me an email to report a class absence, but feel free to mention it to me in class.

Communication and Office Hours

You are strongly encouraged to see me during office hours to discuss any aspect of the course. If my office hours conflict with your course schedule, please make an appointment. Should you email me, please use proper email etiquette, including a proper salutation and signing your name and ID #. Do not email me to notify me of a missing a lecture.

Communication Regarding Equity and Diversity

"Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. Please feel free to talk with me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the STFX community in general. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor. Please note that a Human Rights and Equity Advisor will soon be appointed. In the meantime, students, faculty, or staff may also contact the Director of Human Resources at hr@stfx.ca or the Office of the AVP&P".