

Sociology of the Family

SOC214H1S

Winter 2024

Schedule: Mondays, 11:10am - 1:00pm

Instructor: Joanna R. Pepin

Office Hours: By appointment

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Teaching Assistants: TBD (TBD@mail.utoronto.ca)

1 Course Description

This course provides a critical analysis of families using a life course perspective. We will pay attention to historical transformations of families in society and to family transitions over the life course of individuals. This course emphasizes the linked lives of individuals to each other, to institutions such as work, and to their cultural contexts. The intersections between the family and other social institutions, as well as growing diversity between families will be central foundations of this course. We will examine trends in family life such as racial and economic inequality, technology's transformation of romantic relationships, and demographic trends. Other topics include historical trends in courtship, family formation, parenting, families and work, and divorce and remarriage.

1.1 Learning Outcomes

Students will finish the course with a better understanding of the differences between families and the ways that social forces shape families. They will apply the sociological perspective to the institution of the family and examine how social factors such as race, class, and gender shape contemporary families. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand and evaluate the family as a socially and culturally constructed institution
- Explain how cultural contexts and social policies shape family life
- Think critically about how normative ideas about families sustain hierarchies of age, gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and class
- Describe historical and demographic trends in family patterns in their historical and sociopolitical locations

1.2 Prerequisite

The prerequisite to take this course is **SOC100H1**. As per university guidelines, those without this requirement will be removed at time of discovery and without notice.

2 Required Texts

There is no textbook for this course. Required readings will be available on Quercus.

We will typically read about 30 pages of material per week (sometimes less, sometimes more). The lectures build on the readings, and I expect that you have read the assigned texts ahead of class. It is critical that you keep up with these reading.

3 Components

All assignments, evaluations, and tests must be submitted via Quercus.

Assessment	Worth	Due
Flipped Quizzes	20%	Due weekly before the next class
Test 1	25%	Monday, Feb 12
Test 2	25%	Monday, Apr 1
Fact Check Paper	30%	3 deadline options: Feb 05, Feb 26, Mar 18

4 Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Flipped Quizzes	Tests	Paper: 3 options
1	2024-01-08	Theory & History			
2	2024-01-15	Race, Ethnicity and Immigration	FQ1		
3	2024-01-22	Families and Social Class	FQ2		
4	2024-01-29	Gender and Sexuality	FQ3		
5	2024-02-05	Love and Romantic Relationships	FQ4		Deadline 1
6	2024-02-12		FQ5	TEST 1	
	2024-02-19	FAMILY DAY - University closed			
7	2024-02-26	Marriage and Cohabitation			Deadline 2
8	2024-03-04	Work and Families	FQ6		
9	2024-03-11	Families and Children	FQ7		
10	2024-03-18	Divorce, Remarriage and Blended Families	FQ8		Deadline 3
11	2024-03-25	Family Violence and Abuse	FQ9		
12	2024-04-01		FQ10	TEST 2	

5 Evaluation

5.1 Flipped Quizzes (20%)

You will create 10 multiple choice questions related to the course material (readings, lectures, videos, activities, etc.) and share them with your classmates to assist in study review. Detailed instructions about developing appropriate quiz questions will be provided.

Flipped Quizzes (FQs) are worth 2% each and they will be graded as “meets expectations,” which receives full credit, and “does not meet expectations,” which will receive no credit. The FQs are due by the following class time (11:10am). For example, a FQ on material from Week 3 is due by the class start time on Week 4.

Everyone is likely to experience an unexpected disruption over the course of their academic studies. For this reason, this course provides flexibility by offering EVERYONE a 7-day grace period to submit each FQ (for any reason). **You do NOT need to inform us if you are submitting a FQ during the grace period.** After this 7-day grace period, FQs will be marked “does not meet expectations” (i.e., 0%).

Each student is provided with one “Life Happens Pass” for the FQs. This pass will replace the lowest FQ score with full-credit.

If you miss more than one FQ (for any reason) or a FQ is marked as “not meeting expectations,” then the weight of each additional missed FQ is automatically shifted to your average test scores. For example, if you earn an 80% on Test 1 and a 90% on Test 2, your average test score is 85% ($80 + 90 / 2$). If you miss three FQs, the first missed FQ will receive full credit (2%) (use of your Life Happens Pass) and your second and third missed quizzes would each receive 1.7% ($.85 * .02 * 100$). **You do NOT need to inform us when you miss a FQ, these adjustments happen automatically at the end of the term.**

5.2 Tests (50%)

There will be 2 tests over the course of the semester, each worth 25% of your final grade. The purpose of the tests are not to evaluate memorization but rather familiarity with theories, concepts, trends, and approaches to understanding families. All materials in this course (i.e., readings, lectures, videos, and discussions) are considered “fair game” for test questions. Test 1 will cover material from weeks 1-5 and Test 2 will cover material from weeks 7-11.

Tests will be comprised of 50 multiple-choice questions. They will be taken in-person during the class times noted on the schedule. More details about the tests will be provided closer to the test dates.

Make-up tests are ONLY offered in the following circumstances:

1. Illness in which case your absence must be declared on Acorn and proof of this declaration provided.
2. Unexpected extenuating circumstances such as a family or non-illness- related personal emergency in which case you must contact your college registrar and have them email the Professor to confirm the circumstance.

3. Another course test within 24 hours of a test in this course, in which case you must provide the course syllabus of the conflicting test (to confirm their test time) as well as proof of enrollment in that course via an Acorn screenshot.

5.3 Fact Check Paper (30%)

You will be asked to write a 1000-1500 word examination of a claim you find in the media related to a course topic. Think of this as a writing assignment structured as: “I read that XXXX, but in reality the research says YYYY.” Papers are submitted online through Quercus and will be checked diligently for plagiarism (plagiarism will, at a minimum, result in a grade of 0 on the paper).

Additional assignment details will be provided later in the course.

This course offers three times to submit the paper for two reasons:

1. It provides flexibility for you to meet the often competing needs for your time and attention over the course of a semester.
2. It provides you the opportunity to submit the paper more than once to learn from the feedback and try to improve your grade. If you submit a paper to the first or second deadline and you are unhappy with your grade, you can submit a second different/new paper for the third deadline. This gives you the chance to try and improve. (NOTE: there is a maximum submission limit of two papers). Your highest paper grade will be used to calculate your final grade.

The deadlines for the papers are as follows:

Deadline	Date
Fact Check Paper Deadline #1	Monday, Feb 05 by 11:10am
Fact Check Paper Deadline #2	Monday, Feb 26 by 11:10am
Fact Check Paper Deadline #3	Monday, Mar 18 by 11:10am

Note: Feedback will be provided as extensively as possible for papers submitted for the first or second deadline. If you submit your essay for the last deadline, however, the feedback will be more limited due to the amount of grading and time restrictions that arise at the end of the semester.

Paper Extension & Late Paper Policy

Again, everyone is likely to experience an unexpected disruption during their academic studies. This course provides flexibility for EVERYONE by offering a 7-day grace period to submit your paper.

After this 7-day grace period, the late deduction is 5% for each 24-hour period the assignment is late starting with the day the assignment is due.

NOTE: If something unexpected happens (e.g., you get sick, a personal emergency, etc.), you will only get a further extension if your circumstance happened BEFORE the 7-day grace period and it affects you throughout the grace period. In other words, the grace period should be used as just that (a grace period for if something goes wrong and not a planned time to write your paper).

Deadlines	Grace Period End Dates
Fact Check Paper Deadline #1	Monday, Feb 12 by 11:10am
Fact Check Paper Deadline #2	Monday, Mar 04 by 11:10am
Fact Check Paper Deadline #3	Monday, Mar 25 by 11:10am

Percentage	Letter	GPA	Definition
90-100	A+	4.0	Excellent
85-89	A	4.0	
80-84	A-	3.7	
77-79	B+	3.3	Good
73-76	B	3.0	
70-72	B-	2.7	
67-69	C+	2.3	Adequate
63-66	C	2.0	
60-62	C-	1.7	
57-59	D+	1.3	Marginal
53-56	D	1.0	
50-52	D-	0.7	
0-49	F	0.0	Inadequate

5.4 Arts & Sciences Grading Scale

6 FAQs

6.1 Can I have an extension or take the test at a later date?

As adults, you have a lot of other things going on in your life and you are the one best equipped to decide what merits your time and attention. Sometimes, that isn't school. And that's okay. This course is designed to offer a substantial amount of flexibility to students in ways that respects student privacy by minimizing the need for disclosure of personal circumstances.

The following flexibility policies are offered:

Flipped Quizzes

- A no-questions-asked 7-day grace period to submit each FQ for each deadline with no late penalties.
- One "Life Happens Pass" will replace the lowest FQ score with full-credit.
- Any further missed FQ (for any reason) is automatically replaced by the average test score (no limit on how many FQs can be replaced).

Tests

- The ability to schedule a make-up a test if you have multiple tests in a 24-hour period (see make-up policies above for how to apply for this).

Fact Check Paper

- Three optional deadlines to submit the paper.

- A no-questions-asked 7-day grace period to submit the paper with no late penalties.
- Ability to submit the paper twice to try to improve your grade (NOTE: This requires submitting the first paper by the first or second deadline).

BE ADVISED: There will be no further extensions or individualized opportunities to improve your grade. Every decision you make as an adult has adult consequences. I can't hold each student to different standards than every other student because of the decisions you made. It would be impossible for me to evaluate and create an individualized learning plan that fairly accommodates each student's unique and personal circumstances. If I say yes to one student, I must give the entire class that same extension to be fair. Making exceptions for students who ask disadvantages students who don't feel comfortable asking. In other words, I can't say yes to special requests from students who email to ask, so please don't; I will ignore any such requests.

Be aware that assignment closing dates and deadlines are automated within Quercus. For example, if something is due at 11:59pm on Mar 1st, it will be marked late if it is submitted at 12:00am on Mar 2nd, and if an assignment is set to close (i.e., late assignment is not accepted) at 11:59pm on Mar 1st, Quercus will not accept submissions at 12:00am on Mar 2nd. I will not provide extensions due to slow internet, connectivity issues, or other technical delays that result in submission after the deadline. Start the submission process well enough in advance to ensure that your assignments will be fully submitted before the deadline.

Students who miss a test need to declare their absence on the system (ACORN) and email the instructor (not the TA). Note that this can only be used once during the semester. Students who miss the test, or are late in submitting an assignment for other reasons, such as family or other personal reasons, should request their College Registrar email the instructor.

6.2 Can I do extra credit?

I don't offer extra credit out of fairness for all students in the course. Please do not ask for opportunities for extra credit. There are no exceptions.

I appreciate that you are managing competing demands on your time and that you care about your grade. Instead of spending extra energy completing even more assignments, use it to do your best on the remaining assignments.

6.3 Will you change my grade?

If you have a question about the grading of any piece of work or believe that your assignment or test has been mismarked, first consult with the TA who graded your work. For simple mathematical errors, simply alert your TA of the mistake. For other grade appeals, submit a short memo that clearly states specific reasons to justify the request and backs up these reasons with evidence from your assignment. If you cannot resolve your questions with the TA, you should consult with the instructor.

If you ask for your grade to be changed on any assignment, your grade may stay the same, be increased, OR decreased after the TA or instructor reconsiders your work. Be advised that we err on the side of being too generous, rather than stingy, during the first pass of grading. Thus, it is possible that when your assignment is re-examined, your grade might be lowered.

Any questions about grading an assignment or test must be raised within two weeks of the date that the assignment was graded. In other words, if you do not review your work in a timely fashion, you may forfeit your right to question the grading of your work.

6.4 What if I need to contact you?

The best way to get in touch outside of class is to directly email your TA first, unless the matter requires the professor's attention (i.e., missed test due to medical reason).

Use your University of Toronto email (emails from non University email addresses may go unanswered) and start the email subject line with "SOC214H."

Do not expect an immediate response. We will make every effort to respond to emails within 24-48 business hours (i.e., Monday through Friday, between 9am – 5pm).

Academic tip #1 How to address TAs and instructors

- Err on the side of formality
 - For faculty (with Ph.D.s), use "Professor LastName" or "Dr. LastName" unless directed otherwise.
 - Instructors without Ph.D.s usually invite you to use first names (but will likely not be offended if "Professor" slips out).
- Use a formal, respectful writing style
 - Include opening and closing salutations (discuss examples).
 - No text-speak.
- Do your part in solving what you need to solve.
 - Don't ask about something that's answered right on the syllabus.

[Additional information on how to email professors](#)

6.5 Can I record or share class materials?

Video, audio, and photographic recording of lectures is prohibited without my explicit permission. The selling or dissemination of tests, study guides, homework assignments and handouts is prohibited without my explicit permission. The selling or dissemination for commercial purposes of notes derived from my lectures is also prohibited without my explicit permission.

Permission to record or share lectures and/or meetings may be granted to a student at the discretion of the instructor and normally for the sole purpose of accommodating a student's particular needs and only for the purposes of private study. Students who are entitled to record the lectures because of accessibility accommodations are required to sign a form stating that the recording is made for personal use only. Out of fairness to everybody (and because it is unlawful to record somebody without their consent in Ontario), this will be required of all students who wish to make a recording of the lectures. Students who have obtained permission to record a lecture should do so in a manner which ensures the privacy of other students present.

7 Policies & Required University Notices

7.1 Quercus Information

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Grades posted on Quercus are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

7.2 Assignment Submission

All written work must be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins using 12 point Times New Roman, 11pt Calibri font, or 11pt Roboto.

Written work must be submitted via Quercus. No work will be accepted over e-mail. When you submit files, they should be in PDF or .doc(x) format unless otherwise specified. Other file formats will not be graded and will be treated as unsubmitted assignments.

Students can typically expect work to be returned within two weeks unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise. Please consider that TAs, who grade much of the work, are unionized workers with rights, lives, and other demands on their time.

7.3 Academic Integrity

Students are expected to know and adhere to the University's principles of academic integrity. Any act of plagiarism or other unethical behavior will be addressed in accordance with University guidelines. Please see the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) for specific information on academic integrity at UofT.

7.4 Plagiarism Detection

Original software, the University's plagiarism detection tool, is embedded within Quercus. Therefore, all assignments submitted through Quercus may be subject to Original review. It uses text matching technology as a method to uphold the University's high academic integrity standards to detect any potential plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the website for the [Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation](#).

If students prefer their work not be subject to Ouriginal review, they must notify the instructor at least 48 hours before the assignment deadline to arrange an alternative submission through Quercus AND provide, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the work they submit is truly their own. The alternative is in place because, strictly speaking, using Ouriginal is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Plagiarism: Be careful to avoid plagiarism. It is a serious academic offense with serious penalties (see the [Code of Behavior on Academic Matters](#)). Do not present someone else's ideas as your own. Give proper references to others' ideas, and use quotation marks if you are quoting. When in doubt, err on the side of a reference. Turning in an old paper, or large parts thereof, for credit in a second (or third etc.) course, is considered an academic offense that results in students being referred off to the Office of Academic Integrity.

7.5 Accessibility and Student Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> as soon as possible.

7.6 Writing Support

Students are urged to seek assistance from the University of Toronto [Writing Centre](#) should they anticipate challenges in this area.