SOCL 205

Sociological Perspectives on Family Relationships

Course Description and Objectives

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to the sociological study of families and family relationships in a Canadian context. To this end, the course has two main objectives. The first is to have students develop an appreciation and understanding for a sociological perspective vis-à-vis families and family relationships; specifically, the course aims to facilitate an understanding of how families – in this or any other society – are social institutions. The second objective is to acquaint students specifically with sociological theory and emergent research, both qualitative and quantitative, on contemporary Canadian families. In our exploration of families and family relationships in Canada this semester, we will focus broadly on a number of key issues including current trends/patterns in family structure, parenting, work-family balance, the increasing diversification of families in contemporary society, and social policies and programs pertaining to the welfare of families.

Required Textbook and Readings


In addition to chapters from the textbook, a number of required readings will be posted as links on the CourseSpaces site.

* A more detailed course outline will be distributed to students during the first week of classes.