

SOCI 305B

Families and Social Change

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Course Description and Objectives

This course will offer a fresh perspective on social change and innovation in the social fabric of Canadian families in terms of understanding both the experiences of families and the endurance of the family as a social structure, while also understanding the family in wider social contexts of political economy, caregiving labor, social support, and domestic violence.

Additionally, the course will explore new formations in contemporary families, in response to changes in social context that include, parenting, caregiving, both of children and the elderly, variations in coupling, stay at home mothers/fathers, distinctions of paid work and unpaid work, as well as difference across minority experiences for Indigenous Canadians, immigrants, and marginalized groups.

How have families changed over time and what about families has remained constant? What can be learnt and understood about families historically? What can be understood regarding the maintenance of the family as a social structure in response to changing times, as a primary site of socialization? As example, it's crucial to understand the persistence of significant economic challenges associated with raising children or the migration of families for better social or economic opportunities throughout history.

This course attempts to address both continuity in families while addressing change and innovation in both its structure, formation, and experiences. Students can develop understanding about changes within families surrounding new phenomena in reproduction and caregiving for example, and how these changes have developed over time socially, historically, and legally. While seeking to persistently explore both continuance and change in the shaping of families over time, the course seeks insight regarding norms, attitudes, beliefs, interactions, practices, processes, and ideologies. This unique approach for a Sociology of the Family course, balancing continuousness in light of change and innovation, with an intersectional perspective, is critical for sociological understanding of complex social processes such as immigration, aging, gendering, gene- rationing, and racialization affecting Canadian families today.

Required Textbook and Readings

Gazso, A. & Kobayashi, K. (Eds.). (2018). *Continuity and Innovation: Canadian Families in the New Millennium*. Scarborough: Nelson.

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

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