Sample recent headlines -- to give a sense of breadth of contemporary issues

- Young Canadians seek refuge in parents' homes as COVID-19 disrupts jobs, lives and dreams
- China’s Looming Crisis: A Shrinking Population
- The Groundless Fear of Muslim Immigration
- A Youth Crisis Threatens the Arab Spring
- The New Eugenics
- Will Population Aging Doom Us?

Course description

This seminar course seeks to engage learners with contemporary Canadian and global population dynamics and their interrelation with families, family change, social policy and well-being. Topics to be considered may include Population and family myths; Migration, refugees and global families; the Conundrum of care; Greying versus young populations; Family well-being; Childbearing and new reproductive options; Death challenges and choices; Life course shifts; Urbanization; Crowding; Global policies; Future challenges. Differing and sometimes conflicting points of view on population issues and families will be explored. The aim is to have us all think and engage deeply with contemporary issues that affect us all both individually and collectively at present and into the future.

Course Objectives

This course has three central objectives:

1) To contemplate key questions about population and families;
2) To consider the changing relation between population changes/structures/movements and family changes/challenges;
3) To imagine how in specific realms of population and families, what evidence-based options exist in specific regions, for countries and the glo, and for individuals traversing their life courses

Prerequisites

- Complete all of the following:
  - Minimum third-year standing
  - Declared Honours or Major in Sociology
  - Or permission of the department.

Recommendations

- SOCI 205, and SOCI 305B or SOCI 343 recommended prior to SOCI 433.

Instructor/Contact information

Professor Susan McDaniel, Ph.D., FRSC (she/her)
smcdanie@uvic.ca
(Virtual office hours will be held)

Brief instructor biosketch:

Dr. McDaniel is Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Research Affiliate, Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, UVictoria. She was most recently founding Director, Prentice Institute for Global Population & Economy, Prentice Research Chair, Canada Research Chair in Global Population & Lifecourse, and Professor of Sociology, ULEthbridge. She taught for many years in Sociology at the University of Alberta. Her research interests are Canadian and global in demographic ageing, socio-economic inequalities, social policy, life course, generational relations and family change. She is the elected President of the International Sociological Association Committee on
Family Research (2018-2022). Her extensive research and policy-advising experience will be brought into the course.

Course Format:

**Fall 2020  Mon & Thurs 11:30 - 12:50  Synchronous online**

This course will be offered virtually through CourseSpaces, Zoom and other learning technologies. It is a seminar course so meeting together online twice a week makes for an optimal learning situation. To optimize online in-class discussion, it will be expected that each week's readings and all videos, etc. will be read or seen prior to that week's class meetings. Various opportunities for discussion and engagement with the course material will be provided through forums and other means. And given the opportunities online learning offers, we hope to bring in a few experts in the areas we cover in the course.

Assigned readings for each week's topics will be journal articles and some governmental reports made available on CourseSpaces through links to the UVic Library.

Coursework will possibly include: Essay exams, a short analytical paper, and a small project that seeks to answer a contemporary question with the best data available [Data does not mean statistical analysis but rather evidence, concrete evidence.]