S.A. 331-4 SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY

A. McLaren

Prerequisite: S.A. 202 or 270, or permission of the department. Students with credit for S.A. 371 may not take this course for further credit.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will focus primarily upon the contemporary family in industrial capitalistic societies, but it will also be necessary initially to consider the family historically. A common assumption is that the family is a universal and transhistorical institution essentially impervious to social and cultural change. The purpose of this course will be to examine how the family is structured and regulated by historical, social, economic and ideological forces. Topics will include: the impact of industrialization on the family, the changing concept of childhood, the changing functions of the family, the isolation of the modern family, the social class variations of the family, the relationship of the family to the school, the workplace, and the helping professions, and the sex/gender system underlying family arrangements.

REQUIRED READING

Michael Anderson (ed.), Sociology of the Family
Christopher Lasch, Haven in a Heartless World
Barrie Thorne & Marilyn Yalom (eds.), Rethinking the Family
Meg Luxton, More than a Labour of Love: Three Generations of Women's Work in the Home

ORGANIZATION

One four-hour seminar weekly.

Grading will be based on a midterm examination (20%), three essays of 2,000 words each (60%), and seminar participation (20%).