

History 329: Canadian Family History (On-line)

Summer 2010

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Hiebert

4 Credits

This course will explore the changing make-up of the Canadian Family, from pre-settlement First Nations to the future of the Canadian family. Key to this exploration is female fertility in Canada. Female fertility emerges out of the intersection of biological, ecological, economic, and cultural factors and in turn drives the culture and ecology in significant ways. We will also pay careful attention to the impact of social forces such as race, class, marital status, age, religion, and sexuality in shaping the family in Canada and how these have been reinforced and contested, through legal, discursive, and social arenas.

Students will learn the basic tools of demographic analysis and critical cultural analysis as applied to problem of understanding the changing shape of the Canadian family. Students are expected to develop critical tools in understanding discursive portrayals and social motivations in the production of images of family in Canada. Students are also expected to learn the identification and use of primary sources in documentary and material history

Topics

- Methods in exploring family experience
- Demographic tools in family analysis
- First nations families at first European contact
- Emerging urban families & tenement life
- Varieties of immigrant families
- The politics of the emerging Canadian urban family
- Rural family life before 1940
- The emerging suburban family
- Changing femininities
- Changing masculinities
- Baby Boom impacts, past, present, and future
- Changing sexualities and marriage
- The future of the Canadian family

Text: Chambers/Montigny *Family Matters*, Course Pack, and posted materials.

Student Expectations & Weighting

Participation: 25% (min. 5 posts/350 words per week)

Reading Reviews: 15%

Demography exercise: 10%

Major project proposal: 5%

Major project: 30%

Final Exam (take home): 15%