SOCA1040:
Sociology of Children and Families

Course Outline
Semester 2 (2008)
Course Overview

Course Coordinator: Dr Cary Bennett
Semester: Semester 2 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture and Tutorial

Tutors: Melanie Boursnell Melanie.Boursnell@newcastle.edu.au
Lena Rodriguez Lena.Rodriguez@newcastle.edu.au
Cary Bennett Cary.Bennett@newcastle.edu.au

Brief Course Description
The course provides an introduction to the study of children and families within a social and political context. The course encourages a critical perspective by examining debates about the historical and cultural variability of families and the social construction of children and childhood. The diversity of family forms in contemporary Australia will be examined in the context of class, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity. An analysis of the role of the family in liberal democracy and the policing of families will form the foundation for a critical understanding of current policy debates.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 hours per week for the full term
Tutorial for 1 hour per week for the full term (commencing Week 2)

Learning Materials/Texts
SOCA1040 Course Readings. These readings will be available for purchase from the UPrint Printing Services (basement level, Shortland Building). Further readings are located in Short Loans, Auchmuty Library, under the SOCA1040 course code.

Course Objectives
On successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:
1. An understanding of a sociological approach to children in Australian families.
2. Ability to understand the complexity and diversity of family life in Australia.
3. Ability to analyse and deal critically with different viewpoints on family policy, especially concerning child protection issues.
4. Skills in writing an academic essay, reading critically and doing research.

Course Content
1. The history of the family and childhood.
2. Sociological theories of the family and childhood.
3. Families in multicultural Australia and Aboriginal families.
4. Family types, sexualities and the construction of gender.
5. Gender, power and the family in Australia.
7. The family, social policy and the nation state.

Assessment Items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>1,500 words, due week 13, worth 50%.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Students are to provide evidence of understanding the set readings, attendance at lectures, participation in tutorials and independent study. 1,000 words, due week 14, worth 20%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>Locate and comment on references to be used for the essay. 750 words, due week 9, worth 30%.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
None
## Callaghan Campus Timetable

**SOCA1040**  
**SOCIOLGY CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science  
Semester 2 - 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Commencing Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>GP1-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Tutorial</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>W308</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>W308</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>W308</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>W202</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>V111</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>W238</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>W238</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>GP2-16</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

### Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.
Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

Changing your Enrolment

The census dates below are the last dates to withdraw without academic penalty. For onshore students, withdrawal on or before the census date means no financial penalty.

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2008

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008

For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2008

For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2008

For Trimester 3 courses: 22 September 2008

For Trimester 1 Singapore courses: 3 February 2008

For Trimester 2 Singapore courses: 25 May 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**

- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**

- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**

- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

For Port Macquarie students, contact your program officer or EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au, phone 4921 5000

For Singapore students, your first point of contact is your PSB Program Executive

**Faculty websites**

**Faculty of Business and Law**


**Faculty of Education and Arts**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/

**Faculty of Health**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/

**Faculty of Science and Information Technology**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/

**Contact details**

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie

Phone: 02 4921 5000
Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:  

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards  

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards  

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards  

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability
Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Important Additional Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

Academic Integrity

Integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge and truth are the bases of all academic endeavours in teaching, learning and research. To preserve the quality of learning, both for the individual and for others enrolled, the University imposes severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity.

There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

(a) Academic Fraud, in which a false representation is made to gain an unjust advantage by, for example,

- the falsification of data
- reusing one’s own work that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission)
- misconduct in Examinations

(b) Plagiarism, which is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Plagiarism includes

- copying, paraphrasing, or using someone else’s ideas without appropriate acknowledgement
- failure to identify direct quotation through the use of quotation marks
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.
Please note that aiding another student to plagiarise (e.g. by lending assignments to other students) is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)

**Penalties for Late Assignments**
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.


**Special Circumstances**
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**Re-marks & Moderations**
A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result - in the course to which the assessment item contributes - has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - ‘Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)
# SOCA1040: Sociology of Children and Families (2008)

## Lecture Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week Commencing</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>21 July</td>
<td><em>Course Introduction and Overview</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>28 July</td>
<td><em>The Rise of a Modern Institution</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>04 Aug</td>
<td><em>Indigenous Families and Children</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11 Aug</td>
<td><em>Family Diversity: Gay and Lesbian Experiences</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>18 Aug</td>
<td><em>Motherhood and Fatherhood</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>25 Aug</td>
<td><em>Families and Mental Illness</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>01 Sep</td>
<td><em>The Sociological Child</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>08 Sep</td>
<td><em>Children, Gender and Identity</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9    | 15 Sep          | *Children and Popular Culture*  
   |                  | NB: Literature Review Due (Monday 15 September) |
| 10   | 22 Sep          | *Constructing Adolescence* |

**Semester Recess: 29 September to 10 October 2008**

| 11   | 13 Oct         | *Domestic Violence and Childhood* |
| 12   | 20 Oct         | *Family, Childhood and Social Policy* |
| 13   | 27 Oct         | *The Future of Childhood and Family Life*  
   |                  | NB: Essay Due (Monday 27 October) |
| 14   | 03 Nov         | [No Lecture]  
   |                  | NB: Journal Due (Monday 3 November) |

**Examination period:** Monday 10 November to Friday 28 November 2008

Tutorial Program and Readings

Students are expected to do the **required readings** and encouraged to do the **further readings** located in Short Loans, Auchmuty Library, under the SOCA1040 course code.

**Week 1 (23 July)**

*Course Introduction and Overview*

**Required reading:**
None

**Further readings:**

(NB: No tutorial this week)

**Week 2 (30 July)**

*The Rise of a Modern Institution*

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

**Week 3 (6 Aug)**

*Indigenous Families and Children*

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**
Week 4 (13 Aug)  

**Family Diversity: Gay and Lesbian Experiences**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

Week 5 (20 Aug)  

**Motherhood and Fatherhood**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

Week 6 (27 Aug)  

**Families and Mental Illness**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

Week 7 (3 Sep)  

**The Sociological Child**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**
Week 8 (10 Sept)

**Children, Gender and Identity**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

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Week 9 (17 Sept)

[**NB: Literature Review Due: Monday 15 September**]

**Children and Popular Culture**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

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Week 10 (24 Sept)

**Constructing Adolescence**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**

*** MID-SEMESTER RECESS (29 September to 10 October) ***

Week 11 (15 Oct)

**Domestic Violence and Childhod**

**Required reading:**

**Further reading:**
Week 12 (22 Oct)

Family, Childhood and Social Policy

Required reading:

Further reading:

Week 13 (29 Oct)
[NB: Essay Due: Monday 27 October]

The Future of Childhood and Family Life

Required reading:

Further reading:

Week 14 (5 Nov)
[NB: Journal Due: Monday 3 November]

No lecture
Review and individual consultations (if required)

Required reading:
No tutorials or tutorial readings.

* * *

Journals and Periodicals
Australian Journal of Family Law
Australian Journal of Social Issues
Children and Society
Children and Youth Services Review
Children Australia
Children Today
Children Youth and Environments
Family and Community Health
Family and Community History: Journal of the Family and Community Historical Research Society
Family History
Family Law Quarterly
Family Life
Family Matters: Newsletter of the Australian Institute of Family Studies
Websites

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Children and Youth
http://www.abs.gov.au/Websitedbs/c311215.nsf/20564c23f3183fdaca25672100813ef1/35f3e8efed45ce47ca256de2008194bd!OpenDocument
Australian Bureau of Statistics, Family and Community Statistics
http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/c311215.nsf/22b99697d1e47ad8ca2568e30008e1bc/f01de14b31b9fc0dca2568f2001fcdb2!OpenDocument
Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault
Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearing House
http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/
Australian Government, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: A Picture of Australia’s Children
Australian Government, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
Australian Institute of Family Studies
Children’s Rights International
Children’s Services, NSW
Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia
Family Assistance Office
Family Court of Australia
Family Planning NSW
http://www.fpahealth.org.au/
Family Relationships Online
Murdoch Children’s Research Institute
http://www.mcri.edu.au/
National Child Protection Clearinghouse
New South Wales Commission for Children and Young People
Northern Territory Government, Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse
Raising Children Network
http://raisingchildren.net.au/

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