

University of Guelph  
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
Winter 2022

**Course Number:** ANTH3770  
**Course Title:** Kinship, Family, & Power  
**Instructor:** Dr. Renee Sylvain

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**DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores the changing nature of families from anthropological and cross-cultural perspectives. Topics and themes examined include descent systems; marriage practices; connections among households, markets, and states; gender relations; sexuality; reproduction; parenting; personhood; and culture, power, and agency. The primary objective of this course is to critically examine our own assumptions about what is 'natural' and inevitable in discussion and debates about families. Thus, we will interrogate heteronormative biases in kinships studies and we will examine the systems of intersectional inequalities in which families are embedded.

**COURSE READINGS:**

- CouseLink and ARES

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

- In-class midterm 1 (25%)
- Take-home Midterm 2 (30%)
- Class & online participation (10%)
- Final exam (35%)

\* Requirements and methods of evaluation are subject to change.