This course will offer an in-depth examination of families in different parts of the world using a gender perspective. It will examine the formation and changing structures and emerging dynamics in the institution of the family, issues such as gender discrimination, gender division of labour, intra-household dynamics and violence. It will particularly emphasise how sociological and anthropological insights into the family deconstruct economic perspectives on the family and its implications for policy and practice. The course will use a mix of lectures and group activities, and will draw from an interdisciplinary list of readings. Learning outcomes will be evaluated through in-class quizzes, essays and exams.

At the end of the course, students will be able to appreciate the diversity and complexities in the structures and dynamics of family and household. They will be able to use a gender/ feminist perspective to understand and critique how family/ household is represented in policy, research, and popular discourse and the diverse contexts within which this takes place.