



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – SPRING SEMESTER 2011

SO 2710 (A4) – Sociology of the Family

INSTRUCTOR: René R. Gadacz, Ph.D **PHONE:** 780.539.2831
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OFFICE HOURS: Daily before & after class; by appointment; drop-ins welcome

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S): SO 1000 or equivalent

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Susan McDaniel and Lorne Tepperman, 2010 (4th edition), Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families. Pearson/Prentice-Hall: Toronto.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: The structure and function of the family system, historically and cross-culturally will be explored in this course. The family system in contemporary societies emphasizing its institutional characteristics and current trends will be a focus.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: (3-0-0) UT 45 hours

DELIVERY MODE(S): lectures, class discussion, group work, class presentations, written tests, written projects

OUTCOMES: Students will become familiar with multiple marriage and family structures, theoretical frameworks, and research methodologies in family research. They will gain insights into the formation of intimate relationships, the development of marital roles, the transition to parenthood, the acquisition of gender roles, creation of family/relationship division of labor. Students will understand how families react under different kinds of stress and how this may create marital tensions and divorce.

They will be able to identify transitions and innovations in family structure in the context of social-technological change.

TRANSFERABILITY: Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Transfers to: U of A, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, KUC.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Please refer to pages 48-49 of the 2010-2011 GPRC College calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

GRADING CONVERSION CHART

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	95 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 94	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 75	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Mid-Point Exam (25 points)..... May 16, 2011

Exit Exam (25 points)..... May 26, 2011

Guest Speaker Presentation Feedback Notes (10 points)..... *TBA if applicable*

Vanier Institute Reports (groups of 2; 2 x 15 = 30 pts)..... **starts** May 3

Semester Assignments (50 points):

⇒ **(1)** Research social dating sites (e.g. eHarmony) (25 pts)..... May 9

or,

Research how social networking sites like Facebook contribute to family cohesion and/or relationship satisfaction (25 points)

⇒ **(2)** Your Family Tree/Genogram (25 points)..... May 20

or,

Milestones: Your Family Developmental History & Culture (25 points)

(Total points are 140; your total points will be converted to a percent (%) grade to determine your letter grade. For example, $115/140 = 82/100 = 82\% = A-$)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice questions, true/false, glossary terms/concepts to define - based on both lecture and text book material.

PLEASE NOTE:

☹️ Missed exams (70 points of your course grade) unfortunately cannot be accommodated in this short semester *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency. No make-up exams unless it's an emergency.

💡 What the semester course projects entails (90 points of your course grade) will be discussed in detail on the first day of classes. You will be provided with instructions and relevant information in regards to the Vanier Institute Report presentations and the assignments.

♥️ For most of the course work (except exams), students may choose to work with a partner (both students will share the mark for their work), or you may work individually. However, the daily Vanier Institute reports will be done by a group of 2 students.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your work is at a level appropriate to your year in college/university studies. Always spell and grammar check your work; always keep a hard copy or disk copy of your work as backup. There is writing help on campus, and if in doubt you are always welcome to ask me, your instructor, for clarification. Poor spelling, grammar and organization always interferes with the clear communication of ideas and you *will* lose marks if your overall communication is ineffective.

Regular attendance is strongly encouraged; the same applies to your participation in class discussions. *Be an active participant in your education!*

Late assignments (or any assignment/course components) will result in an automatic loss of 5 marks (of the value of the work) PER DAY, up to and including the day of a late submission, unless immediate or prior arrangements, based on exceptional circumstances, have been made. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

We will refer to the table of contents of the text(s) for the chapter title and chapter content for the topic(s) for each day/week in the semester. Lectures do not strictly follow the book(s) sequence, but you will still be responsible for the contents of the chapters for each particular week: **specific chapter(s) and/or chapter sections will be announced daily**. Also, the chapters and days will overlap, giving you the chance to get 'caught up' or to read ahead, as the case may be. PLEASE CHECK MOODLE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, etc., ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Please note the following schedule of lecture days for this course, for this 2011 Spring semester: May 2 through to May 6 (Monday-Friday = 5 days)
May 9 only (Monday = 1 day; no classes May 10-May 13)
May 16 through to May 20 (Monday-Friday = 5 days)
May 24 through to May 26 (Tuesday-Thursday = 3 days)

Classes begin, Tuesday, May 2nd

Mid-Point Exam, Monday, May 16th

Exit Exam, Thursday, May 26th

Assignment #1 – Research dating sites OR analyze how Facebook/social media contribute to family cohesion or relationship satisfaction – **anytime before or on May 9th**

Assignment #2 – Your family genogram OR your family's developmental history - **anytime before or on May 20th**

Classes end, Thursday May 26th