



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2011.

SO 2710 – THE FAMILY

INSTRUCTOR: Nancy Robbins **E-MAIL:** nrobbins@gprc.ab.ca

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: SO1000 – Introduction to Sociology

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Susan A. McDaniel and Lorne Tepperman (2011). *Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families*, Fourth Edition. Pearson Education: Toronto.

(Note: Students are permitted to use the third edition if they are purchasing from another student. However, the fourth edition is recommended.)

Other readings may be assigned throughout the term and supplied by the instructor.

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: This course involves 3 hours of instructional time per week.

DELIVERY MODE(S): The course work includes lectures, class discussions, online discussion, in-class exercises, and individual student presentations, both written and oral.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.) To have an understanding of the sociology of the family as a discipline
- 2.) To strengthen and enhance research skills in the discipline of sociology
- 3.) Research, plan and conduct a sociological interview and submit a research report with subsequent findings

TRANSFERABILITY:

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

GRADING CRITERIA:

Mid Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Defining Family Assignment	15%
Housework Analysis	10%
Interview Proposal	10%
Interview Paper	25%
Total	100%

Defining Family Assignment:

Write an essay on your family using a kinship chart as your guide. Who is your family of origin and your family of procreation? Who is your extended family and who is your kin? Are there people who are considered your family who are not biologically related to you? What are some of the stories of your family history? What is your definition of family?

Written from your own social and historical experiences and using your kinship chart as your guide, your essay will include your reflections and analysis of what you believe to be important sociological issues in your family in today's society. Student confidentiality will be respected.

Housework Analysis:

Who does the housework in your house? What is the value of each item of housework?

Follow each member of your household and examine their household duties for the next seven days (start on Saturday and finish on Saturday, for example, for a total of seven days).

Describe each household duty and determine how much each individual (including children) contribute to your household each day, week and year according to the unpaid duties that they perform in the home. How much money would it cost you each year to pay someone to do these duties?

Discuss any interesting facts that you discovered this week and record the reactions of the other members of your household.

Finally, determine your worth according to how much you do in unpaid labour in your household. How much salary would you make each year for the things that you do?

It may be easiest to design a chart or some kind of visual display to chart your family's activities, hours and value per day. Posted on Moodle is an example Excel worksheet that can be reproduced as need. Feel free to change your visual display and be as creative as you want in recording and presenting your data.

Remember, EVERYTHING that you do that is unpaid in your household counts.

PLEASE NOTE: Students are expected to come to class on the day this assignment is due and discuss with the rest of the class their experience in charting their household duties.

Interview Proposal:

Students are required to submit a proposal of their interview paper. Included in the proposal is a short biography of your subject, ethical considerations, outline of the interview paper and interview questions. More information on how to write a proposal will be covered in class.

Interview Paper:

Students are required to complete an interview and case study. Students are required to select their interview subject based on demographic differences between the subject and the student. Students are given freedom on what they wish to discuss with their subject as long as it fits within the topics discussed in class.

Students are required to submit a final report discussing their interview as well as an analysis of their results. Students are given freedom in the format; however, the following are suggested guidelines:

Part 1 – Introduction and Review of the Interview Method and Questions

Part 2 – Biography of your subject / Differences between yourself and your subject

Part 3 – Topics Discussed with your subject (note: these are suggestions and may not apply to all subjects):

- A – Childhood Influences
- B – Marriage
- C – Parenting
- D – Paid and Unpaid Work
- E – Gender and Ethnicity
- F – Health & Well-Being
- H – Aging and Retirement

Part 4 – Sociological Analysis

Part 5 – Conclusion

There are some mandatory requirements

- correct spelling and grammar
- neat presentation
- discussion of method
- interview questions (in appendix)
- double spaced

- organization and headings
- citations
- bibliography

Failure to complete a bibliography and appropriate citations means a failure of the final report. Late assignments will not be accepted after the end of the final exam.

Final papers should be approximately 10 to 15 pages in length. Please do not exceed the maximum page requirement.

Students are also expected to prepare a short presentation to share with the class the results of their interview and their experience in this assignment. The presentations will be on the day that the project is due.

GRADING CRITERIA: GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	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

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course. Both exams will comprise two parts: part one will be multiple choice objectives on Moodle and part two will be a series of written questions.

Exams will take place during class time and are required to be written on the day that they are scheduled. There will be no exceptions. The final exam is not cumulative; the midterm is on the first half of the course and the final is on the second.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Due dates: Due dates are assigned for a reason. Late work is usually marked with grade deductions and will be accepted in extenuating circumstances; but note, extensions are RARELY given! However, if needed, please see me to discuss why you cannot meet a deadline for the written assignment. Late work is subject to penalties regardless of the circumstances.

Submission of papers: Assignments and papers are to be submitted on time, typed, spell checked, and emailed to the instructor.

I will email you to let you know that I have received your assignment. If you don't hear from me, then I haven't received your paper – it is YOUR responsibility to follow up!

Questions regarding assignments: I am always available for questions by email or in person. Please be sure to consult with me prior to the due date.

Class Participation and Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this course. Please let me know in advance if you are unable to attend classes.

Behaviour in class: Please come to class prepared for the day's discussion and topic. Respect of your fellow students is a given. While you may disagree with your colleague's opinion to specific issues, please show respect and dignity to each other.

Abuse of any kind is not tolerated or acceptable.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Please refer to pages 49-50 of the College calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

January 10	Introduction to the sociology of the family
January 17	What is a family? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapters 1 and 2
January 24	Dating, Mating and Sexuality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 3
January 31	Marriage and Cohabitation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 4• <i>Defining Family Assignment Due</i>
February 7	Happy and Healthy Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 5
February 14	<i>Mid Term Exam</i>
February 21	Winter Break – no classes
March 1	Parenting / Socialization <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 6• <i>Interview Proposal Due</i>
March 7	Work / Gender Roles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 7• <i>Housework Analysis Due</i>
March 14	Stress / Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 8
March 21	Divorce and Ending Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 9
March 28	Social Class and Poverty / Families in Transition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 10
April 4	Aging <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: TBA• <i>Interview Paper and Presentation due</i>
April 11	Families of the Future / Social Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: Chapter 11
April 18	<i>Final Exam (date is subject to change)</i>