



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2012

SO 2710 – THE FAMILY

INSTRUCTOR: Nancy Robbins **PHONE:** 780-865-7666 (leave a message)

OFFICE: Hinton AB **E-MAIL:** nrobbins@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Available before and after class and upon request

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

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Susan A. McDaniel and Lorne Tepperman (2011). Close Relations: An Introduction to Sociology of Families. Fourth Edition. Pearson Education: Toronto.

Note: there are a number of used copies of this textbook available in Hinton, Edson and Jasper from former students

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; students are expected to check Moodle for class notes, participation activities and online discussions at least once per week.

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

OBJECTIVES (OPTIONAL):

- 1.) To have an understanding of the sociology of the family as a discipline.
- 2.) To strength and enhance research skills in the discipline of sociology
- 3.) To 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	15%
Final Exam	25%
Defining Family Assignment	15%
Housework Analysis	10%
Interview Proposal	10%
Interview Paper	25%

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. This assignment should be a maximum of 5 pages.

Housework Analysis

Who does the housework in your household? 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 a Saturday and finish on a Friday, 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 during your 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 of some kind of visual display to chart your family's activities, hours and value each day. Posted on Moodle is an example excel worksheet that can be reproduced as needed. Feel free to change your visual display to be as creative as you want in recording and presenting your data.

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

Students are also expected to come to class on the day that this assignment is due and discuss with the rest of the class their experience in charting their household duty. Part of your final mark for this assignment will be this presentation.

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 guidelines are suggested:

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 and Well Being

G – Aging and Retirement

Part 4 – Sociological Analysis

Part 5 – Conclusion

There are some mandatory requirements for this assignment:

- Correct spelling and grammar
- Neat presentation
- Discussion of methodology
- Interview questions (in appendix)
- Double spaced
- Organization and headings
- Cover page
- Table of contents
- 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 5 to 10 minute presentation to share with the class the results of their interview and their experiences with this assignment. The presentation will be on the day that the project is due and is part of the final mark of the project.

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 a 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 final 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. 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 are to be submitted on time, typed, spell checked and emailed to the instructor by midnight on the due date. 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 in 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 an expectation. 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 accepted.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

January 6 Introduction to the sociology of the family

January 13 What is a family?
Reading: Chapter 1 and 2

January 20 Dating, mating and sexuality
Reading: Chapter 3

January 27 Marriage and cohabitation
Reading: Chapter 4
Defining family assignment due

February 3 Happy and healthy relationships
Reading: Chapter 5

February 10 *Midterm exam*

February 17 Parenting and socialization
Reading: Chapter 6
Interview Proposal due

February 24 Winter break – no classes

March 2 Work and gender roles
Reading: Chapter 7
Housework analysis due

March 9 class cancelled

March 16 Stress and violence
Reading: Chapter 8

- March 19** MAKE UP CLASS – MONDAY AT 6 PM
Divorce and ending relationships
Reading: Chapter 9
- March 23** Social class and poverty – families in transition
Reading: Chapter 10
- March 30** Aging
Reading: TBA (provided by instructor)
- April 6** Good Friday - no class
- April 9** MAKE UP CLASS – MONDAY 6 pm
Social policy and families of the future
Reading: Chapter 11
Interview paper and proposal due
- April 13** class cancelled
- April 20** Final exam (date is subject to change)