

Department of Arts, Commerce and Education
Grande Prairie Regional College

SOCIOLOGY 2710
THE FAMILY

Winter Semester, 2002
Tuesday & Thursday 13:00 - 14:20 hrs.
Office Hours: class times & by appointment

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GPRC 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.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

In this course the structure and function of the family as a "small social organization" and as a fundamental social institution will be critically examined – historically and cross-culturally. A deeper understanding of the impact of global industrial capitalism and changing technology on family forms, household structures, and male/female division of labor will be sought. Related issues such as alternate lifestyles and cultural diversity, men's and women's changing roles, power and authority in the family, marital roles, relations between the family and the State, family law, and public policy will be explored in detail. Both macro- and micro-sociological approaches to family and family issues will be taken in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance & Class Participation.....	10%
Presentation Proposal/Annotated Biblio.....	20% (Feb. 7, <i>or sooner</i>)
Class Presentation.....	20% (begins March 5)
Mid-Term Exam.....	25% (February 21)
Final Exam.....	25% (TBA)

REQUIRED TEXTS

[Other Materials Will Be Distributed On An As-Needed Basis]

J. Ross Eshleman and Susannah J. Wilson, 2001 (3rd c/e), The Family. Allyn and Bacon: Toronto.

You are encouraged to read beyond the assigned course books. Check out popular magazines, academic journals and other sources for coverage of topics discussed in this course; such materials are available in the GPRC college library, on the world wide web and elsewhere.

REQUIREMENTS, EXPECTATIONS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We will approach this class as a seminar course and as such there is an emphasis on class discussion. Participation and attendance are therefore extremely important. You are expected to read and be prepared to discuss the material, as well as to participate with questions and comments during lectures as well as and when the class presentations take place.

Please start on your presentation proposal and bibliography *as soon as possible*. The proposal for the presentation should be a clear statement (approx. 5-7 pages) of a particular (family) issue of your own choice, **plus** a supporting annotated bibliography of not more than 10 books and/or articles that you intend to use for the presentation itself. *Use the course text as an integral part of your research, bibliography and issue focus*. Some references may also be obtained by searching the WWW and/or using full-text library subscription services like EBSCO and WEBCAT. You will informally present your proposal idea in class at an early date in order to encourage discussion and to get some feedback, before proceeding with your actual, more formal, presentation (which will be scheduled).

Details on what the presentations entail, how to proceed, etc., will be discussed over the first few weeks. The total number of students in the course will determine (a) whether you will work in teams of 2 or individually (ideally, teams of 2) and (b) how long they should be (ideally, one hour). Final decisions can be made during the first several weeks of classes.

Important materials that accompany this outline: Attached should be: (1) a sample 'evaluation of presentations' sheet with a break-down of the distribution of marks; (2) a 'how-to' sheet on "annotations and abstracts" that offers some useful advice on how to do an annotation; (3) a 'how-to' sheet on giving seminar presentations that also offers useful advice; and, (4) the grade scale used in this course.

Exams in this course will consist of terms/concepts to define (short-answer), based on all video, lecture and text material.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS --

Attendance at lectures is strongly advised. The same applies to your active participation in class discussions. Please note that to pass this course, you will be required to achieve passing marks in all components of the course requirements. For example, you will have to pass both exams in combination (25/50 or better) and the terms' work in combination (25/50 or better) in order to pass the course. You could fail the course if you fail either the exams (in combination) or terms' work (in combination).

Missed semester exams and late take-home work (e.g. the proposal/biblio) 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 make-up exam or a late submission, unless prior arrangements, based on exceptional circumstances, have been made.

These academic standards are for your benefit. They are to ensure integrity of the curriculum (provincial and national) and to ensure your competitiveness at other post-secondary institutions elsewhere. *Be an active participant in your education!*

WEEKLY LECTURE/TOPIC SCHEDULE

(This breakdown by dates is tentative; it will be altered to suit our progress, though the sequence will not be changed)

Week of:

- January 3 -- Introduction to the course, requirements, books and readings, weekly schedule.... *Start reading the course text right away!*
- January 8/10 -- Cont'd; Basic introductory sociology review; research and theory in the study of the family; interdisciplinary approaches, etc., -- E & W, Chapter 1
- January 15/17 -- Cont'd; Families in the context of marriage, kinship and culture -- E & W, Chapter 2
- January 22/24 -- Cont'd; Families at the 'intersection' of other social organizations and social systems; family life and the realities of work/employment demands; macro-sociological issues -- E & W, Chapter 3
- Jan. 30/Feb 1 -- Cont'd; Families in the context of social stratification; the class system; families and social class; macro-sociological issues -- E & W, Chapter 4
- February 5/7 -- Cont'd; Micro approaches to family life and family relations; intimate relationships and partnering -- E & W, Chapter 5
Proposals Due February 7th!! (or earlier)
- February 12/14 -- Cont'd; The institution of marriage; cohabitation and conjugal relations; the quality of marital life -- E & W, Chapter 6
- February 19/21 -- Cont'd; Issues of family life and parenthood; issues of motherhood, fatherhood, family size, etc. -- E & W, Chapter 7
Mid-Term Exam February 21st!!
- February 26/28 -- **Winter Reading Break!! -- no classes**
- March 5/7 -- Cont'd; Parenting, childhood; socialization of both parents and children; child development -- E & W, Chapter 8
Class presentations begin March 5th!!
- March 12/14 -- Cont'd; Families in later life; 'post-parenthood,' grandparenthood; relations between parents and adult children; rights, duties and responsibilities -- E & W, Chapter 9

- March 19/21 -- Cont'd; Family social issues; family violence – E & W, Chapter 10
- March 26/28 -- Cont'd; Family reorganization; separation, divorce; remarriages and repartnering; legal issues – E & W, Chapter 11
- April 2/4 -- Cont'd; Macro issues; family and social policy; issues of legal and political control -- E & W, Chapter 12
- April 9/11 -- Cont'd; The future of the family; family life and personal satisfaction in the post-modern age; macro- and micro-sociological issues revisited. *Course wrap-up and preparations for the final exam (final exams begin April 15)*

Six Ways To Make This Course More Valuable:

1. Participate, to engage your learning
2. Question, to enhance your learning
3. Read, to expand your learning
4. Reflect, to measure your learning
5. Apply, to transfer your learning
6. Innovate, to adapt your learning