



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER SEMESTER 2021

SO 2710 (A3 and B3) – Sociology of the Family 3 (3-0-0) UT 45 Hrs.

INSTRUCTOR: René R. Gadacz- **PHONE:** 780.539.2831
Gould, Ph.D.
OFFICE: C-306 **E-MAIL:** rgadacz-gould@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Remote: Monday thru Friday, 08:30 hrs. to 17:00 hrs.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S): SO 1000 or permission of instructor

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS: S. A. McDaniel, L. Tepperman, and S. Colavecchia, 2019 (6th edition), Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families Pearson/Prentice-Hall: Toronto; A. Y. Napier and C. A. Whitaker, 2017, The Family Crucible Harper Perennial: New York; J. D. Vance, 2020, Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis: Harper Paperbacks.

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or on-site requirements. **Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection.** Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

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 (3-0-0) UT 45 hours

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be taught: the history of contemporary Western family forms and processes; theories/research approaches to the study of the relationship formation and dynamics, family/married life, families/marriages in the context of work, the economy, and contemporary family-oriented policies; the socio-legal aspects of family/marriage responsibilities, child-bearing and parenting, separation and divorce; the challenges of family/marriage/parenting in a diverse and multicultural society like Canada.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will: gain insights into the formation/maintenance of intimate relationships in their own lives; learn how they are socialized into marital roles; how they can successfully transition to parenthood; approach family and relationship responsibilities in fair and equitable ways; understand how relationships and families are impacted by social pressures and stress and how conflict can be resolved; be able to make informed personal decisions regarding modern innovations in family structure in the context of social-technological change.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Please refer to the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at – www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/

TRANSFERABILITY:

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

** 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:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	91 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	86 – 90	
A⁻	3.7	81 – 85	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	77 – 80	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	69 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	66 – 68	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 65	
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-Term Exam (20%)..... February 22 **(B3)/23 (A3)**

Final Exam (30%)..... TBD

Guest Speakers Feedback Notes (**bonus** 5%)..... TBD

Vanier Institute Presentations (**1** @ 10%)..... **starts** January 14 (**A3**)/15 (**B3**)
Semester Projects:

⇒ **(1)** Research a social dating site (20%)..... **due** Feb 11 (**A3**)/12 (**B3**)

or,

Research how social networking sites like Facebook, etc., contribute to family cohesion and/or relationship satisfaction (20%)

⇒ **(2)** Your Family Genogram (20%)..... **due** March 25 (**A3**)/26 (**B3**)

or,

Milestones: Your Family Developmental History & Culture (20%)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The *Mid-Term Exam* will consist of short-answer questions/definitions of terminology (20%), as will the *Final Exam* (30%, date TBA).

ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class discussions.

Late assignments (or any assignment/course component) will result in a deduction of 5% PER DAY INCLUDING WEEKENDS, up to and including the day of a late submission, however, personal and family emergencies and extenuating circumstances will be accommodated *only* when legitimate documentation is provided. Example: if an assignment is worth 20%, one day late makes it 15% and so on. Forgetfulness and/or poor planning won't be accommodated.

PLEASE NOTE:

What the other semester course work entails will be discussed in detail as classes get underway and as the course progresses. You will be provided with other instructions and relevant information in class/on D2L with plenty of lead time in regards to the Vanier Institute Report presentations, the projects (analysis of dating sites like eHarmony)/social network sites (like Facebook); how to do a proper Family Genogram, or Family Developmental History, etc. **SEE 'ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES' ON D2L/BRIGHTSPACE RIGHT NOW! More details in class at a later date.**

For some of the semester course work (except for exams, and except for the family genogram), students are encouraged to work with a partner (both students will share the mark for their work), or you may work individually. *However, the daily Vanier Institute presentations will be done by a group of 2 students (but no write-up required!)*

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: Week of (Winter 2021):

WEEK 1 – Course outlines and course requirements; McDaniel and Tepperman, Chapter 1: definitions, theories, research... **SECTION A3: JANUARY 5 *first class***
SECTION B3: JANUARY 8 *first class*

WEEK 2 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 2: social and economic origins and trends... **Vanier Institute article presentations begin: SECTION A3 January 14th**
SECTION B3 January 15th

WEEK 3 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 3, the formation of families; start Chapter 4: marriage, cohabitation, same-sex relationships and other forms of (e.g. robot) intimacies...

WEEK 4 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 4, cont'd; Chapter 5: maintaining viable relationships in marriage, cohabitation and in other forms of intimacies...

WEEK 5 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 5, cont'd; Chapter 6: child-bearing, parenting and socialization... **Assignment #1 Analysis of Social Dating sites/Social Networking due: SECTION A3 February 11th**
SECTION B3 February 12th

WEEK 6 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 6, cont'd; Chapter 7: the relationship between work and family life...

WEEK 7 – (February 15-19) – **FAMILY DAY AND WINTER BREAK, no classes at all this week**

WEEK 8 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 7, cont'd; Chapter 8: stress and violence in families and in relationships **MID-TERM EXAM SECTION A3 - February 23rd**
SECTION B3 - February 22nd

WEEK 9 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 8, cont'd; Chapter 9: ending relationships, divorce, separation, estrangement...

WEEK 10 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 9: ending relationships, effects on children, grandparents and other family members, law and legislation...

WEEK 11 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 10: family transitions

WEEK 12 – Chapter 10: second (or more) marriages, relationships and families, new kinds of families... **Assignment #2 - Family Genograms or Family Development Histories due: SECTION A3 March 25th**
SECTION B3 March 26th

WEEK 13 – Chapter 11: law, legislation, public policy...

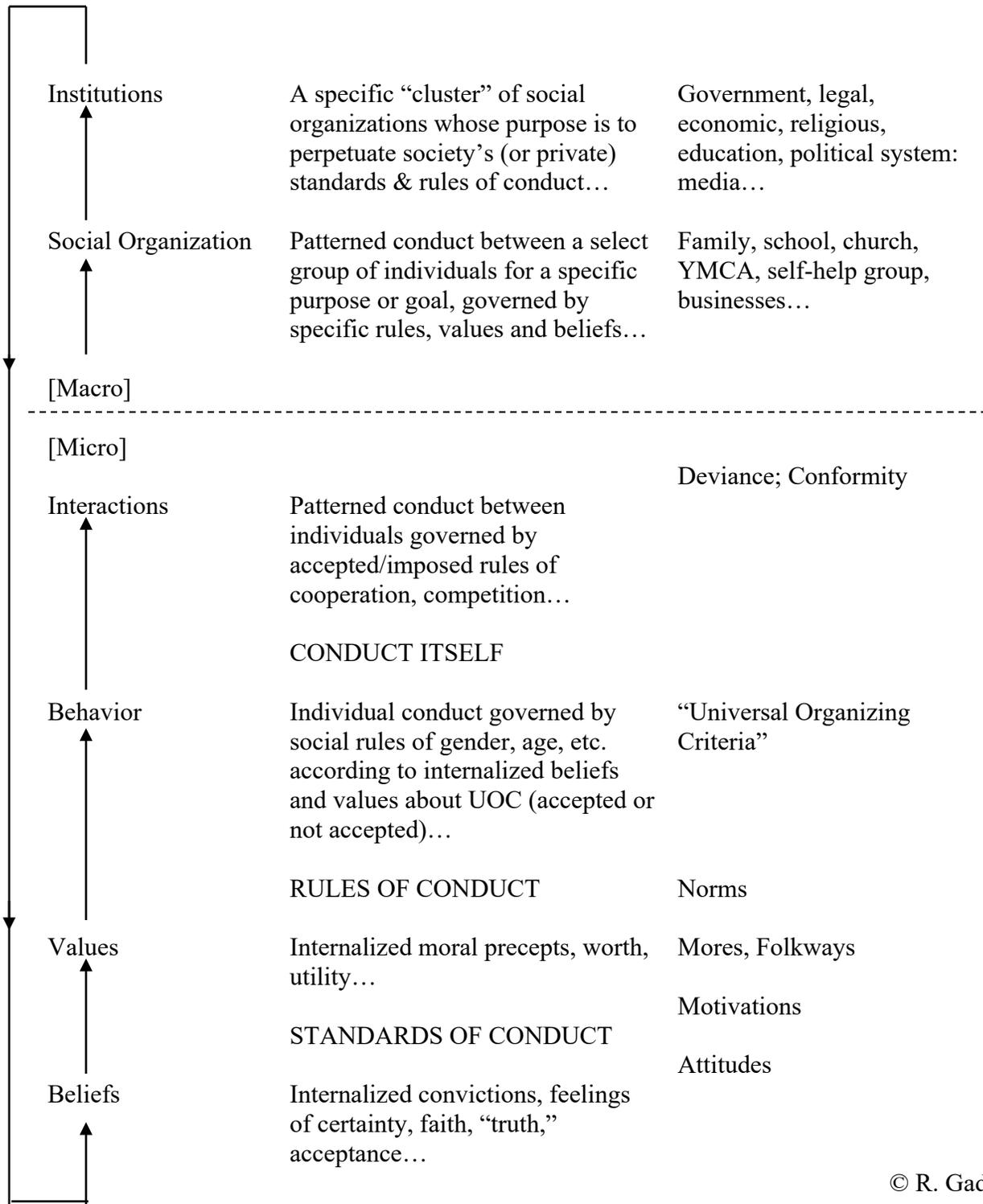
WEEK 14 – Cont'd.. the future of families in the broader social context

WEEK 15 – Conclusions; wrap-up **LAST CLASS SECTION A3 IS APRIL 8 (THURSDAY)**
LAST CLASS SECTION B3 IS APRIL 12 (MONDAY)

[Classes end Week 15, Monday April 12, 2021 – **Final Exam** date TBA]

GENERAL SCHEME OF SOCIETY

“The Social System”



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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**