

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2024

SO2710 (A3): The Family – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Michael Holland	PHONE:	780-539-2973
OFFICE:	C404	E-MAIL:	mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesdays 1-2pm; Fridays 10-11 am, or by appointment		

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.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: SO1000.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Albanese, P. (2023). *Canadian Families today: New perspectives* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g., webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g., camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, 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
- make informed personal decisions regarding modern innovations in family structure in the context of social-technological change

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** 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**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Weight
Chapter quizzes	10 %
Active viewing assignment 1	15 %
Active viewing assignment 2	15 %
Test 1	15 %
Test 2	15 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %
Extra Credit – up to 10 pts	5 %

Chapter Quizzes

Beginning week 1, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (MyClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice). These quizzes serve to encourage that you consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course. Beginning the second week of the class (See below), quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

Active Viewing Assignments

We will watch two films this semester related to the topic of the family. Students will engage in “active viewing,” meaning they will take notes during the films. The films will be shown in class, so students must be present during that time for credit unless you have access to the films at home (although, I highly recommend you attend for discussion purposes). Students will complete a quiz and discussion assignment due the next day.

Tests and Final Exam

Note: There are 2 options for tests and the final exam for the course.

Option A will be a closed-book exam written with the class that will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Option B will be an open-book exam that consists of essay answer questions. These questions must be submitted on myClass by the completion time.

There will be a brief review in class before the tests and final exam respectively. These will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook chapters, classroom lectures, discussions, and video clips). The final exam is cumulative but with an emphasis on ‘big picture ideas’ covered throughout the semester.

Extra Credit/Participation

Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities for students to participate in class discussions as volunteers for which credit will be earned. More information will be discussed early in class.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan 9, 11	Introduction to the course/meet and greet	Syllabus	
Jan 16, 18	Understanding Family concepts and definitions	Chapter 1	RQ1
Jan 23, 25	Historical and Contemporary variations	Chapter 2	RQ2
Jan 30, Feb 1	Parenting Young Children	Chapter 5 Article by Lareau	RQ3
Feb 6	Test 1		

Feb 8, 13	Film 1	None	Film 1 Assignment Due (Feb 14)
Feb 15	Separation and Divorce	Chapter 6	RQ4
Feb 19- Feb 23	Family Day & Winter Break – No Classes		
Feb 27, 29	Families in Middle and Later Life	Chapter 7	RQ5
Mar 5, 7	Family Poverty	Chapter 10	RQ6
Mar 12	Test 2		
Mar 14, 19	Film 2	None	Film 2 Assignment Due (Mar 20)
Mar 21	Visible Minorities and Indigenous families	Chapters 11 & 12	RQ7
Mar 26, 28	Violence in Families	Chapter 14	RQ8
Apr 2, 4	Investing in Families and Children: Family Policies in Canada	Chapter 15	RQ9
Apr 9,11	Short video Final exam Review/Course Wrap up	All course material post-midterm	RQ10(based on video) Final Exam (non-cumulative) Registrar Scheduled, TBA

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 8 – First day of classes

Jan 17 – Last day to add or drop courses with a full refund

Feb 19 – Family Day

Feb 20-23 – Winter Break

March 29 – Good Friday, no classes

April 01 – Last day to withdraw from courses with a grade of “W”.

April 15 – Last day of classes

April 17-24 – Final Exam period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment. **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

Submission & Late Policies: It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete tests and assignments will receive a grade of 0% unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me **in advance of any due date**. Extension requests are granted only well in advance of assignment due dates and with valid reasons.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

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

Additional Information:

This course will make extensive use of our course website (myClass) to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "How do I get an 'A'?", ask yourself "How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Classroom etiquette:
 - Please do not be late for class.
 - Avoid the use of cell phones except for course-related activities.
 - **Do not disrupt the class**, especially when talking about things non-sociology related
 - You will be given a warning and subsequent action will be taken if disruptive behaviour continues, including being asked to leave the class.
- Please only use your NWP e-mail account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include "SO2710" (with your section) in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails formally, as you will need to do so regularly. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!