

**SOCIOLOGY 77.246**

**THE FAMILY**

**FALL 2001**

**Dr. G. N. Ramu** Phone: 474-9656

333 Isbister Building Office hours by appointment

Section L01 (Slot 9, 11:30am to 12:45pm) 403 Tier

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*The Calendar description of the course:* A sociological analysis of various family arrangements and practices in contemporary societies and their historical roots. An examination of the relationships between family and other institutions in the context of widespread social changes.

Within this framework, the course is designed to examine (a) the family as a social organization in historical and cross-cultural perspectives and (b) Canadian families from historical, demographic and legal and social policy perspectives. The main purpose of the course is to enable students to appreciate the pluralistic nature of family life in Canada.

**REQUIRED BOOK**

Lyle Larson, J. Walter Goltz, and Brenda Munro, *Families in Canada - Social Contexts, Continuities and Changes*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

## EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The procedures which will be used to evaluate the student's performance are four tests with the following weights: first test=20%, second test=30%, third test=30% and the last test=20%. Each test will be held in class. *The tests are not cumulative.* There will be a choice of all multiple-choice, all essay and a combination of multiple-choice and essay questions tests. The tests will be based on both readings and lectures. A term paper in lieu of the second *or* the third test may be chosen. However, the topic, outline, and bibliography for the paper must be discussed with the instructor and agreed upon. To this end, a form must be filled and returned on the date noted and is available on request. This form will have specific guidelines and deadlines.

## IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Students should acquaint themselves with the University Policy on "Plagiarism and Cheating" and "Examination Impersonation." For details see the section on "General Academic Regulations and Policy," on page 26, Sections 7.1 and 7.2 in the **University of Manitoba Under Graduate Calendar, 2001-2002**
2. **Senate Policy #1307** requires a "a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performances in all sections." Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.
3. Disruptions due to talking or early departures from the class room are inappropriate as they are inconsiderate and disrespectful of the needs and the rights of others in the class. Repeated talking loud etc., may result in debarment from the course. You must turn off your cell phones during the class hour.
4. Although lectures are designed to touch upon the issues raised in the text, they do not repeat point by point what is in the text. If you have difficulty in understanding the textual material, please see me so

that I can provide you some assistance in this respect.

**5.** Those who use materials from Internet for their term papers must acknowledge in the same way as if the source is an article or book.

**6.** I am usually available in my office (except when I am in class) during the week. However, if you need to discuss course materials, please make an appointment.

**7.** Dates for the tests will be announced at least two weeks in advance. The last test will be on the last working day, December 4, 2001

**8. Make-Up Tests. No make-up test unless for medical reasons supported by a doctor's certificate.**

**9.** The grades will not be marked on a curve. Instead, the following distribution will apply to all four tests :% 0-39 F; 40-49 D; 50-59 C; 60-69 C+; 70-74 B; 75-79 B+; 80-89 A; 90+ A+

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **1. Sociological Study of Family Life**

1.1 Current debates on what the family was, is and should be.

Conservative, liberal and feminist perspectives.

1.2 Understanding Marriages and Families: assumptions, realities, definitions.

1.3 Origins of the family -an historical account of the study of family

1.4 Families in history across cultures.

1.5 Variations across cultures in Kinship and Marriage Patterns.

**Readings:** Chapters 1 (pp.1-16) and Chapter 3.

○ **Evolution of Family Patterns in Canada.**

2.1 Family life among the indigenous Groups: the case of Inuit.

2.2 Family among the founding groups--Anglophone and Francophone duality

2.3 Family among the late-comers--Ethnic variation: Pluralism in family life

2.4 Pluralism and Convergence among Canadian families

**Readings:** Chapter 5

# ***First Test***

- Family Patterns in Canada: Demographic Trends

## **2.1. Major Types of Families in Canada**

## **2.2 Fertility Behaviour**

## **2.3 Canadian family: transition or decline?**

**Readings: Chapter 1 (pp.16-24) and Chapter 4, pp.81-91)**

## **4. Family and the Division of Labour**

### **5.1. History of productive and reproductive work**

### **5.2. Dual-Earner Families in Canada**

### **5.3. Division of domestic labour**

**Readings: Chapter10**

## **6. Family, Children and Parenthood**

### **6.1. Changing Patterns of Parenthood**

### **6.2. Socialization - issues in raising children**

### **6.3. Gender and Socialization**

**Readings: Chapter 11.**

## ***Second Test***

### **7. Families Under Stress**

**7.1. Violence in the Family: a perspective**

**7.2. Violence against spouses**

**7.3. Violence against children**

**7.4. Other forms of family violence**

**7.5. Summary and conclusions**

**Readings: Chapter 14**

### **8. Family, Law, and Social Policies**

**8.1. The nature family policies in Canada and other countries**

**8.2. A discussion of specific policies (a list to be announced in class later)**

**Reading: Chapter 15 (pp.357-366).**

### **9. Theoretical Perspectives on Changing Family Relations**

## **9.1. Standard Sociological Theories**

## **9.2. Feminist Approaches**

**Reading: Chapter 2**

## ***Third Test***

**10. In search of a Utopian Family Structure: historical and cross-cultural Examples and what we can learn from them**

**10.1. Family in Plato's Republic**

**10.2. Family Among Religious Communes: Oneida, Moravians**

**10.3. Family in Communist Societies: Russia and China**

**10.4. Matrilineal Family among the Nayars.**

**No Readings. Lecture materials only**

**11. Family: future directions**

**Readings: Chapter 15 (pp.344-357)**

# *Last Test*