

The University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology  
2006-2007R

SOCIOLOGY SOC 2460  
THE FAMILY  
(3 Credit Hours)  
Section A02 (Slot 5) 214 Tier

FALL 2006

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### REQUIRED TEXT

Riedman, Agnes, Mary Ann Lamana, and Adie Nelson, *Marriages and Families - Canadian Edition*. 2002-03

### 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, social and demographic perspectives. The main purpose of the course is to enable students to appreciate the pluralistic nature of families in Canada.

### METHOD OF EVALUATION

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. The *tentative* dates are specified in the course outline.

## IMPORTANT POINTS

**1. Voluntary withdrawal deadline: November 15, 2006.** Students will have the grades on their first test by this deadline. *Other than this, in accordance with a Departmental guideline, this course will not provide further written evaluative feedback prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline.*

**2. Since this course has multiple sections, the following rule is in force as per the University of Manitoba Senate Policy # 1307. 2.** This policy 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. On the issue of Academic Integrity:** Students should acquaint themselves with the University Policy on ‘Personation at Examinations (section 4.2.8) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. In addition to the University of Manitoba policies, the Faculty of Arts stipulates Penalties for Plagiarism as follows:

*The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit the student work that is suspected of being plagiarised to Internet sited designated to detect plagiarism.*

**4. Disruptions due to talking or early departures from the class room or late arrivals are inappropriate because they are especially distracting in a class of this size. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students in this course should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from this course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early or arrive late should inform the Instructor ahead of time either through email or by personal communication ahead of time. On this matter, please see the Section on Inappropriate and Disruptive Student Behaviour) in the *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar*.**

**5. 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.

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

**8. 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; 90-100 A+.**

**9. Your cellphone must be turned off while you are in class. However, for reasons of childcare or other family emergencies if you have to keep it on, you must have it on vibrator, not ring, mode. This code will be strictly enforced.**

**10. Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the Instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable arrangements. Those who seek assistance through Disability services will be suitable accommodated.**

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- 1. Sociological Study of Family Life**
  - 1.1 Changing definitions of what constitutes a family in contemporary Canadian Society: A review of understanding marriages, and families in a changing legal and social environment. Current debates on what the family was, is and should be: Conservative, liberal and feminist perspectives.**
  - 1.2 Understanding Contemporary 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: Chapter 1.**

- 2. Evolution of Family Patterns in Canada.**
  - 2.1 Family life among the First Nations peoples.**
  - 2.2 The impact of colonization on the family life of First Nations peoples: the case of Inuit.**
  - 2.3 Family among the founding groups– British and French family lives.**
  - 2.4 Family among the late-comers--Ethnic variation: Pluralism in family life**
  - 2.5 Pluralism and Convergence among Canadian families**

**No Readings for this section: Lectures Only**

***First Test - Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

**[20 Percent of the total course grade]**

- 3. The Demography of Canadian Families**
  - 3.1 The Diversity of Families in Canada**
  - 3.2 Fertility Behaviour as an Indicator of Changing Family Patterns**
  - 3.3 Families in Canada: Are they in Transition or Decline?**

**No Readings for this section: Lectures Only**

**4. Family, Gender, and Socialization**

- 4.1 Cultural Approaches to Gender Identity**
- 4.2 Socialization – issues in raising children**
- 4.3 Gender and Socialization**

**Readings: Chapter 3**

**5. Family and Issues of Parenthood**

- 5.1 Old and new images of parenthood**
- 5.2 Parenthood across social class and ethnicity**
- 5.3 Voluntary Childless Marriages – Do they indicate Decline of Parenthood?**
- 5.4 Single-Parent Families**
- 5.5 Singlehood – Is it a Rejection of Parenthood?**
- 5.6 Issues of Abortion and Adoption**

**Readings: Chapters 11 and 12**

<p><b><i>Second Test – October 31<sup>st</sup>.</i></b> <b>[30 percent of the course grade]</b></p>
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**6. Economic Changes and Family Life**

- 6.1 History of Productive and Reproductive work**
- 6.2 Economic Changes and their Impact on Families**
- 6.3 Dual-Earner Families in Canada**
- 6.4 Division of domestic labour**
- 6.5 Life among Poor Families**

**Readings: Chapter 13**

**7. Families Under Stress**

**7.1 Family Stressors**

**7.2 Theories of Family Crisis**

**7.3 Managing and Resolving Family crisis**

**Readings: Chapter 16**

**8. Abuse and Violence in Families**

**8.1 Abuse and Violence in the Family: a perspective**

**8.2 Abuse of and Violence against Spouses**

**8.3 Abuse of and Violence against Children**

**8.4 Other forms of Family Violence**

**8.5 Summary and Conclusions**

**Readings: Chapter 10**

***Third Test – November 21<sup>st</sup>***  
**[30 Percent of the total course grade]**

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

**9.1 Standard Sociological Theories**

**9.2 Feminist Approaches**

**Reading: Chapter 2**

**10. Family: future directions**

**No Readings for this section: *Lectures Only***

***Last Test – December 5<sup>th</sup>***  
**[20 Percent of the total course grade]**