

*University of Manitoba – Department of Sociology*

*SOC 7340 Sociology of the Family*

Instructor: E. Jane Ursel  
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 – noon (Or by appointment)  
Meeting Times: Wednesday 2:30PM to 5:30 PM  
Required Reading: Unnatural Selection – Mara Hvistendahl, Public Affairs, New York 2011  
(other readings as assigned)

**Course Content:**

This course will be organized around three levels of analysis of the family, the macro or global level of analysis, the intermediate or institutional level of analysis and the micro or interpersonal level of analysis. Greater emphasis will be placed on the first two levels of analysis, however, students are encouraged to choose which ever level of analysis they prefer for their major paper.

**Course Organization and Evaluation:**

The course will follow a seminar format which requires active student participation. In total, each student will lead four class discussions, two of which will involve presenting the assigned reading for the week, one will involve the presentation of the outline and argumentation for their major paper and the final will involve presentation of your major paper. When presenting the assigned readings for the week students will also be required to submit a 3 page analysis of the readings they led. It is expected that everyone will read the assigned readings each week and actively participate in discussions and debates. When presenting the **outline** for their major paper students will be required to submit 3 page written outline of their plan for the paper and references. The short presentation papers are due at the end of the class in which the articles/chapters are being presented. The final presentation on the students' major paper will occur on the final day of classes. The major term paper is due on April 6.

**Assignments/Assessments:**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 2 class presentations on assigned readings<br>and 3 page analysis for each presentation: @ 10 marks each | 20% |
| Major Paper outline and presentation   | 15% |
| Class participation  | 10% |
| Major Paper Presentation   | 10% |
| Final Paper  | 45% |

## Course Objective:

The content of the course and the method of evaluation have been designed to achieve two main goals. First, students should develop a sophisticated understanding of the analysis and theories covered in the course and the capacity to evaluate them critically. Second, the course is geared toward helping students examine problems and issues in the theoretical and policy literature relating to the family, thereby facilitating the identification of “researchable” topics (which may be pursued as a thesis).

**Note:** March 16, 2012 is the last date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty from first term half courses. You will have approximately one third of your total grade before that date.

## Policy on Grades and Tests:

The following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used.

|           |           |     |             |           |             |     |              |
|-----------|-----------|-----|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----|--------------|
| <b>A+</b> | 90 - 100% | 4.5 | Exceptional | <b>C+</b> | 66-69%      | 2.5 | Satisfactory |
| <b>A</b>  | 80 - 89%  | 4   | Excellent   | <b>C</b>  | 60-65%      | 2   | Adequate     |
| <b>B+</b> | 76 - 79%  | 3.5 | Very Good   | <b>D</b>  | 50-59%      | 1   | Marginal     |
| <b>B</b>  | 70 - 75%  | 3   | Good        | <b>F</b>  | 49% or less | 0   | Failure      |

**University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307** requires “a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance 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.

Only documented reasons will be accepted for missing a test or for late submissions of written assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to inform me as soon as possible of requests for deferrals for reasons of health, compassion or disability. Ordinarily, tests must be made-up within one week. With prior approval from instructor a late submission will be marked without penalty. **Without prior approval** a late submission will be docked one grade point per day overdue. A missed test, in which no makeup test has been arranged, will result in no grade for the missing test and/or assignment.

The University acknowledges the right of all students to observe Holy Days of their faith which fall within the academic year. I should be notified ahead of your intended absence.

If you have special learning needs (if you require extra time to write an exam, aids or other supports) please introduce yourself to me at the beginning of the term and suitable testing arrangements will be made.

## ***ACADEMIC INTEGRITY***

Academic integrity is a serious offence, with grave consequences. You should acquaint yourself with the University of Manitoba's academic regulations and policy, especially its policies on plagiarism, cheating (section 7.1) and exam personation (section 4.2.8) found in the University Undergraduate Calendar. The faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

## **SCHEDULE**

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> - First class, discussion on outline, assignments and expectations  
Sign up for class presentations

### **PART 1 MACRO PERSPECTIVES ON SEX, REPRODUCTION AND THE FAMILY**

Jan 11 - The Intersection of Culture, Technology and Reproduction  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 1-4 inclusive

Jan 18 - Skewing the Sex Ratio  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 5-8 inclusive

Jan 25 - Personal Solutions & Social Problems  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 9-12 inclusive

Feb. 1 - Personal, Social, Global Consequences  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 13-15 inclusive

### **PART 2 INTERMEDIATE / INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS**

Feb 15 - The State and the Family  
Readings: Ursel: Intro and Part 1

Feb 20 -24 - Mid Term Break

Feb 29 - The Family and the Welfare State  
Readings: National Council of Welfare – “The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty” Autumn 2011 Volume #130

March 7 - Neo Liberalism, and the Shrinking welfare state  
Readings: Olsen, G. “Toward Global Welfare State Convergence?: Family Policy and Health Care in Sweden, Canada and the United States

March 14 - Student Presentations – Major Paper Outline

**PART 3 MICRO LEVEL LOOK AT THE FAMILY**

March 21 - The High Cost of Caring & the Status of Women  
Readings: TBA

March 28 - Family Violence, Personal Dynamics and Social Intervention  
Readings: Ursel, Tutty & leMaistre (2008) Chapter 1

April 4 - Student Presentations of their major paper

April 6 - Major Paper Due.