

***SOC 7340 Sociology of the Family***  
**Section A01, 3 Credit Hours, Winter 2015**

Instructor: E. Jane Ursel  
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 – noon (Or by appointment)  
Meeting Times: Thursday 2:30 PM to 5:15 PM Rm 216 Tier  
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 3 days after the class in which the articles/chapters are being presented. The final presentation on the students' major paper will occur during the last two day class meetings. The major term paper is due on April 16.

**Assignments/Assessments:**

2 class presentations on assigned readings @ 5 marks each	10%
and 3 page analysis for each presentation: @ 10 marks each	20%
Major Paper outline presentation	10%
Outline submission	10%
Major Paper Presentation	15%
Final Paper	35%

**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 19, 2015 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

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.

***Unclaimed Term work disposal*** – any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become the property of the faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

## ***ACADEMIC INTEGRITY***

University policy on academic integrity will be enforced. A full description of academic integrity matters, including plagiarism and cheating, can be found in Section 8 of the General Regulations and Requirements of the University of Manitoba.

## **SCHEDULE**

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

- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> - First class, discussion on outline, assignments and expectations  
Sign up for class presentations
- Jan 15 - The Intersection of Culture, Technology and Reproduction  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 1-4 inclusive
- Jan 22 - Skewing the Sex Ratio  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 5-8 inclusive
- Jan 29 - Personal Solutions & Social Problems  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 9-12 inclusive
- Feb. 5 - Personal, Social, Global Consequences  
Readings: Hvistendahl – Chapters 13-15 inclusive

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

- Feb 12 - The State and the Family  
Readings: Ursel: Intro and Part 1
- Feb 16 -20 - Mid Term Break
- Feb 26 - The Family and the Welfare State  
Readings: National Council of Welfare – “The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty” Autumn 2011 Volume #130
- March 5 - Student Presentations – Major Paper Outline
- March 12 - 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

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

March 19 - The High Cost of Caring & the Status of Women  
Readings: TBA

March 26 - Family Violence, Personal Dynamics and Social Intervention  
Readings: Ursel, Tutty & leMaistre (2008) Chapter 1

April 02 - Student Presentations of their major paper

April 09 - Student Presentations of their major paper.

April 16 - Major paper due.