

*University of Manitoba - Department of Sociology*

***SOC 2460 Sociology of the Family***  
***Section A01, Slot 10, 3 credit hours***  
January - April 2008

***Instructor:*** Dr. Jane Ursel  
***Office:*** 108 Isbister Bldg.  
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***Class Time:*** 1:00 – 2:15 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays  
***Class Room:*** Rm. 301 Tier Bldg.  
***Office Hours:*** 10:30am – 1:00pm Thursdays (**or by appointment**)

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**Required Readings:** Changing Families: Relationships in Context - Anne-Marie Ambert  
Pearson Canada Inc., Toronto, Ontario 2006

**Other Readings:** A book review assignment will require students to select a book, from a prepared list of books on the family to review. The list of books and a guideline for doing the book review will be provided in Sept.

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a Sociological approach to the study of the family. The family will be analysed as an institution that both responds to and impacts on our social environment. In particular, we will examine the impact of gender roles on the structure of the family, the division of labour within the family, child rearing and the balancing of work and family life. Guest lectures will be arranged to have researchers and practitioners who study/work with families speak about the nature of their work. Overall the objective of this course is to help students develop an analytic approach to the family.

**Course Organization:** The Course is divided into four sections: Section 1 considers different theoretical, methodological and conceptual approaches to the family. Section 2 considers the family as a public institution and in relation to other public institutions. Section 3 considers the internal dynamics of families in partnering and parenting. Section 4 considers major challenges to the family, divorce, remarriage, family violence and child abuse.

**Evaluation:**

.....	January 31	Test 1	20%
	February 28	Book Review Outline	10%
	March 11	Test 2	25%
	March 20	Book Review	25%
	April 10	Final Test	20%

**Note:** March 20, 2008 is the last date for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty from first term half courses. You will have been assessed on 55% of your total grade before that date.

**Policy on Grades and Tests:**

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

A+	90 - 100%	4.5	Exceptional	C+	66 - 69%	2.5	Satisfactory
A	80 - 89%	4	Excellent	C	60 - 65%	2	Adequate
B+	76 - 79%	3.5	Very Good	D	50 - 59%	1	Marginal
B	70 - 75%	3	Good	F	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 and exam personation found in the University Undergraduate Calendar.

## SCHEDULE

### **PART I      CONCEPTUALIZING FAMILIES**

- Jan. 8      Introduction to the Course - Conceptualizing the Family  
Family as a Private Sphere, Family as a Public Institution
- Jan. 10      Theory and method of Family Studies  
**Readings:** Text Chap. 1
- Jan. 15      Historical and Cross Cultural Perspectives on Family Life  
**Readings:** Chap. 2
- Jan. 17      Ethnic and Immigrant Families  
**Readings:** Chap. 4
- Jan. 22      Has the Family Lost its Functions?  
**Readings:** Chap. 3

### **PART II      FAMILY AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

- Jan. 24      Economics and the Family  
**Readings:** Chap. 5
- Jan. 29      Family and Neighbourhoods  
**Readings:** Chap. 6

**Jan. 31                      Test 1      20%**

- Feb 5      Education, Family and Child Care  
**Readings:** Chap. 7
- Feb. 7      Family as a Public and Private Institution

### **PART III      PARTNERING AND PARENTING: INTERNAL FAMILY DYNAMICS**

- Feb. 12      Sex and Partnering  
**Readings:** Chap. 8
- Feb. 14      Marriage and Reproduction  
**Readings:** Chap. 9

- Feb. 26      Family Life Cycle  
**Readings:** Chap. 10
- Feb. 28      Couple Dynamics  
**Readings:** Chap 11  
**Book Review Outline Due**
- March 4      Couple Dynamics con't  
Guest speaker
- March 6      Parent Child Relationships  
**Readings:** Chap. 12

**March 11 Test 2 25%**

- March 13      Sibling Relationships  
**Readings:** Chap. 13

**PART IV PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN FAMILIES**

- March 18      Divorce and Remarriage  
**Readings:** Chap. 14

**March 20 Last Date for Voluntary Withdrawal**

- March 20      Divorce and Remarriage con't  
**Book Review Due**

- March 25      Domestic Violence  
**Reading:** Chap. 15

- March 27      Domestic Violence con't

- April 1      Social Services for Domestic Violence Victims  
Guest Speaker

- April 3      Child Abuse and Neglect  
**Readings:** Chap. 15

- April 8      Social Policy and its Impact on the Family  
**Readings:** Chap. 16

**April 10 Final Test 20%**