

University of Manitoba - Department of Sociology

SOC 2460 Sociology of the Family

Section A01, Slot 10, 3 credit hours

January - April 2009

Instructor: Dr. Jane Ursel
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Class Time: 1:00 – 2:15 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
Class Room: Rm. 301 Tier Bldg.
Office Hours: 3:00pm – 5:00pm Tuesdays & Thursdays (**or by appointment**)

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

Other Readings: Your major written assignment has two options the first option is a book review assignment. This 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 January.

Major Written Assignment: Students can choose from one of two options for their major written assignment: The first is a book review identified above. The second choice is to do an analysis of a family's experience negotiating a service or issue with a critical collateral institution, for example, school, hospital, police, etc. A detailed guideline will be provided to students in January identifying the issues they must address for each of the two assignments. This assignment is divided into two components an outline of their project worth 10% due February 24th and the full paper due March 19th.

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 29	Test 1	20%
	February 24	Major Paper Outline	10%
	March 10	Test 2	25%
	March 19	Major Paper	25%
	April 9	Final Test	20%

Note: March 19, 2009 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. 6 Introduction to the Course - Conceptualizing the Family
Family as a Private Sphere, Family as a Public Institution
- Jan. 8 Theory and method of Family Studies
Readings: Text Chap. 1
- Jan. 13 Historical and Cross Cultural Perspectives on Family Life
Readings: Chap. 2
- Jan. 15 Ethnic and Immigrant Families
Readings: Chap. 4
- Jan. 20 Has the Family Lost its Functions?
Readings: Chap. 3

PART II FAMILY AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

- Jan. 22 Economics and the Family
Readings: Chap. 5
- Jan. 27 Economics and the Family con't
Readings: Chap. 5

Jan. 29 Test 1 20%

- Feb. 3 Education, Family and Child Care
Readings: Chap. 7
- Feb. 5 Family and Neighbourhoods
Readings: Chap. 6 (optional)

PART III PARTNERING AND PARENTING: INTERNAL FAMILY DYNAMICS

- Feb. 10 Sex and Partnering
Readings: Chap. 8
- Feb. 12 Marriage and Reproduction
Readings: Chap. 9

Feb. 24 Family Life Cycle
Readings: Chap. 10

Feb. 26 Family Life Cycle con't
Readings: Chap 10
Book Review Outline Due

March 3 Couple Dynamics
Readings: Chapter 11

March 5 Couple Dynamics con't
:

March 10 Test 2 25%

March 12 Parent Child Relationships
Readings: Chap. 12

PART IV PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN FAMILIES

March 17 Sibling Relationships
Readings: Chap. 13

March 19 Major Paper Due
Last Date for Voluntary Withdrawal

March 19 Divorce and Remarriage
Reading: Chap. 14

March 24 Domestic Violence
Reading: Chap. 15

March 26 Domestic Violence con't

March 31 Social Services for Domestic Violence Victims
Guest Speaker

April 2 Child Abuse and Neglect
Readings: Chap. 15

April 7 Social Policy and its Impact on the Family
Readings: Chap. 16

April 9 Final Test 20%