

University of Manitoba - Department of Sociology

SOC 2460 Sociology of the Family

Section A01, Slot 5, 3 credit hours

September – December 2009

Instructor: Dr. Jane Ursel
Office: 108 Isbister Bldg.
Telephone: 474-8979
Email: jursel@cc.umanitoba.ca

Class Time: 10:00am – 11:15 am Tuesdays & Thursdays
Class Room: Rm. 214 Tier Bldg.
Office Hours: 2:30pm – 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 is a book review. This will require students to select one book, from a prepared list of books, fictional and non-fictional. These books will deal with different aspects of family life. The list of books and a guideline for doing the book review will be provided in September. This assignment is divided into two components an outline of the book review worth 10% is due October 20th and the full book review is due November 17th

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:

.....	October 8	Test 1	20%
	October 20	Book Review Outline	10%
	November 5	Test 2	25%
	November 17	Book Review	25%
	Dec. 8	Final Test	20%

Note: November 18, 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 (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

PART I CONCEPTUALIZING FAMILIES

Sept. 10 Introduction to the Course - Conceptualizing the Family
Thurs. Family as a Private Sphere, Family as a Public Institution

Sept. 15 Different conceptualizations of the Family
Tues. **Readings:** Text Chap. 1

Sept. 17 Historical and Cross Cultural Perspectives on Family Life
Thurs **Readings:** Chap. 2

Sept. 22 Ethnic and Immigrant Families
Tues. **Readings:** Chap. 4

Sept. 24 The Family and institutional co-ordination
Thurs. **Readings:** Chap. 3

PART II FAMILY AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Sept. 29 Economics and the Family
Tues. **Readings:** Chap. 5

Oct. 1 Economics and the Family con't
Thurs. **Readings:** Chap. 5

Oct. 6 Family and Neighbourhoods
Tues. **Readings:** Chap. 6

Oct. 8 Test 1 20%
Thurs.

Oct. 13 Education, Family and Child Care
Tues. **Readings:** Chap. 7

PART III PARTNERING AND PARENTING: INTERNAL FAMILY DYNAMICS

Oct. 15 Sex and Partnering
Thurs. **Readings:** Chap. 8

Oct. 20 Marriage and Reproduction **Book Review Outline Due Oct. 20**
Tues. **Readings:** Chap. 9

Oct. 22 Family Life Cycle
Thurs. **Readings:** Chap. 10

Oct. 27 Family Life Cycle con't
Tues. **Readings:** Chap 10

Oct. 29. Couple Dynamics - guest speaker
Thurs. **Readings:** Chapter 11

Nov. 3 Couple Dynamics con't
Tues. :

Nov. 5 **Test 2 25%**
Thurs.

Nov. 10 Parent Child Relationships
Tues. **Readings:** Chap. 12

PART IV PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN FAMILIES

Nov. 12 Sibling Relationships
Thurs. **Readings:** Chap. 13

Nov. 17 Divorce and Remarriage **Major Paper Due Nov. 17**
Tues. **Reading:** Chap. 14

November 18 Last Date for Voluntary Withdrawal

Nov. 19 Divorce and Remarriage con't Guest speaker
Thurs. **Reading:** Chap. 14

Nov. 24 Domestic Violence
Tues. **Reading:** Chap. 15

Nov. 26 Domestic Violence con't
Thurs.

Dec. 1 Child Abuse and Neglect
Tues **Readings:** Chap. 15

Dec. 3 Child Abuse and Neglect con't

Dec. 8 **Final Test 20%**