

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOC 271 (A1): Introduction to the Family

Fall 2015

Instructor: Terra Manca, PhD candidate

Class Time: T R 11:00-12:20

Email: tmanca@ualberta.ca

Class Location: Humanities Centre L-1

Office: 4-22 HM Tory Building

Office Hours: by appointment

Access to instructor: I prioritize answering student emails promptly, but I may take a few business days to respond. Please email me well in advance should you need to schedule an appointment, especially the week prior to an exam.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology 271 offers sociological perspectives about various family issues. This course emphasizes how family is performed and reproduced in relation to dominant norms, cultural values, and social contexts. We will analyze some of the ways that sociological inquiry can explain family relationships and the various forms that family can take. Particularly, we will discuss issues pertaining to mate selection; family dissolution, reconstitution, and change; as well as dynamics involving couples, kin, age, ethnicity, class, and gender. An overview of how we will address each of these topics is included in the course reading list below.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe sociological approaches to understanding “the family.”
2. Explain the implications of various conceptualizations of “the family.”
3. Integrate sociological perspectives into their understanding of the challenges that families face.
4. Critically reflect on widespread understandings of diverse familial relationships, structures, and problems.

We will work towards each of these objectives using sociological theories and methods to analyze family trends in the contemporary Canadian context.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:



Cheal, David and Patrizia Albanese. 2014. *Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives (Third Edition)*. Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Students are required to use the third edition of this text. Older editions are very different.

* **On Reserve in Rutherford Library** HQ 560 C3586 2014

Journal Articles: Required materials posted on eClass are available through the University of Alberta library.

CLASSROOM STRUCTURE AND ATMOSPHERE

COURSE STRUCTURE: The course will include lectures, video documentaries, ungraded class activities, and examinations. You are expected to complete course readings prior to attending class. It is very important that you stay up to date with all the course materials and attend lectures. If you are having difficulty keeping up, then make an appointment to meet with me. Likewise, if you have a compelling reason to miss a graded activity or an exam, then contact me as soon as possible.

RESPECT AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR: Students must demonstrate respect at all times. You will have access to eClass discussions to reflect on course materials. All eClass discussions are optional, but should be engaging, reflective, and respectful. Any disrespectful behaviour on eClass or in class will impact your grade.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT: Students registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) should provide me with a “Letter of Introduction” as soon as possible. If you need accommodations, then please make an appointment to discuss them with me.

If you have yet to register with Student Accessibility Services, then contact them immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; Website: www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

TECHNOLOGY & CLASS ENGAGEMENT: Students are expected to refrain from using the internet, email, social media, or text messaging during class. Regardless of whether you believe these activities impact your learning, they disrupt other students in the classroom.

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Activity:	Percent of Grade	Date
eClass assignments	15%	Due: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 8th • November 5th
First Midterm	25%	October 1 st
Second Midterm	30%	October 29 th
Final Exam	30%	Date to be determined and posted on Beartracks Will be between December 10 th and 22 nd

* An overview of each component will be discussed is on page 4.
Further details will be discussed in class.

Grading Scheme			
Letter Grade	Percentage	Description	Value
A+	90-100		4.0
A	86-89	Excellent	4.0
A-	82-85		3.7
B+	78-81		3.3
B	74-77	Good	3.0
B-	70-73		2.7
C+	66-69		2.3
C	62-65	Satisfactory	2.0
C-	58-61		1.7
D+	54-57	Poor	1.3
D	50-53	Minimal Pass	1.0
F	0-49	Fail	0.0

EXAMINATIONS (85%)

There will be two mid-term exams (25% and 30%) and one final exam (30%). Exams will be composed of multiple choice questions.

Exams will include lecture material that is additional to the assigned reading. You are responsible to learn any content covered in lectures, guest lectures, videos, and assigned readings throughout the course.

The first midterm will cover all material covered to date (October 1st) The second midterm (November 5th) will cover all content to date, but will focus on material covered after the first midterm. The final exam will also cover the full course but will focus on the last third of the course.

ECLASS ASSIGNMENTS (15%)

Twice this semester you will respond to an open-ended question through eClass. I will post two to three questions on eClass a minimum of one week prior to the stated deadline. You must respond to one of these questions before each due date (October 8th and November 5th). **These questions will count towards 15% of your final grade (7.5% per question).**

The length of responses to these questions must be less than 200 words. Grammar and spelling will affect your grade if responses are difficult to interpret.

The purpose of these questions is to promote reflective learning, critical thinking, and engagement with course material. As such, there are multiple “correct” ways to answer questions. Pick **one main point** (or thesis statement) that relates to the question. Both questions will require that students demonstrate these criteria:

1. An ability to explain how course material relates to your main point.
 - a. Use **at least 1 of the assigned journal articles on eClass**
 - b. Demonstrate your engagement with **material covered during lecture**
2. The capacity to integrate information covered during lectures with other course materials; and
3. Reflection or critical thinking.

We will review what these criteria mean prior to the first completing the first question.

**In general, I will not accept late assignments with the exception of extreme circumstances. If you believe your circumstances would qualify, then contact me immediately.*

MY PERFORMANCE

I will provide an opportunity for you to provide anonymous feedback about my teaching.

Required Note: Policy about course outlines can be found in §23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

ABSENCES FROM EXAMS (§23.5.6)

UNACCEPTABLE ABSENCES:

Instructors and Faculties use discretion to determine whether absence from an exam is acceptable. The University Calendar (§23.5.6) lists examples of unacceptable reasons, such as “personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements.” “**When a student is absent from a term or final exam without acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the exam missed.**” (University Calendar §23.5.6).

APPLYING FOR A JUSTIFIABLE ABSENCE:

Absence from midterms: Students are expected to speak with me about potential absences at the earliest date possible. Should you be unable to speak with me prior an absence, then you must contact me **within two working days** of the missed exam (assuming your circumstances permit). **Students must provide documentation pertaining to the absence unless the reason is incapacitating illness, in which case a medical note is NOT required.** In absence of other documentation, students must provide me with a **statutory declaration form**, which can be obtained from **your Faculty office** or the **Office of the Registrar**.

Absence from the final exam: I cannot grant excused absences for the final examination. **You must apply to your Faculty office within two working days should you fail to write the final exam.** Your department will only approve applications involving an incapacitating illness and other extreme circumstances.

Should your department approve you to write a deferred exam, it will be held:

Time: Saturday, January 16th, 2016 at 9:00AM

Location: BUS 1-06

ACADEMIC HONESTY: PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Additional information about Academic Integrity and access to the Academic Integrity Handbook for students is available on the Office of Student Judicial Affairs website <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/>

Further material about academic honesty can be accessed through the Faculty of Arts “Don’t do it” sheet <http://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student-services/documents/dont-do-it-enclosure-2015.pdf> and University Governance “Don’t Cheat” sheet <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/StudentAppeals/DontCheatsheet.aspx>

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, ECLASS ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS

Week 1 (September 1 & 3): Introduction to the course concepts

READING: Chapter 1 & Fox article

Fox, Bonnie. 2015. "Feminism on Family Sociology: Interpreting Trends in Family Life." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 52(2): 204-211.

Week 2 (September 8 & 10): "The family;" Canadian families

READING: Chapters 2 & Daly article

Daly, Kerry. 2003. "Family Theory Versus the Theories Families Live By." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 65: 771-784.

Week 3 (September 15 & 17): Gender; intimacy; and sexuality

READING: Chapter 3 & Willey article

Willey, Robin. 2013. "The Evangelical Sexual Marketplace: An Ethnographic Analysis of the Exchange and Conversion of Erotic Capital in an Evangelical Church." *Canadian Journal of Family and Youth* 5(1): 1-37.

September 15: Add/drop deadline

Week 4 (September 22 & 24): Parenting

READING: Chapter 4 & Reich articles

Reich, Jennifer A. 2014. "Imagined Gated Communities and the Privilege of Choice." *Gender & Society* 28(5): 679-704.

Week 5 (September 29 & October 1): Midterm 1; Breaking up, divorce, remarriage

READING: Chapters 5

September 29: Breaking up, divorce, remarriage

October 1: MIDTERM 1 (25% of final grade)

Midterm includes all course material covered between September 3rd-29th

October 2: Course withdrawal deadline (50% fee refund)

Week 6 (October 6 & 8): Family rituals and rites of passage

READING: Chapter 8 & Grazian article

Grazian, David. 2007. "The Girl Hunt: Urban Nightlife and the Performance of Masculinity as Collective Activity," *Symbolic Interaction* 30(2): 221-243.

***eClass question 1 due October 8th** (7.5% of final grade)

Week 7 (October 13 & 15): Mid-life changes; aging families; family members

READING: Chapter 6 & 7

Week 8 (October 20 & 22): Families and work; Low-income families

READING: Chapter 9 & 10

Week 9 (October 27 & 29): Marriage, controversy, and social change; Midterm 2

READING: Chapter 11

October 27: Marriage, controversy, and social change

October 29: MIDTERM 2 (30% of final grade)

Midterm includes all course material covered from September 3rd - October 27th, but will focus on topics covered from October 6th-27th

Week 10 (November 3 & 5): Immigrant families; visible minority families; Aboriginal families

READING: Chapter 12 & Bohaker and Iacovetta article

Bohaker, Heidi and Franca Iacovetta. 2009. "Making Aboriginal People 'Immigrants Too': A Comparison of Citizenship Programs for Newcomers and Indigenous Peoples in Postwar Canada, 1940s-1960s." *The Canadian Historical Review* 90(3): 427-461.

*eClass question 2 due **November 5th** (7.5% of final grade)

READING WEEK!!! (November 10 & 12): No classes!

Week 11 (November 17 & 19): Families with disabilities; Family problems, violence, and mistreatment

READING: Chapter 13 & 14

Week 12 (November 24 & 26): Family policies in Canada

READING: Chapter 15 & Gazso article

Gazso, Amber. 2009. "Reinvigorating the Debate: Questioning the Assumptions about and Models of 'The Family' in Canadian Social Assistance Policy." *Women's Studies International Forum* 32: 150-162.

November 30: Course withdrawal deadline (no refund)

Week 13 (December 1 & 3): Projections about families and course review

READING: Chapter 16 & Review for your final exam

FINAL EXAM (30% of final grade): Date, time, and place to be announced (between December 10-22nd).

*You are responsible to check Bear Tracks for the final date.

Final exam includes all course material covered from September 3rd-December 3rd, but focuses on material covered from November 3rd-December 3rd.

(Chapters 1-16, articles in this syllabus, and any topics covered during class)