COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr. L. Strohschein  
OFFICE: Room 6-13 Tory  
e-mail: l.strohschein@ualberta.ca  
LOCATION: V 103  
MWF 11:00 - 11:50 am  
TEACHING ASSISTANT: Sydney Sheloff (sheloff@ualberta.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to develop in students a sociological appreciation of the linkages between biography and social change, that is, to be able to think creatively about how lives reflect the imprint of society, even as society itself is constantly changing. We begin by describing and evaluating the principles of a life course approach, then draw on Second Demographic Transition theory to explore the drivers and implications of contemporary social change. In the remainder of the course, we apply life course principles and concepts to understand life from childhood to old age. Specifically, we will survey the key experiences of each stage of life and consider how these stages are themselves uniquely embedded in historical time and place. For example, we will address issues such as what makes Millennials different from Generation Z, whether teen pregnancy remains a pressing social problem, how patterns of couple formation are changing in the 21st century, and what it means to live in an aging society. As there is a vast body of research in life course sociology, we must necessarily be selective in the topics that can be covered; however, students are encouraged to bring topics that are of interest to them to the attention of the instructor.

Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

PREREQUISITES:

Either SOC 241 or PSYCO 241 (or permission of the instructor).

COURSE TEXT:

A course pack is available at the UofA Bookstore. Articles not provided in the course pack can be retrieved electronically (click on the links in the weekly readings below).

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.
EVALUATION:

Your grade for the course will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 11, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 18, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection papers (Feb. 1; Mar. 15)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2 @ 10% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(tba)</td>
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</table>

EXAMS:

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

Students with an excused absence must write the missed exam rather than shift the weight of that exam to other course requirements. Students are required to contact the instructor within two working days following the missed exam (or as soon as the student is able, with regard to the circumstances) to apply for an excused absence. Excused absences are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor.

If a student fails to write the final exam, he or she must formally apply to his or her Faculty within two working days following the missed exam in order to be considered for a deferral. The decision to grant a deferred final exam is not the instructor’s. Deferred examinations are intended to accommodate students who have experienced an incapacitating illness or severe domestic affliction; applications based on minor or inconsequential ailments will not be approved. Please also note that as stated in the Calendar, “a deferred examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.”

REFLECTION PAPERS:

On two occasions over the term, students will submit a reflection paper of approximately two typed double-spaced pages. Each reflection paper will be a response to a question posed in class by the instructor. Reflection papers will be assessed for cogency and composition, and each is worth 10% of the final grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

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 (https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-integrity) 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.
RECORDING LECTURES:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, 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. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 content author(s).

GRADING:

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89-93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>84-88</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>Good</td>
<td>79-83</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
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<td>74-78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
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SCHEDULE FOR THE TERM:

Jan. 7 - 11   Theories of socialization

Required reading:


Jan. 14 - 18   Principles of the life course

Required reading:

Jan. 21 - 25  Social networks

Required reading:


Jan. 28  What’s luck got to do with it?

Required reading:


Feb. 1  Assignment #1 due

Jan. 30 – Feb. 8  Global shifts: Our world in flux

Required readings:


Feb. 11  Mid-term exam #1

Feb. 13 - 15  Generations

Required reading:


Feb 18 - 22  Reading week
Feb. 25 - Mar. 1    Children and childhoods

Required reading:


Mar. 4 - 8    Adolescence

Required reading:


Mar. 11 - 15    Transition to adulthood

March 15    Assignment #2 due

Required reading:


March 18    Mid-term exam #2

Mar. 20 - 22    Romantic relationships and couple formation

Required reading:


Mar. 25 - 29    Midlife: Work and family roles

Required readings:


Apr. 1 - 5  Later life

Required reading:


Apr. 8  Aging societies

Required reading:


Apr. 10  Wrap up and review