



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER SEMESTER 2015

SO 2710 (A3) – Sociology of the Family 3 (3-0-0) UT 45 Hrs.

INSTRUCTOR: René R. Gadacz, Ph.D **PHONE:** 780.539.2831
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OFFICE HOURS: Daily; by appointment; drop-ins welcome

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S): SO 1000 or equivalent

REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Susan McDaniel and Lorne Tepperman, 2015 (5th edition), Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families. Pearson/Prentice-Hall: Toronto.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: The structure and function of the family system, historically and cross-culturally will be explored in this course. The family system in contemporary societies emphasizing its institutional characteristics and current trends will be a focus.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 (3-0-0) UT 45 hours

DELIVERY MODE(S): lectures, class discussion, group work, class presentations, written tests, written projects

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be taught: the history of contemporary Western family forms and processes; theories/research approaches to the study of the relationship formation and dynamics, family/married life, families/marriages in the context of work, the economy, and contemporary family-oriented policies; the socio-legal aspects of family/marriage responsibilities, child-bearing and parenting,

separation and divorce; the challenges of family/marriage/parenting in a diverse and multicultural society like Canada.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will: gain insights into the formation/maintenance of intimate relationships in their own lives; learn how they are socialized into marital roles; how they can successfully transition to parenthood; approach family and relationship responsibilities in fair and equitable ways; understand how relationships and families are impacted by social pressures and stress and how conflict can be resolved; be able to make informed personal decisions regarding modern innovations in family structure in the context of social-technological change.

TRANSFERABILITY: Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Transfers to: U of A, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, KUC.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Please refer to the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at – www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

GRADING CONVERSION CHART

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	95 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 94	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 75	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Mid-Term Exam (20%)..... February 26

Final Exam (30%)..... TBD

Guest Speakers Feedback Notes (5%)..... TBD

Vanier Institute Presentations (groups of 2; 1 @ 5%)..... **starts** January 13

Semester Projects:

⇒ **(1)** Research a social dating site (e.g. eHarmony) (20%)..... Feb 5th

or,

Research how social networking sites like Facebook, etc., contribute to family cohesion and/or relationship satisfaction (20%)

⇒ **(2)** Your Family Genogram (20%)..... March 24th

or,

Milestones: Your Family Developmental History & Culture (20%)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The *Mid-Term Exam* will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions (20%). The *Final Exam* will be in two parts – (1) an exam scheduled during the final exam period (date TBA), and (2) a take-home portion given a week in advance of the last day of classes and due on that day (April 14), for a combined (1)+(2) value of 30%.

ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class discussions. In addition –

1. More than **3** absences (without medical proof or other *legitimate* documentation, etc.) could result in being barred from writing the final exam
2. All exams, averaged (where applicable), must have a passing mark to obtain a passing grade in the course; otherwise, the final mark shall be 'F'

Late assignments (or any assignment/course components) will result in a deduction of 5% PER DAY, up to and including the day of a late submission, unless immediate or prior arrangements, based on extenuating circumstances, have been made. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated. Example: if an assignment is worth 20%, one day late makes it 15%, etc.

PLEASE NOTE:

🔗 What the other semester course work entails will be discussed in detail as classes get underway and as the course progresses. You will be provided with instructions and relevant information on Moodle with plenty of lead time in regards to the Vanier Institute Report presentations, the projects (analysis of dating sites like eHarmony)/social network sites (like Facebook); how to do a proper Family Genogram, or Family Developmental History), etc.

♥ For some of the semester course work (except exams), students may choose to work with a partner (both students will share the mark for their work), or you may work individually. *However, the daily Vanier Institute presentations will be done by a group of 2 students.*

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week of (Winter 2015):

January 6, 8 – Course outlines and course requirements; McDaniel and Tepperman, Chapter 1: definitions, theories, research, history...

January **13, 15** – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 2: historical, social and economic origins and trends

The Vanier Institute article presentations begin on January 13th

January 20, 22 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 3: the formation of families

January 27, 29 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 4: marriage, cohabitation, same-sex relationships and other forms of intimacies

February 3, 5 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 5: maintaining viable relationships in marriage, cohabitation and in other forms of intimacies

Analysis of Social Dating sites/Social Networking sites due February 5th

February 10, 12 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 6: child-bearing, parenting and socialization

February 17, 19 – **WINTER BREAK, no classes [February 16-20 inclusive]**

February 24, 26 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 7: the relationship between work and family life **MID-TERM EXAM, February 26th**

March 3, 5 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 8: stress and violence in families and in relationships

March 10, 12 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 9: ending relationships, divorce, separation, estrangement

March 17, 19 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 9: ending relationships, effects on children, grandparents and other family members, law and legislation

March 24, 26 – Cont'd; McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 10: family transitions
Family Genograms or Family Development Histories due March 24th

March 31, April 2 – Cont'd; Chapter 10: second (or more) marriages, relationships and families, new kinds of families

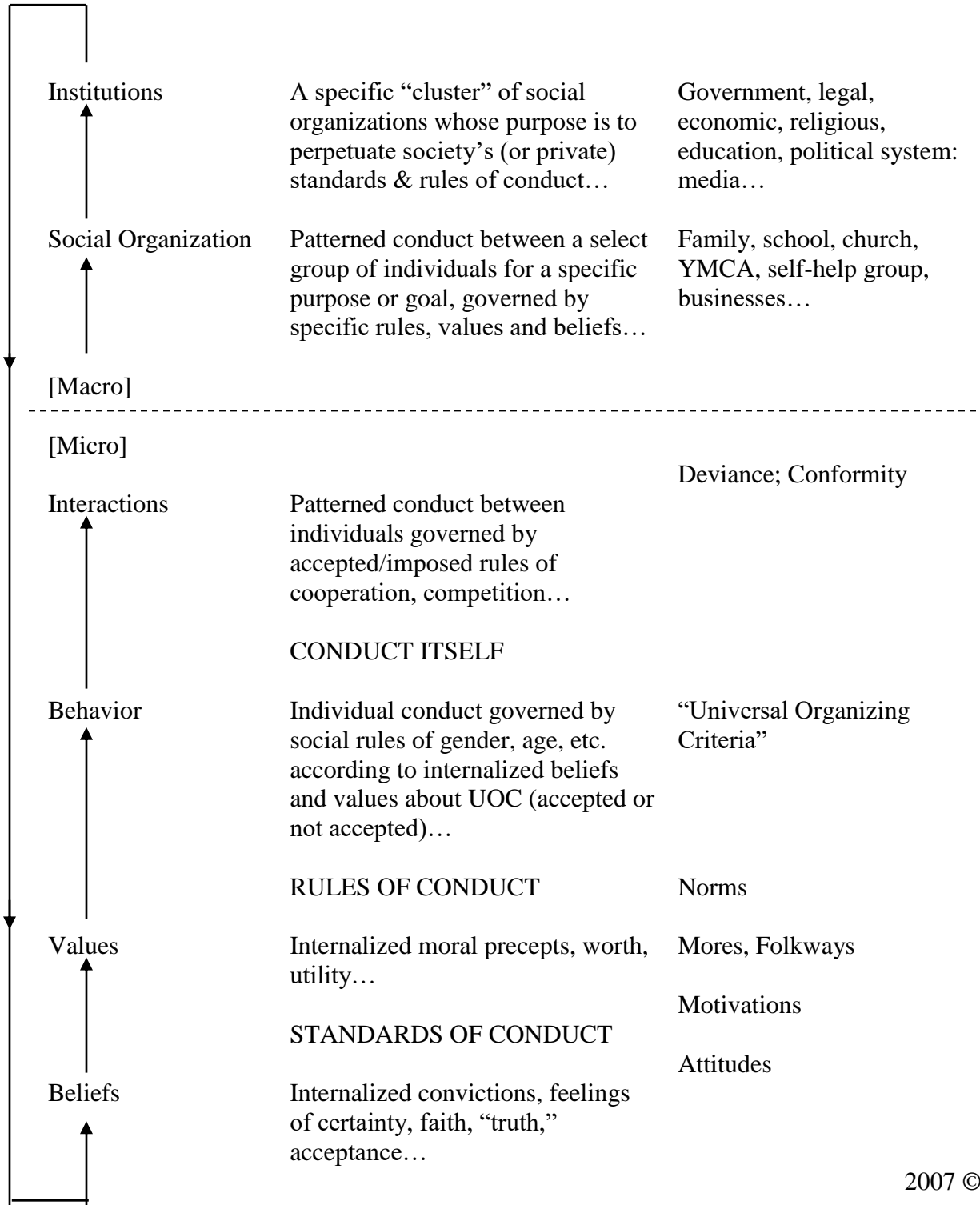
April 7, 9 – Cont'd; Chapter 11: the future, law, legislation, public policy

April 14 – Cont'd; and wrap-up/review...

[Classes end Tuesday, April 14, 2015]

GENERAL SCHEME OF SOCIETY

“The Social System”



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Six Ways To Make This Course More Valuable:

- 1. Participate, to engage your learning**
- 2. Question, to enhance your learning**
- 3. Read, to expand your learning**
- 4. Reflect, to measure your learning**
- 5. Apply, to transfer your learning**
- 6. Innovate, to adapt your learning**