



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER SEMESTER 2014

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: D. Cheal & P. Albanese, eds., 2014 (3rd ed.), Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives. Oxford: Don Mills

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

OUTCOMES: Students will become familiar with multiple marriage and family structures, theoretical frameworks, and research methodologies in family research. They will gain insights into the formation of intimate relationships, the development of marital roles, the transition to parenthood, the acquisition of gender roles, creation of family/relationship division of labor. Students will understand how families react under different kinds of stress and how this may create marital tensions and divorce.

They will be able to identify transitions and innovations in family structure in the context of social-technological change.

SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, rash, itching, trouble breathing. Changes in vision and fainting may occur, including unusual fatigue. Seek medical attention if other side effects occur. Limit coffee and alcohol intake.

TRANSFERABILITY: Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Transfers to: UA, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, GMU, 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-Semester Test (20%)..... February 26

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

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

Vanier Institute Presentations (groups of 2; 1 x = 5%)..... **starts** January 15

Semester Projects:

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

or,

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

⇒ **(2)** Your Family Genogram (20%)..... March 19th

or,

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

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The *Mid-Semester Test* will consist of multiple-choice questions only (20%). The *Final Exam* will be in two parts – (1) an in-class portion on the last day of classes (April 9) where you will have to define terms/concepts based on all lecture and text materials [a list of terms/concepts will be provided to you in advance for study purposes], and (2) a multiple choice question portion during the final exam period (date TBD), 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 exceptional circumstances, have been made.

Assignments will not be accepted after two (2) days. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated.

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 2014):

January 8 – Course outlines and course requirements; Cheal and Albanese (C & A), Chapter 1 – forms. Definitions, and theories

January 15 – Cont'd; Chapter 2 – historical and contemporary variations
The Vanier Institute Report presentations begin on January 15th

January 22 – Cont'd; Chapter 3 – intimacy, commitment, and family formation

January 29 – Cont'd; Chapter 4 - parenting

February 5 – Cont'd; Chapter 5 – separation and divorce

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

February 12 – Cont'd; Chapter 6/7 – relations in middle-aged families; aging in families

February 19 – **WINTER BREAK, no classes [February 17-21 inclusive]**

February 26 – Cont'd; Chapter 8 – marriage and death **MID-TERM EXAM**

March 5 – Cont'd; Chapter 9/10 – families and work; family poverty

March 12 – Cont'd; Chapter 11 – same-sex marriage and families

March 19 – Cont'd; Chapter 12 – immigrant, minority, aboriginal families
Family Genograms or Family Development Histories due March 19th

March 26 – Cont'd; Chapter 13 – families and disabilities

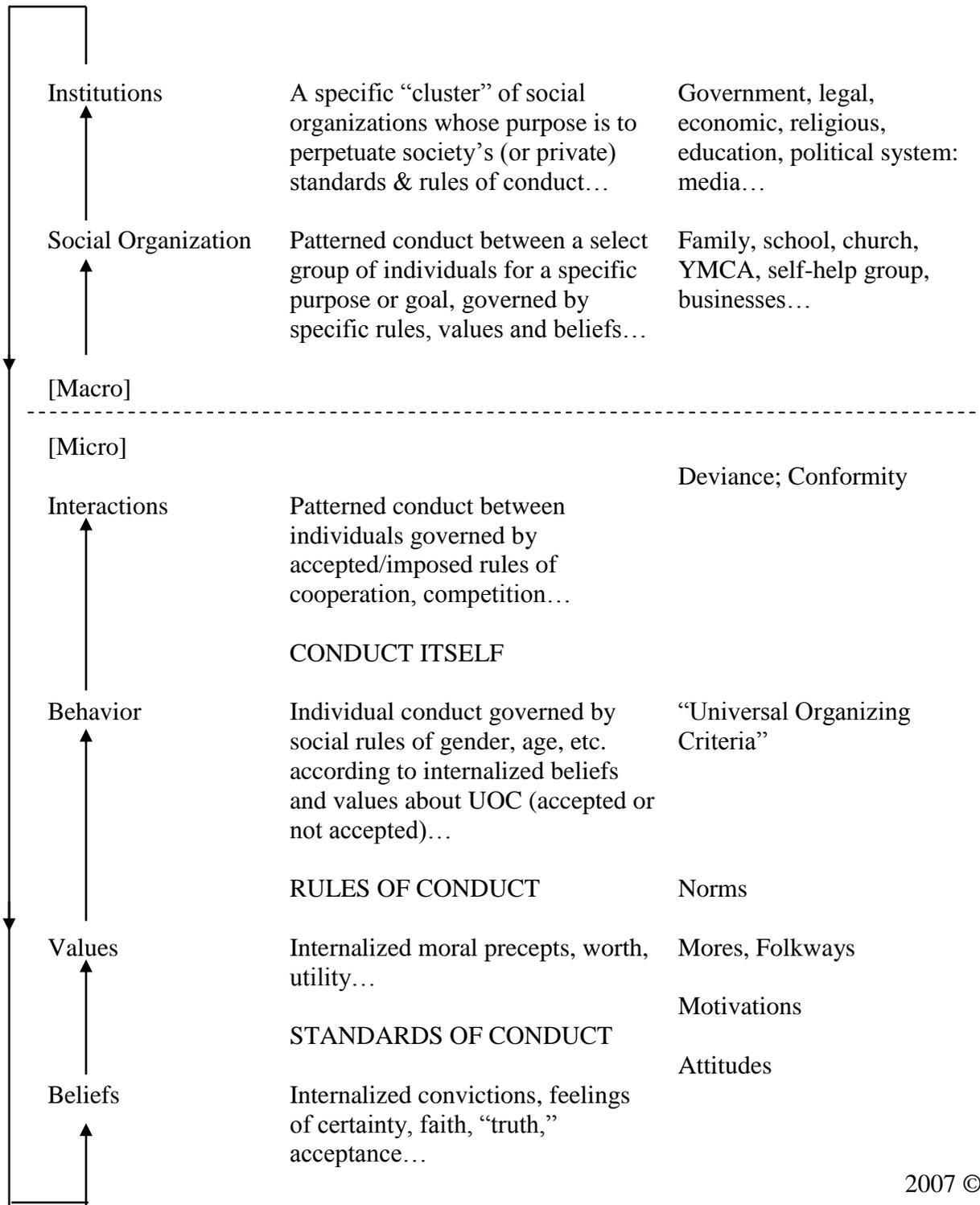
April 2 – Cont'd; Chapter 14 – violence in the family

April 9 – Cont'd; Chapter 15/16 – family policies and the future for families

[Classes end Monday, April 14, 2014]

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**