



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

SO2710 (A3) Sociology of the Family - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: René R. Gadacz, Ph.D **PHONE:** 780.539.2831
OFFICE: C-216 **E-MAIL:** rgadacz@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Daily; by appointment; drop-ins welcome

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S): SO1000

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 credits / 3 hours per week

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: Transfers to: U of A, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, KUC

Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

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 25

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

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

Vanier Institute Presentations (groups of 2; 1 @ 5%)..... **starts** January 14

Semester Projects:

⇒ **(1)** Research a social dating site (e.g. eHarmony) (20%)..... **due** Feb 4th

or,

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

⇒ **(2)** Your Family Genogram (20%)..... **due** March 22nd

or,

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

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The *Mid-Term Exam* will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions (20%), as likely will the *Final Exam* (30%).

ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES:

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

Late assignments (or any assignment/course component) will result in a deduction of 5% PER DAY, up to and including the day of a late submission, however, personal and family emergencies and extenuating circumstances will be accommodated *only* when legitimate documentation is provided. Example: if an assignment is worth 20%, one day late makes it 15% and so on. Forgetfulness and/or poor planning won't 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 other instructions

and relevant information in class/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. **SEE 'ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES' ON MOODLE RIGHT NOW!**

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 (and no write-up required!)*

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>

Or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week of (Winter 2016):

January 7 – Course outlines and course requirements...

January 12, **14** – McDaniel and Tepperman, Chapter 1: definitions, theories, research, history... **Vanier Institute article presentations begin on January 14th**

January 19, 21 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 2: social and economic origins and trends...

January 26, 28 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 3, the formation of families; start Chapter 4: marriage, cohabitation, same-sex relationships and other forms of (e.g. robot) intimacies...

February 2, 4 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 4, cont'd; Chapter 5: maintaining viable relationships in marriage, cohabitation and in other forms of intimacies...

Analysis of Social Dating sites/Social Networking due February 4th

February 9, 11 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 5, cont'd; Chapter 6: child-bearing, parenting and socialization...

February 16, 18 – **WINTER BREAK, no classes [February 15-19 inclusive]**

February 23, 25 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 6, cont'd; Chapter 7: the relationship between work and family life... **MID-TERM EXAM, February 25th**

March 1, 3 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 7, cont'd; Chapter 8: stress and violence in families and in relationships...

March 8, 10 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 8, cont'd; Chapter 9: ending relationships, divorce, separation, estrangement...

March 15, 17 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 9: ending relationships, effects on children, grandparents and other family members, law and legislation...

March 22, 24 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 10: family transitions
Family Genograms or Family Development Histories due March 22nd

March 29, 31 – Chapter 10: second (or more) marriages, relationships and families, new kinds of families...

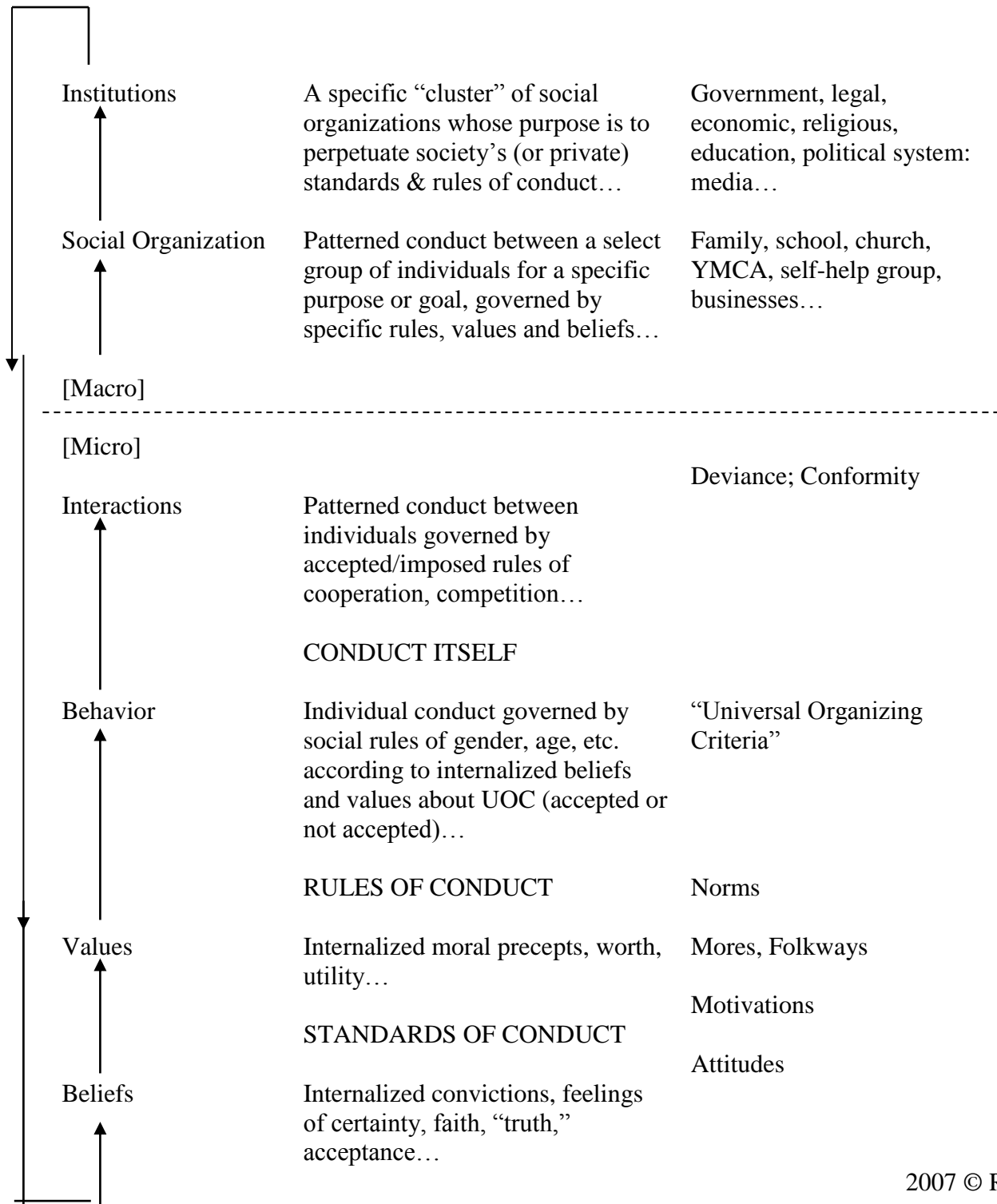
April 5, 7 – Chapter 11: the future, law, legislation, public policy...

April 12 – Cont'd, and wrap-up

[Classes end Wednesday, April 13, 2016]

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**