

COURSE OUTLINE

Soci371-01: Sociology of Families

University of Calgary – Department of Sociology
Winter 2014
Lecture: MWF 9:00 – 9:50 AM, in EEEL 161

Instructor: Dr. Annette Tézli
Office: SS950
Phone: 403-220-6513 (during office hours only)
Email: atezli@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: M 10:30 – 11:45 AM,
W 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM,
F 1:00 – 2:15 PM; or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Lorena Kembel

Course Description

This course examines one of the most important social institutions that shape our experience of being human – families – and the role society plays in shaping families. The meaning of “the family” is not fixed, but varies over time, place, and culture, because definitions of “the family” and family experience itself are socially constructed. Over the last decade, there has been a great deal of public debate over the current state of the Canadian family. Tune in to a talk show on TV or the nightly news and you may hear about the breakdown of the family, the loss of “family values,” and the rise of a host of related social problems. Such public debates, however, often ignore the complexities of family life and create false expectations about what families should be. In order to understand how and why contemporary Canadian families look the way they do, we must go beyond commonsensical and individualistic explanations and examine, from a sociological perspective, how the family as a social institution is shaped by larger structural, economic, and political shifts.

This course will provide you the opportunity to:

- study one social institution, the family, from a sociological perspective at a more in-depth level;
- acquire knowledge of major trends and explanations of family change in Canada;
- recognize and understand the diversity of family forms, practices and experiences in Canada;
- recognize the connections between individual family experiences, social structures, gender inequalities, and social institutions;
- develop your research and writing skills;
- be part of a class in which participation in discussions and group exercises is encouraged;
- collaborate with your peers.

Please note: Reading the assigned material, an open mind, and your active participation is required for this class to reach its fullest potential and to make it a rewarding experience for you and me. Furthermore, attendance is important in any class. If you miss a class, you will miss material relevant to your success in this course. To attend classes regularly is your responsibility. If you have to miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the covered material from one of your class mates.

Required Text

(available through the UofC bookstore; also available as an eBook at a lower price on: <http://www.mypearsonstore.ca/>)

A study guide and a variety of free, course-related resources are available here: http://www.pearsoned.ca/highered/divisions/text/ambert_2ce/

Ambert, A-M. (2012). *Changing families: Relationships in Context*. 2nd edition. Toronto: Pearson.

Please note: The 2nd edition has been updated extensively. Please do not purchase earlier editions.

Methods of Evaluation

Assignment Schedule and Outline

	Date	% of final grade	Chapters
Midterm 1	February 3	20	1-3
Midterm 2	March 3	25	7-10
Take-home Essay	April 4	20	4-6
Final Exam	TBD	35	12-14

2 Midterm exams (20% & 25%)

The purpose of the midterm exams is to assess your command of key concepts and theories essential for the remainder of the course and to identify gaps that may hinder your success in subsequent tests and assignments. The midterm exam may include a variety of question types, such as multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the blanks, short answer and short essay questions. Questions cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, discussions, and films. More detailed information will be provided in class prior to each exam. Please refer to the assignment schedule above for chapters covered in each exam.

1 Take-home Essay (20%)

One of the most important skills you can acquire in university is to express yourself in written form. The best way to do this is to practice as much as possible. For the take-home essay, you will receive three essay questions, one of which you will answer in 3-4 pages. More detailed information will be provided in class and on Blackboard. Please refer to the assignment schedule above for chapters covered in the take-home essay.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam may include a variety of question types, such as multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the blanks, short answer and short essay questions. Questions cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, discussions, and films. More detailed information will be provided in class prior to the exam. Please refer to the assignment schedule above for chapters covered in the final exam.

Please note that the registrar-scheduled final exam period is April 17 & 19-29. Do not make travel arrangements until you know exactly when the exam for this class has been scheduled.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

A+	96 – 100%	B+	80 – 84%	C+	67 – 69%	D+	55 – 58%
A	90 – 95%	B	75 – 79%	C	63 – 66%	D	50 – 54%
A-	85 – 89%	B-	70 – 74%	C-	59 – 62%	F	< 50 %

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Emergency evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the ICT - Food Court (primary) or Social Science – Food Court (alternate).

Technology Use

You are welcome to use your laptop/tablet in class. If you are using a laptop/tablet in class, I would kindly ask you to sit in the back of the class so that other students are not distracted. Please use your laptop/tablet for course-related purposes only (i.e. to access course presentations, take notes). Bear in mind that using your computer/tablet/phone to surf the net, shop, email, check Facebook, update your tweets, etc. is distracting to your classmates. It is also a waste of your tuition fees. Permission to use laptops/tablets may be withdrawn if they are not used appropriately. Please make sure to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

Attendance and Participation

Reading the assigned material, an open mind, and your active participation is required for this class to reach its fullest potential and to make it a rewarding experience for you and me. Furthermore, attendance is important in any class. If you miss a class, you will miss material relevant to your success in this course. To attend classes regularly is your responsibility. If you have to miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the covered material from one of your class mates. If you need to leave class early, it is courteous to sit somewhere that will allow you to leave without disrupting others.

E-mail policy

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line. I will do my best to answer emails promptly. However, it might take up to one business day for me to respond. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Also, please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

Assignment Policies and Deferrals

It is your responsibility to complete and submit all assignments outlined in this course outline. If at all possible you must provide **advance** notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment on time. All requests for a deferral of an exam or assignment due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University

Calendar and should be obtained while you have the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. **Travel arrangements, misreading of the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment responsibilities** are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, I can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If I schedule a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Assignments submitted late (as of the beginning of class on the dates indicated in the assignment schedule) without due cause are subject to a **5 percentage points deduction** (i.e. 80% instead of 85%) for **each day** past the due date. Assignments not submitted within 7 calendar days of the due date without approval for extension will automatically receive a grade of 0.

Deferred Final Exam Form:

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor. Electronic submissions via email or Blackboard, papers placed under the instructor’s door, or those submitted to the administrative assistants in the department’s main office will **NOT** be accepted.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor’s office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

Ethics Research

Please be advised that any research involving human subjects - including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, you must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing your plans with me, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Please be advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation

...disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department's main office. I will return written assignments individually during class, or during my office hours. If you are unable to pick up your assignment, you may provide me with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of your assignment.

Student Representation

The 2013-14 Students' Union VP Academic is Emily Macphail; email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. You can also contact Campus Security from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with Student Accessibility Services and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals

If you chose to challenge a grade you received for an assignment, please refer to the UofC Calendar for more information and follow the procedures outlined therein.

Tentative Course Schedule

Subject to change. Changes will be announced and discussed in class.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
Introduction			
1	January 8	Course Welcome	
	January 10	Contemporary Issues in Family Life	Ch. 3
I. Foundations of Family Studies			
2	January 13-17	Introduction to Family Studies	Ch. 1
3	January 20-24	Canadian Families of the Past	Ch. 2
4	January 27-31	Current Diversity of Canadian Families	Ch. 2
II. Patterns of Partnering and Family Formation			
5	February 3	Midterm #1	
	February 5-7	Couple Formation and Sexual Relations	Ch. 7
6	February 10-14	Spousal Relationships	Ch. 9
7	February 17-21	Reading Days, no lecture	
8	February 24-28	Family Formation and Planning & Parenting	Ch. 8, 10
III. Social and Cultural Contexts of Family Life			
9	March 3	Midterm #2	
	March 5-7	Economic Changes and Inequalities	Ch. 4
10	March 10-14	Neighborhood and Housing Conditions	Ch. 5
11	March 17-21	Educational and Religious Institutions	Ch. 6
	March 21	Take-home Essay questions & instructions posted on BB	
IV. Family Challenges			
12	March 24-28	Divorce, Widowhood, and Remarriage	Ch. 12
13	March 31-April	Family Violence, Abuse, and Neglect	Ch. 13
	April 4	Take-home Essay due	
14	April 7-11	Family Futures and Social Policies	Ch. 14
15	April 14	Final class discussion & final exam preparation	
Final Exam Period: April 17 & 19-29			