

Sociology 2710 – The Family Winter 2007

Instructor – Nancy Robbins

I can be reached at home at 852-1931 or by email nancypat@telus.net. I welcome phone calls at my home at anytime; however, please use discretion and not call me after 9:00 in the evening!

Class Times: Fridays 1:00 – 4:00

Required Text: Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families. Susan A. McDaniel and Lorne Tepperman. Third Edition. Prentice Hall: 2007.

Course 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.

Assignments and Exams

Grade Breakdown

Mid Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Attendance	5%
Assignment One	20%
Assignment Two	20%
Assignment Three	15%
Total for course	100%

Mid Term and Final Exams

Exams will be completed online during class time. Exams are required to be written on the day that they are scheduled – no exceptions.

A few notes on written work:

Due dates: Due dates are assigned for a reason. Late work is usually marked with grade deductions and will be accepted in extenuating circumstances; but note, extensions are RARELY given! However, if needed, please see me to discuss why you cannot meet a deadline for the written assignment. Late work is subject to penalties regardless of the circumstances.

Submission of papers: Assignments are to be submitted on time, typed, spell checked and submitted to the instructor by email.

Questions regarding assignments: I am always available for questions by phone, email or in person. Please be sure to consult with me prior to the due date.

Sources: All sources must be documented by footnote or endnote and in a bibliography. I do not require a particular format for your referencing of sources as long as it is consistent and done correctly. There will be penalties if documents are not referenced and any direct copying of information from the Internet will not be tolerated. More information on footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies will be provided.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this course. Please let me know in advance if you are unable to attend classes. Your mark for attendance is based on the number of classes you attend.

Information on Grades

Students will receive a percentage mark on all written work and exams in this course. This percentage mark will be translated to a number of points for each requirement for the course. In turn, the total number of points per student will be translated into a letter grade in accordance to Grande Prairie Regional College regulations.

For example, if you receive 90% on assignment one, this is 18 out of 20 points towards your final grade in the course.

All points will be accumulated out of 100 and be translated to a letter grade for Grande Prairie Regional College.

I am happy to discuss any grades at any point during the course and at the end of the course in person or by email. Grades are confidential and will only be discussed with the student.

Please note, the grade book will not be accessible online through BlackBoard for classes that have less than 10 students.

Your final mark will be a letter grade as Grande Prairie Regional College uses the alpha grading system.

Alpha Grade	Percentage Range	Descriptor
A+	90 - 100	Excellent
A	85-89	
A-	80-84	Very Good
B+	76-79	
B	73-75	Good
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	Satisfactory
C	64-66	
C-	60-63	
D+	55-59	Poor
D	50-54	Minimal Pass
F	0-49	Failure

More information on the alpha grading system and Grande Prairie Regional College's grading policy is available at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/pdf/policies/academic/GradingPolicy-2003.pdf>

Just when you thought it was safe to skip class...

Lectures are designed to complement the assigned reading for the week and often contain information additional to the textbook.

Course Outline

***Please note: topics and weekly readings are subject to change.*

- January 5** Introduction to this course and to the sociology of the family
- January 12** Families and Relationships: Definitions, history and theory.
Readings: Chapters 1 and 2
- January 19** Dating, Mating and Sexuality: How Families Begin
Reading: Chapter 3
- January 26** Types of Intimate Couples: Marriage and Cohabitation; Same Sex Relationships
Reading: Chapter 4
Assignment One Due
- February 2** Happy and Healthy relationships
Reading: Chapter 5
- February 9** Parenting and Socialization
Reading: Chapter 6
- February 16** **Mid Term Exam**
- February 23** Reading Week Break – No class
- March 2** Work, Gender Roles and Family Life
Reading: Chapter 7
Assignment Two Due
- March 9** Stress and Violence
Reading: Chapter 8
- March 16** Divorce and Ending Relationships
Reading: Chapter 9
- March 23** Families in Transition
Reading: Chapter 10
- March 30** Families of the Future
Reading: Chapter 11
Assignment Three Due
- April 6** Good Friday Break – No Class
- April 13** Social Class and Poverty in the Family
- April 20** **Final Exam**