



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017

SO2710 (A3 & B3): Sociology of the Family - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

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

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.

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.

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

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineresearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Mid-Term Exam (20%)..... February 28

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

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

Vanier Institute Presentations (groups of 2; **1 @ 5%**)..... **starts** January 17

Semester Projects:

⇒ (1) Research a social dating site (e.g. eHarmony) (20%)..... **due** Feb 7th

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 21st

or,

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

- The *Mid-Term Exam* will consist of multiple choice and possibly short-answer questions (20%), as likely will the *Final Exam* (30%).
- 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 for exams, and except for the family genogram), students are encouraged 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 (but *no* write-up required!)

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	91-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	86-90	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	81-85	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	76-80	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-75	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

January 5 – Course outlines and course requirements...

January 10, 12 – McDaniel and Tepperman, Chapter 1: definitions, theories, research, history...

January 17, 19 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 2: social and economic origins and trends... **Vanier Institute article presentations begin on January 17th**

January 24, 26 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 3, the formation of families; start Chapter 4: marriage, cohabitation, same-sex relationships and other forms of (e.g. robot) intimacies...

January 31, February 2 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 4, cont'd; Chapter 5: maintaining viable relationships in marriage, cohabitation and in other forms of intimacies...

February 7, 9 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 5, cont'd; Chapter 6: child-bearing, parenting and socialization... **Assignment #1 Analysis of Social Dating sites/Social Networking due February 7th**

February 14, 16 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 6, cont'd; Chapter 7: the relationship between work and family life...

February 21, 23 – **WINTER BREAK, no classes**

February **28**, March 2 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 7, cont';d; Chapter 8: stress and violence in families and in relationships... **MID-TERM EXAM, February 28th**

March 7, 9 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 8, cont'd; Chapter 9: ending relationships, divorce, separation, estrangement...

March 14, 16 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 9: ending relationships, effects on children, grandparents and other family members, law and legislation...

March **21**, 23 – McDaniel & Tepperman, Chapter 10: family transitions

Assignment #2 - Family Genograms or Family Development Histories due March 21st

March 28, 30 – Chapter 10: second (or more) marriages, relationships and families, new kinds of families...

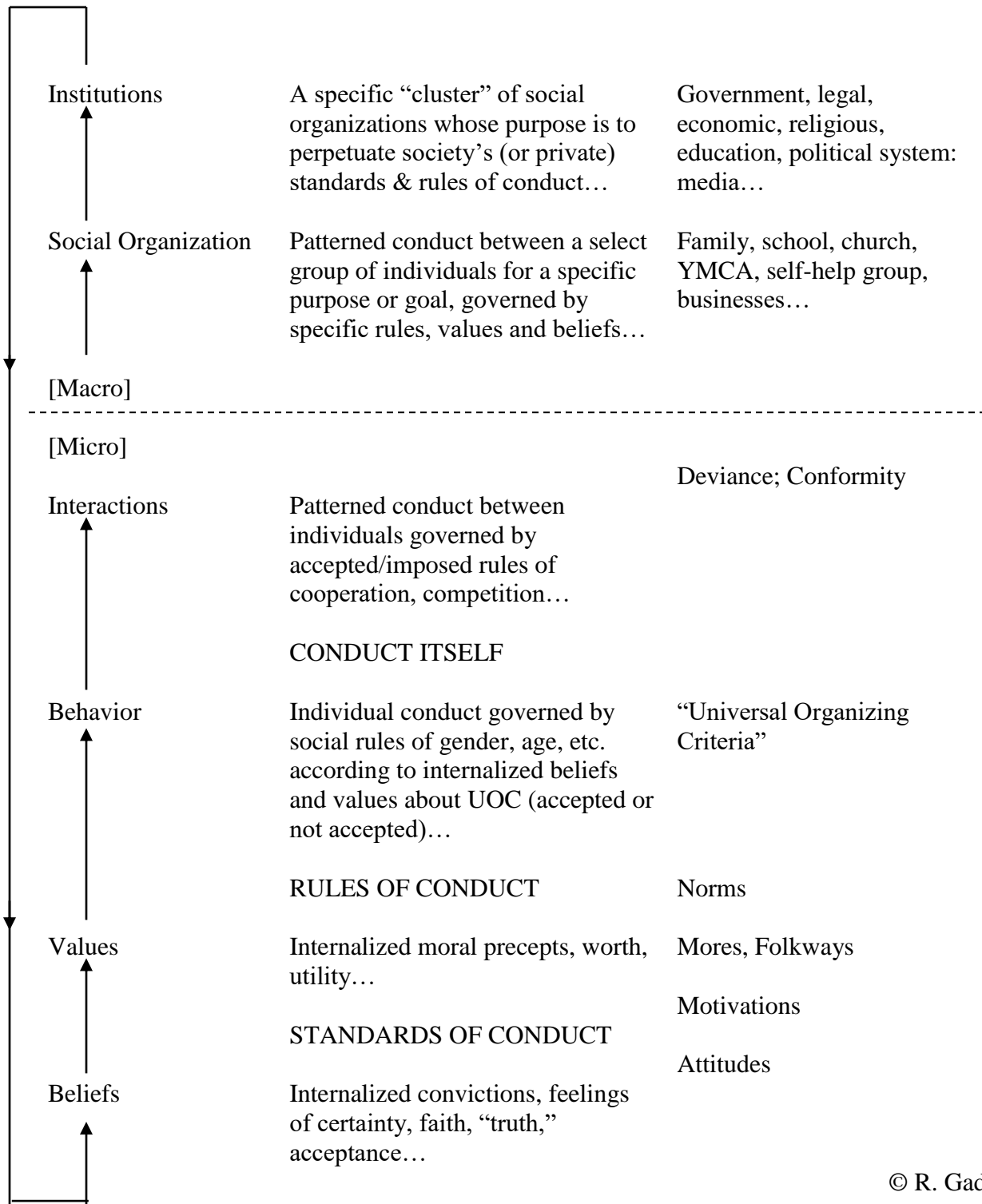
April 4, 6 – Chapter 11: the future, law, legislation, public policy...

April 11 – Cont'd, and wrap-up

[Classes end Wednesday, April 12, 2017]

GENERAL SCHEME OF SOCIETY

“The Social System”



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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

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**

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 Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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.**

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