

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2023**

**SO2710 (A3): The Family – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Michael Holland      **PHONE:** 780-539-2973  
**OFFICE:** C-404      **E-MAIL:** mholland@nwpolytech.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**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: SO1000.**

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Albanese, P. (2023). *Canadian Families today: New perspectives* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Additional readings provided by instructor on MyClass.

**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:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* 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:**

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
Chapter quizzes (10 @ 10 pts each)	100 pts	7 %
Active viewing assignment 1	40 pts	6.5 %
Active viewing assignment 2	40 pts	6.5 %
Midterm	60 pts	20 %
<i>Family policy project</i> (proposal @ 10 pts, 3 %; annotated bibliography @ 5 pts 1 %; outline @ 15 pts, 7 %; submission @ 50 pts, 12 %; revisions @ 20 points, 7 %)	100 pts	30 %
Final Exam	100 pts	30 %
Total	440 pts	100 %

**Please note: It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.**

- **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

**Submission & Late Policies:** It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0% unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me.

**Chapter Quizzes** (10 quizzes at 10 points each for 100 points total)

Beginning week 1, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (MyClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice). These quizzes serve to encourage that you consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course. Beginning the second week of the class (See below), quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

**Active Viewing Assignments (2)**

We will watch two films this semester related to the family. Students will engage in “active viewing” which means that you will take notes during the film. These films will be shown in class, so students must be present during that time for credit. Students will complete a quiz that is due the next day.

**Policy Research Project**

Throughout the semester, students will complete a policy project. The purpose of the assignment is to research and design a policy report that addresses an aspect of inequality related to the family. The steps of this project consist of a proposal, annotated bibliography, outline, submission, and a revision. Policy workshops will be done during class time (see below). More details will be provided early in the semester.

**Midterm Test and Final Exam**

The Midterm will consist of short answer questions and 1 longer answer. The Final Exam will be multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The final exam is NOT cumulative. It will be based on material after the midterm. The midterm test and final exam will be based on all course material (chapters, classroom discussions, lectures, and videos shown).

**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	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	0-49

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Jan 5	Introduction to the course/meet and greet	Syllabus	RQ1
Jan 10	Understanding Family concepts and definitions	Chapter 1	RQ2
Jan 12	Policy Workshop		
Jan 17, 19	Historical and Contemporary variations	Chapter 2	RQ3 Project Proposal (Jan 17 at 11:59 pm)
Jan 24, 26	Film 1	None	Active Viewing Quiz Due Jan 27 at 11:59 pm
Jan 31, Feb 2	Parenting Young Children	Chapter 5 Article by Lareau	RQ4
Feb 7, 9	Separation and Divorce	Chapter 6	RQ5 Annotated bib (Feb 7 at 11:59 pm)
Feb 14, 16	Families in Middle and Later Life	Chapter 7	RQ6
Feb 20- Feb 24	<b>Family Day &amp; Winter Break – No Classes</b>		
Feb 28, Mar 2	Midterm Review and midterm	All readings from Jan 5-Feb 16	
Mar 7	Family Poverty	Chapter 10	RQ 7
Mar 9	Policy project workshop		Project outline due (Mar 10 at 11:59 pm)
Mar 14, 16	Film 2	None	
Mar 21, 23	Visible Minorities and Indigenous families	Chapter 11 & 12	RQ8 (Active viewing quiz due Mar 21 at 11:59 pm)
Mar 28, 30	Violence in Families	Chapter 14	RQ9 Complete Proposal project due Mar 31 at 11:30 pm
Ap 4, 6	Investing in Families and	Chapter 15	RQ10

	Children: Family Policies in Canada		
Apr 11	Final exam Review/Course Wrap up	All course material post midterm	revisions due Apr 11 at 11:59 pm <b>Final Exam (non-cumulative) Registrar Scheduled</b>

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 4 – classes start  
Feb 20-Feb 24 –Family Day-Reading Week, No classes  
Apr 7– Good Friday, No classes  
Apr 12 – Last day of classes  
Apr 14 – Exam Start  
Apr 24 – Last day of Final exams

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

#### Attendance and Exam Policies:

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

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student’s learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

To be fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated.

### 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 Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the

Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

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

### **Additional Information:**

#### **D2L:**

This course will make extensive use of our website on D2L to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

#### **Professional Conduct:**

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.

**Please note:** If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you towards other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, “how do I get an ‘A’?” Instead, ask yourself, “how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?”
- Please only use your **NWP e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO 2710” in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!