

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 371-02**  
**Sociology of Families**  
**Winter 2008**

**Instructor:** Diane Field

**Class Hours & Location:** Mondays & Wednesdays 16:30-17:45; MFH 160

**Office/Phone:** SS950/220-6513

**Office Hour:** Wednesdays 3pm -4pm

**Course email:** [soci.371@ucalgary.ca](mailto:soci.371@ucalgary.ca)

**Required Text:**

McDaniel, Susan A. and Lorne Tepperman, 2007. **Close Relations: An Introduction to the Sociology of Families (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)**. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the sociology of families from various sociological perspectives. It will be the goal of this course to provide students with a thorough grounding in both the theoretical and substantive issues in the sociological study of families and family life. Topics that we will explore include: defining a family, theoretical perspectives in the study of the family, the historical family, family organization, marriage and parenting, work and the family, the transitional family, and the changing Canadian family.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide a broad, introductory view of the sociological study of families, particularly Canadian families.
2. To introduce the student to both theoretical and empirical issues in the study of families.
3. To develop skills to critically examine, evaluate, and understand the social issues of the family which impact the student within his/her own life and within the larger society.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to complete two midterm exams, one Registrar-scheduled final exam, and one written assignment. The midterm exams will consist of both multiple-choice and written responses. All exams will be non-cumulative.

For midterm exams and the final exam, students will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, required readings, and films. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes from another student. Therefore, finding a “student buddy” will be necessary. I will **not** distribute my lecture notes to students.

Details of the written assignment will be provided at a later date.

Midterm #1	February 11, 2008	25%
Midterm #2	March 19, 2008	25%
Final Exam	(TBA – exam period)	25%
Written Assignment	April 16, 2008	25%

Late written assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day, except in cases of *documented* emergencies.

### **Grading System:**

A+ (95-100%)	B+ (80-84%)	C+ (67-69%)	D+ (55-59%)
A (90-94%)	B (75-79%)	C (63-66%)	D (50-54%)
A- (85-89%)	B- (70-74%)	C- (60-62%)	F (49% or below)

### **Exam Policies:**

You must provide **advance** notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam (**by email**). All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make-up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

### **Ethics Research:**

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends or family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Department Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offence. Students are 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 main office. Term assignments must be returned to the students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours. If a student is unable to pick up his/her assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

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

**Academic Accommodation:**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 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 the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

**Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:**

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e. outside the 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 only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available on-line.

**Course Schedule and Related Readings:**

**January 14 to February 6 (inclusive)**

**Topics:** Course Introduction; Defining the "Family"; Theoretical Perspectives on Families; History of the Canadian Family; Forming Intimate Relationships  
**Text:** Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3

**Midterm #1 – February 11, 2008**

**February 13 to March 17 (inclusive)**

**Topics:** Diversity of Intimate Relationships; Making Relationships Work;  
Parenting

**Text:** Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6

**Midterm # 2 – March 19, 2008**

**Note: February 18 & February 20 – NO CLASS (Reading Week)**

**March 24 to April 16 (inclusive)**

**Topics:** Domestic and Working Lives in the Family Setting; Family Stress  
and Violence; Divorce and Ending Relationships; Future Scenarios

**Text:** Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Chapter 9, Chapter 11

**Final Exam – TBA (Registrar-Scheduled Final)**