



BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**FAMILY STUDIES 1020 SECTION 530
INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY STUDIES: 2013-2014**

Instructor 1st term: Dr. Theresa Topic
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Instructor 2nd term: Dr. Lara Descartes
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Office hours: after class or by appointment

Class time/room:
Mon 9:30 to 12:30 Rm 18 (St. James Building)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course is a multi-disciplinary approach to the family as a biological, social, economic, legal and political unit, continually changing and adapting to a variety of pressures. This course provides students with a broad grounding in the family in the current Canadian context, and examines cultural and historical variations.
1.0 course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This full credit course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of issues in family studies. By the end of the course students will

- Be familiar with the major concepts, terms and theories in family studies
- Have an understanding of the key factors that affect family dynamics in Canada
- Appreciate the variability that is found in Canadian families today, and historical and social roots of this variability
- Demonstrate increased understanding of how family life is shaped and influenced by socioeconomic changes, legal systems, and political structure throughout history

- Gain appreciation of how scholars from different disciplines study family issues, and how professionals from different fields approach these issues
- Recognize the challenges that face Canadian families

REQUIRED READINGS

The required text for this course is:

- Ward, Margaret and Marc Bélanger (2011) *The Family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective, 5th Edition*. Toronto, Ontario: Thomson Nelson.

A second required text is needed for second term:

- Ungar, M. (2007). *Too Safe For Their Own Good: How Risk and Responsibility Help Teens Thrive*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.

Additional readings are required most weeks in the first term. The selected readings are available on-line. These readings are required, and students are responsible for down-loading and reading the items. Details are provided below on the weekly schedule.

COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The teaching methods used in this course will include lectures, discussions, group presentations by students, and videos. Students are expected to prepare for classes by doing the reading assigned for a class BEFORE the class meeting.

You are strongly advised to attend every class, to view all media presentations, and to participate actively in class discussions and activities.

Owl will be used in this course and all students will need to access this web source regularly. Schematic lecture notes will be posted on-line before class. These notes will be a summary of major points and issues covered in class. Downloading the notes is NOT a good substitute for class attendance.

We will have a discussion about courtesy and class decorum during the first meeting of the class. It is important that a positive learning environment be maintained and that distractions and disruptions be minimized. To that end, electronic devices may not be used during class and laptops only may be used after individual consultation with the professor.

Students who fail to appear for an examination at the time set in the timetable will not be allowed to write the examination paper thus missed unless the steps detailed below (page 7) for academic accommodation have been followed. Similarly, missed assignments (for example a group presentation) may not be made up later. There will not be any make-up examinations or extra work for the purpose of improving grades.

The instructors will be available outside of class time during scheduled office hours. If you cannot attend office hours, please make an appointment with the instructor

by email. When you do so, please use your UWO email account and provide the course name and number in the subject area.

In general, instructors much prefer to talk one on one with students rather than to exchange lengthy e-mails.

Changes in information that appear in this course outline will be discussed in class prior to being implemented.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Weight</u>
In-class short test Term 1	15%
Midterm exam	25%
In-class short test Term 2	15%
Assignment	15%
Final exam	30%

In-class short test (15% each)

TWO short tests will be given in class in the middle of each term

October 21 2013

February 10 2014

The short test will be primarily multiple choice, but may also include short answer questions based on readings, lectures, discussion, and videos.

Assignment (15%)

Students can choose one of three options for the assignment:

1. A short presentation (20 minutes) to the class by three students working together on a topic in Family Studies in first or second term.
2. A written report on a controversy in the study of the family, due in December.
3. An electronic or portfolio assignment, due in March.

Students will be provided with further information on choices for this assignment at the first two class meetings.

Midterm exam (25%)

The midterm exam will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. Students will be tested on information and ideas covered in readings, lectures, presentations and videos in the first term. The midterm exam will be scheduled during the December examination between December 8 and December 19.

Final exam (30%)

The final exam will include multiple choice questions. The final exam will be scheduled during the April exam period, between April 11 and April 30.

COURSE CALENDAR

FIRST TERM

Week 1 Sept 9 *Introduction to the Course and to Family Studies*

Online Reading: Canadian households in 2011: Types and growth, Milan, A. and L. Martel 2012, Statistics Canada. (link on Owl)

Bring back the mandatory long-form census. Edmonton Journal May 9 2013 (link on Owl)

Week 2 Sept 16 *Methods for Study of the Canadian Family*

Text Reading: Chapter 1 What is a Family?

Week 3 Sept 23 *Being Different: Gender roles, racial and ethnic differences*

Text Reading: Chapter 2 Being Different

Online Reading: Shirpak, Khosro Refaie, et al. (2007). Iranian immigrants' perceptions of sexuality in Canada. In: *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 16(3-4): 113-128.

Week 4 Sept 30 *Forming Couples*

Text Reading: Chapter 3 Getting Together

Online Reading: Milan, Anne (2003). Would you live common-law? *Canadian Social Trends* 70(2-6).

Week 5 Oct 7 *Marriage and Married Life (Part 1)*

Text Reading Chapter 4: Wedding Bells...And After

Online Reading: Coontz, Stephanie (2004) The World Historical Transformation of Marriage. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66: 974-979.

Week 6 Oct 14 (no class: Thanksgiving)

Week 7 Oct 21 *Marriage and Married Life (Part 2)*

Online Reading: Larson, Jeffrey H. (2008). Increasing the Awareness of Risks and Needs for Premarital Interventions of Individuals at Risk for Relationship Dysfunction. *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy* 7(4):281-296.

*****Short test on October 21 in first 45 minutes of class**

Week 8 Oct 28 Expanding Families (Part 1)

Text Reading Chapter 5: Children --Yes or No?

Online Reading: Beaupré, Pascale et al. Making Fathers "Count" (2011).
Canadian Social Trends Issue 90: pp. 25-33.

Week 9 Nov 4 Expanding Families (Part 2)

Online Reading: Foster, Deborah (2005) Why do Children Do So Well in Lesbian Households? Research on Lesbian Parenting. *Canadian Woman Studies* Vol. 24(2/3): 51-56.

Week 10 Nov 11 Young Children and Family Life (Part 1)

Text Reading Chapter 6: Bringing Up Baby

Online Reading: Dew, Jeffrey and W.B. Bradford (2011) If Momma Ain't Happy: Explaining Declines in Marital Satisfaction among New Mothers. *Journal of Marriage and Family* Vol. 73: 1-12.

Week 11 Nov 18 Young Children and Family Life (Part 2)

Online Reading: Beaujot, R and R. Anderson (2007) Time Crunch: Impact of Time Spent in Paid and Unpaid Work, and its Division in Families. *Canadian Journal of Sociology* Vol 32:3 pp. 295-315.

Week 12 Nov 25 The Middle Years and Family Transitions

Text Reading Chapter 7: The Middle Years and the Not-So-Empty Nest

Online Reading: Beaupré, Pascale et al. (2006). When is junior moving out?
Canadian Social Trends Issue 82(9-15).

Week 13 Dec 2 Family Life and the Elderly

Text Reading: Chapter 8: Grey Power and the Sunset Years.

Online Reading: Gilmour, Heather (2012) Social participation and the health and well-being of Canadian seniors. *Statistics Canada Health Reports* 23:4 (link on Owl)

December Examination Period

The Midterm Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the December examination period which runs from December 8 to December 19.

SECOND TERM

Week 14 Jan 6 Single Parent Families and Children

Text Reading: Chapter 9: The Lone-Parent Family

Week 15 Jan 13 Divorce

Text Reading: Chapter 10 Coming Apart – The Divorce Experience

Week 16 Jan 20 Blended Families

Text Reading: Chapter 11 The Second Time Around

Week 17 Jan 27 *Gender Roles*

Text Reading: Chapter 12 The Family and the World of Work

Week 18 Feb 3 *Family Problems*

Text Reading: Chapter 13 The Family Beleaguered – When Problems Come

Week 19 Feb 10 *Short test on Feb 10**

Text Reading: None for this day

**** Family Day Feb 17**

**** Reading Week Feb 17 to Feb 21**

Week 20 Feb 24 *Family Violence*

Text Reading: Chapter 14 Abuse and Violence

Week 21 March 3 *Family Poverty and Inequality*

Text Reading: Chapter 15 Poverty and the Family

Week 22 March 10 *The Future of the Family*

Text Reading: Chapter 16 The Crystal Ball – Predicting the Future of the Family

Week 23: March 17 *Dilemmas of the Teen Years*

Text Reading: *Too Safe*, 1, 2, 3

Week 24: March 24 *Teen Behaviour and Motivation*

Text Reading: *Too Safe*, 4, 5, 6

Week 25: March 31 *A More Dangerous World?*

Text Reading: *Too Safe*, 7, 8, 9

Week 26: April 7 *Connecting With Teens*

Text Reading: *Too Safe*, 10, 11

April Examination Period

The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the April examination period which runs from April 11-30, 2014.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.