



**Western**  
UNIVERSITY · CANADA

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

## Sociology 2235/001 Sociology of the Family 2016 – 2017

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**Instructor:** Professor Gale Cassidy  
**Office:** SSC 5405  
**Phone:** 519-661-2111 X83693  
**Email:** [gcassidy@uwo.ca](mailto:gcassidy@uwo.ca)

**Lectures:** Tuesdays 6:30 to 9:30 pm  
**Classroom:** SSC 2020  
**Office hours:** Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:00 pm, after class, or by appointment

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### Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to

- understand the intersection between family life and the public sphere
- comprehend the various theories used to explain the structure of family dynamics
- understand how families from various cultures are connected, despite their different lifestyles
- see how contemporary patterns of work reflect changes in the economy and ideologies of gender
- recognize that there is no single institutionalized lifecourse with respect to family development
- appreciate the diversity in structure and processes of families in contemporary Canadian society
- see how difficulties like poverty, abuse, addictions, etc. negatively impact family members

### Course Description

This course introduces students to the sociological analysis of families and gives them an understanding of family within the larger social system. The course begins by looking at different conceptual and theoretical issues, which challenge the commonly-held views of the family. We will consider how families are formed and look at the choices people make regarding marriage and parenting. We will take a closer look at different aspects of family life, including the distribution of paid and unpaid work within families, diverse family forms, and intergenerational issues. We will consider adversities experienced by families, including violence, addictions, and divorce. Finally, we will consider policy issues relevant to families and the future prospects for the family in a changing society.

**Course Materials: Packaged Together**

1. Ward, Margaret and Marc Belanger. 2015. *The Family Dynamic: Canadian Perspectives. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.
2. Mandell, Nancy and Ann Duffy. 2011. *Canadian Families: Diversity, Conflict, and Change. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

**Antirequisite**

Former Sociology 139

**Prerequisite(s):**

1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this 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.*

**Evaluations**

	<b>Worth</b>
<b>Midterm #1</b>	25%
<b>Midterm #2</b>	25%
<b>Tutorials</b>	15%
<b>Final Exam</b>	35%

**OWL Website**

It is very important that you access the OWL website throughout the course. Important information you will require will be posted there, including the course syllabus, weekly schedule, PowerPoint slides, marks, class cancellations, etc. Ensure that you will receive emails that are sent to your UWO email account by me using OWL.

**Class Attendance**

Good class attendance is critical to getting the most out of this course. There is a direct correlation between attendance in class and marks achieved by students. While readings and class lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. You are responsible for everything that occurs during class time including discussions, videos, guest speakers, etc. You are also responsible for any announcements made during class. It is a good idea to “buddy” up with a classmate, in order to exchange notes if you must miss a class, since lectures notes will not be supplied to students. Some videos shown in class may be available in the library, but others will not be available for private viewing.

## **Cell Phones and Laptops in the Classroom**

**The use of cell phones for any reason is not permitted in the classroom. Students accessing their cell phones for any reason will be considered disruptive and may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to, being asked to leave the class. Also, laptops are to be used only for taking notes in class. Using them for any other purpose could also result in sanctions.**

## **Examinations**

The examinations are NOT cumulative and will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc. They may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions and true/false questions. Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams WILL be submitted for similarity reviews by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

## **Grades**

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Midterm exam grades will be posted to the OWL site when they become available (within one week of the exam). Final exam grades will not be available until approved by the department.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted. PLEASE DONT ASK!

## **A Note on Plagiarism**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea 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 scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### ***Plagiarism Checking***

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

## **Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class**

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

## **Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness**

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

**Accessibility Options**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

**Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Student Support**

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.