



**The University of Western Ontario**

**SOCIOLOGY 2235 001**

**The Family**

**2018-2019**

**Tuesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm, SH 2020**

**Instructor: Professor Gale Cassidy**

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5405

Email: [gcassidy@uwo.ca](mailto:gcassidy@uwo.ca)

### **Course Description:**

Sociological, psychological, and other research perspectives on family structure and functioning.

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.

### **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 may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The 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.

**Antirequisite(s):** None

### **Learning Outcomes:**

After successfully 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.
- understand why an international perspective is important to understanding social problems.

***Required Text(s): Packaged together for discounted price.***

1. Albanese, Patrizia (ed.). 2018. Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press Canada.
2. Fox, Bonnie (ed.). 2014. Family Patterns, Gender Relations, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press Canada.

**Method of Evaluation:**

- Exams with multiple choice and short answer questions
- Written reflections on issues discussed in class
- Tutorial attendance and participation

***Evaluation Breakdown:***

<b>Exam</b>	<b>Worth</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Make-up Exam Date</b>
Written Reflections	20%	Throughout terms	
Midterm #1 Exam	25%	Tuesday, October 30 <sup>th</sup> 2018 @ 6:30 pm	Friday, November 9 <sup>th</sup> @ noon
Midterm #2 Exam	25%	Tuesday, January 29 <sup>th</sup> 2019 @ 6:30 pm	Friday, March 8 <sup>th</sup> @ noon
Final Exam	30%	During April, 2019 Exam Period	Friday, May 10 <sup>th</sup> @ noon

**How to Contact Me:**

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Office – SSC 5405

Phone – 519-661-2111 X83693

**How to get important information:**

All announcements, including class cancellations, additional readings, exam details, grades, etc., will be posted on OWL as an announcement with an email notification.

**Important Policies**

***Policies for Assignment Deadlines:***

Written reflections must be posted on OWL by the due date. Students will only be required to complete 5 of 7 written reflections, so there will be no make-up opportunities to submit reflections at a later date.

### ***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:***

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### ***Policies on Examinations:***

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

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.

### ***Policy on Missed Exams:***

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with an exam date, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me by email **within 24 hours** of the missed exam because I need to know that you missed the exam. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor **within 48 hours**. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

### ***Policy on Make-up Exams:***

There will be a Sociology group make-up exam following each exam for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). The make-up exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

If a student misses a make-up exam due to sickness or another documented reason, then the next exam will be re-weighted and contain material from the missed exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

### ***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 their laptop 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. No texting is permitted in class. It is considered a violation of the student code of conduct.

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used. If clickers are to be used in class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. The use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence. The possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

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

Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

[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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website:

[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)

### ***Mental Health***

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.

## Topics to be Covered

Tentative Date	Topics
Sept. 11	Overview to the Study of Family
Sept. 18 & 25	Definitions, Theories, and Research
Oct. 2	Historical Perspectives on Canadian Families
<b>FALL BREAK – OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> – NO CLASS</b>	
Oct. 16	Demographic, Social, and Economic Origins and Trends
Oct. 23	How Families Begin
<b>OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> – MIDTERM EXAM WORTH 25%</b>	
Nov. 6 & 13	Types of Intimate Couples
Nov. 20	Happy and Healthy Relationships
Nov. 27 & Dec. 4	Child-bearing, Socialization, and Parenting Challenges
Jan. 8	Intergenerational Issues
Jan. 15	Gender Issues
Jan. 22	Work and Family Life
<b>JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> – MIDTERM EXAM WORTH 25%</b>	
Feb. 5 & 12	Realities of Family Life
<b>SPRING BREAK – FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> – NO CLASS</b>	
Feb. 26	Stress and Violence
Mar. 5	Divorce and Ending Relationships
Mar. 12 & 19	Family Transitions and Innovations
Mar. 26	Addressing the Needs of Families
Apr. 2	A Glimpse into the Future
Apr. 9	Wrap Up
<b>FINAL EXAM WORTH 30%</b>	