Western University
SOCIOLOGY 3381G-001
Migration and Family
Wednesday 9:30-12:30
Instructor: Kate H. Choi

Office Hours: Mondays for 60 minutes after class
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5331
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Course Description:
This course examines how family needs and within family dynamics inform decisions to migrate and describes how migration alters family and household organization in sending and receiving communities. With this aim in mind, the course considers concepts and theories in the migration and family literature to examine decisions to migrate and the impact of individual and community level migration on family formation, family dynamics, family exchanges, fertility, and union dissolution.

Prerequisite(s):
Enrollment in the third or fourth year standing in any module of the Department of Sociology. 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 if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisite(s):
Family Studies 2225: Immigration and Family

Learning Outcomes:
In this course, students will:

1) Assess how social norms and institutions influence immigrant families' decision to migrate as well as their assimilation outcomes
2) Identify the risk and protective factors influencing the outcomes of immigrant families
3) Recognize that migration is a multifaceted phenomenon shaping the lives of immigrant families, non-migrants in the country of origin, and the native-born population in the destination country
4) Process and synthesize information from multiple sources and discuss current events in an intelligent manner
Required Text(s):
You can download all articles online on-campus using www.jstor.org or scholar.google.com. The instructor reserves the right to change some of the readings during the course in response to student interests.

Method of Evaluation:
Below is a detailed description of the work requirements of this course.

Participation (7%)
(1) You are expected to attend class and have the materials read ahead of class.
(2) Each class, you will receive a 0: no attendance, 1: attendance no participation; 2: attendance and one participation; 3: attendance and active participation.
(3) To ensure that you get proper credit, please bring an 8.5*11 paper with your name typed (horizontal folded in half; font: 40+; Arial and bold) starting the second week of class.
(4) You should substantiate your insights with empirical evidence from your readings. You are allowed some leeway in terms of bringing outside material, but it needs to be factually accurate and you need to cite where you read it from.
(5) This is a class where we discuss the individual correlates and structural determinants of union formation. It is not a class where we discuss your own dating experiences. Repeated discussions of your dating life and/or sexual history are unwelcome and will be considered “disruptive behavior”.
(6) To ensure that our class is a pleasant learning environment for everyone, there is a zero-tolerance policy towards disruptive behavior in class. The first time - you will receive a warning in writing; the second time- your participation grade will be a 0. The third time – you will be asked to leave the class and a request for disciplinary action will be filed by the instructor.
(7) The sole agenda of this course is to learn academic facts substantiated by empirical research. Therefore, when students participate, they must substantiate their statements with facts. Factually inaccurate statements and unsubstantiated political views will be considered irrelevant and low-quality contributions to class discussions. “Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts” – Daniel P. Moynihan
(8) Absences: Students can be absent from class without using a self-reported excuse or e-mailing the instructor up to 2 times. Your participation grade will be averaged from 10 classes. If you attend 11 or more classes, I will pick the 10 classes with the ten highest scores and use it to compute your participation grade. If you miss 3 or more classes and can claim a self-reported absence or have a documented excuse for 3+ absence, you will receive a score of 1 starting with the 3rd absence.

Midterm exam (31%)
(1) An-in class examination will be held on February 26, 2020.
(2) The exam will include 12 short answer questions.
(3) The answers need to be handwritten. Answers that the instructor cannot read will be considered wrong.
(4) Some students go on a fishing expedition during exams and write anything and everything in hopes that they can obtain a higher score. Factual inaccuracy can reduce the validity of your argument and dampen your credibility. Incorrect guessing can result in lower grades.
If the student is unable to take the exam due to a “documented” reason, then the student can take the exam during the departmental make-up exam day (TBD by the department). The make-up exam will be comprised of 4 essay questions.

If the student cannot make the original and make-up exam due to a “documented” reason, then the instructor will extrapolate your midterm grade based on the class average for the final exam, the class average standard deviation scores for the final exam, and the average number of standard deviations that your final exam is from the class mean.

For students to be the beneficiary of this policy, they must obtain documentation from Academic Counselling, the Dean’s Office, or the Chair of the Department of Sociology at UWO. Verbal communication to the instructor does not meet the requirement, nor does a doctor’s note sent to the instructor.

In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of 0% on the quiz.

Final exam (31%)

A final examination will be held during exam week.

The exam will include 10-15 short answer questions.

The answers will be handwritten. Answers that the instructor cannot read will be considered wrong.

Some students go on a fishing expedition during exams and write anything and everything in hopes that they can obtain a higher score. Factual inaccuracy can reduce the validity of your argument and dampen your credibility. Incorrect guessing will result in lower grades.

If you miss the exam due to a documented reason, then the instructor will extrapolate your test grade based on the mean grade of the test, the standard deviation scores of the test, and the average number of standard deviations that your other assignment grades are from the class mean.

For students to be the beneficiary of this policy, they must obtain documentation from Academic Counselling, the Dean’s Office, or the Chair of the Department of Sociology at UWO. Verbal communication to the instructor does not meet the requirement, nor does a doctor’s note sent to the instructor.

In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the test.

University policy dictates that you cannot use a self-reported absence during the final exam season. Please check the details with an academic advisor in your faculty and plan accordingly.
Reaction paper 1 (31%)

(1) You will be asked to write a 1750-word report about the immigration policy of a country of your choice designed to curb illegal migration. You need to complete the following objectives

   a. Describe the country's immigration history (e.g., composition, volume, their dependence on immigration to meet economic needs)

   b. Describe the country’s immigration policy

   c. Evaluate the immigration policy, providing a balanced view of their strengths and weaknesses

   d. Propose a new immigration policy that addresses weaknesses in the country’s immigration policy.

(2) These essays are due in-class on **April 1, 2020, at 9:45 am.**

(3) I will provide more detailed instructions about this assignment 2 weeks before its due date. No late assignments will be accepted. If you cannot make the last class, please submit in the dropbox in front of SSC 5307. I will only read papers that are stamped by the staff of the sociology department. Please do not turn your papers in elsewhere (e.g., under my door).

(4) The instructor will read drafts ahead of time if the student asks for feedback in advance.

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

o Following the Sociology department's guidelines, the average final grade for this class will likely fall in between 79 and 80 percent. The standard deviation will likely fall in between 3 to 4 percentage points. The instructor reserves the right for some discretion depending on class performance.

**Important note:** There are 3 assignments in this course. If a student is unable to complete 2 or more assignments, then he/she will (a) receive an incomplete in the course and needs to retake the course in the future or (b) write a 5000- word essay addressing the questions posted for the reaction paper. This essay will be graded in absolute terms. If you foresee having to miss more than 2 assignments, please consider dropping the course before March 7, 2020 (i.e., the official date for dropping the course). It is the student's responsibility to double-check the exact and official drop date with his/her academic counselor.

**Excused late assignments**

- If Academic Counselling or the Dean's Office allows you to postpone assignments or tests (i.e., quiz, exam) for more than 2 weeks, you will be graded on absolute terms. I am doing this because it is unfair for other students who wrote their assignments in a timely fashion to weight periods longer than 2 weeks to receive their grades.

**Incomplete for the course**

- Students must complete at least 50% of the activities in the course by the last day of class. Failure to do so will result in an incomplete for the course. This rule applies even if the student has an excuse from Academic Counselling or the Dean's Office that covers the student for long periods (e.g., 7+ weeks of the course). To receive a complete, the student must take the course again in a subsequent year following the guidelines of the university or write a 4500-word essay on one of the listed substantive topics until the
deadline stated by the university. This essay will be graded and will substitute the grades for the missed assignments. If they fail to meet this deadline, they will receive a failing grade.

Grade appeal

- If students do not agree with the mark received for participation, exam, and reaction papers, students should put their complaint in writing within 7 days of when the mark was issued. In this memo, the student should indicate why they deserve a higher grade.
- The instructor will issue a ruling within 7 days of reviewing the memo. This ruling will be provided by the student in writing as well.
- Although the instructor is happy to provide feedback about ways to improve the grade in the next set of assignments, verbal complaints will not be entertained by the instructor.
- The instructor will only discuss grades with the student. The Privacy Act precludes the instructor from having discussions about other students’ grades.
- If the student cannot agree with the instructor’s ruling, the student needs to formally appeal their grade according to the university rules and regulations listed below: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf

Contacting the instructor

- E-mail is the best way to contact me.
- During weekdays, allow for 24 hours before responding.
- During weekends, allow for 48 hours before responding.
- If a student's comments and questions apply to the group, the instructor will send a group message via owl.

Important Policies (Standard Western Policies)

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:
A penalty of 10% will be applied for every late business day. If late, please submit in the dropbox in front of SSC 5307. I will only read papers that are stamped by the staff of the sociology department. Please do not turn your papers elsewhere.

If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or any other unforeseen reason, you must notify your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. Please follow the Academic Counselor's instructions about proper documentation. For example, if your problem is medical, you should hand in a doctor's note to the Academic Counselor for the exam date or due date of the assignment. 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 makeup exam or hand in your reaction paper late.

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 offense (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 the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database to detect plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. The 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**
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 Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:**
Laptops are permitted in class; however, 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**
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 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 offenses 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 on how to obtain help.
**Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](https://www.uwo.ca/registrar/policies/senate.pdf) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/Self_Reported_Absence.html) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

By enrolling in the course, the student agrees that they have reviewed all rules and regulations and guarantees that they will abide by all rules and regulations listed in this document.

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**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE** *(Subject to some variation)*

**WEEK 1 (1/8): Introduction**
- Orientation to course requirements and schedule

**I. FAMILIES IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

**WEEK 2 (1/15): Theories of migration**

*In class:* Watch a documentary on [Ellis Island](https://www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm)

**WEEK 3 (1/22): Migration & Development: Work, Remittances, & Return Migration**


**Supplementary analyses**


In class: Enrique’s journey

**WEEK 4 (1/29): Watch *Los Que Se Quedan***

**WEEK 5 (2/5): Who Migrates? Immigration politics and migration**


**WEEK 7 (2/12): Border Control, Regulation, and Family Separation**


In class: David Fitzgerald. “Mexican Migration to the United States 20 years After Migration”. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgyivEX-4WI


**Week 8 (2/19): Family week**

**Week 9 (2/26): Midterm Exam**

**II. CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

**Week 10 (3/4): Undocumented migrants**

Supplementary reading:


Week 11 (3/11): Watch Documented

**WEEK 12 (3/18): Immigrant Children and their Socioeconomic Wellbeing**

DOI: [10.1146/annurev.soc.29.010202.100026](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.29.010202.100026)


**Week 12 (3/18): International Migration and Labor Markets**


**WEEK 13 (3/25): Migration Union Formation**


**WEEK 14 (4/1): Migration, Health, and Obesity**


**Conclusion**

Reaction Paper 1 due