Welcome to Sociology 2235 001! I have taught Social Problems for many years at Western. This is an online course, so there will be no scheduled ‘classes’ or ‘lectures’. I have tried to make this online course every bit as successful as my in-class courses. Online courses are probably a new way of learning for most of you. Virtual learning offers accessibility to learning at Western with flexibility to plan your studies around work and family commitments; online courses are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Through access to OWL, you are expected to complete activities, assignments, and discussions by the scheduled due dates. Students should be prepared to commit 6 to 8 hours per week on this course. Some students may find virtual learning more challenging, compared to learning in on-campus classrooms. There are numerous strategies that can help students succeed in online learning. I will be posting them on OWL. I hope you enjoy this course!

Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a thriving campus. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/ to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: https://www.uwo.ca/health/.

Technical Requirements

Stable Internet Connection  Microphone  Webcam

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 how various social policies are implemented to aid the functioning of families.
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.

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.

Antirequisites: None

Required Text

2. Additional readings may be posted on OWL.

How to Contact Me

Send a message on OWL
Email – gcassidy@uwo.ca

Evaluation Breakdown – Further details will be provided at the beginning of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Element</th>
<th>Worth</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Members’ Peer Evaluation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>November 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 24th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Activities &amp; Discussions</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Throughout the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>December 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Group Presentation (20% + 5%)

Students in the course will be assigned to groups of 3 or 4 students and required to develop a presentation based on topics related to the sociological study of family. It will be the responsibility of the group members to meet on some platform, like Zoom for example, to work on their presentation. The presentation will be recorded on a platform, like Zoom, and submitted for evaluation. An outline of the proposed presentation will be required early in the semester – due date to be announced. A rubric for grading the presentation will be made available. In addition, each member of the group will be evaluated by their fellow group members on how actively involved they were in the preparation and/or presentation of the material with a score between 1 (was not very actively involved) and 5 (was actively involved in the preparation and/or presentation of the material). Students will receive a full 5% if all group members report that they were actively involved in their group.

Journals (20%)

Students will submit 2 journals – one at the end of each term. The journals will be a collection of news items relating to family. The news items will be summarized and examined by students.

Participation (15%)

Students will have the opportunity to obtain 15% of their grade by engaging in the course, for example, by responding to discussion questions, polls, activities, etc.

Midterm (20%) & Final Exam (20%)

The midterm and final examinations will be done online on OWL. The exam is NOT cumulative and will cover all course material, including PP slides, recordings, assigned readings, videos, guest presenters, etc. They may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions, and true/false questions.

Grades

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please discuss them with me over a Zoom appointment. 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 DON’T ASK!

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Group presentations and journals must be submitted on OWL by the due date. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.

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).

**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. Make-up exams and extensions for assignment deadlines will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, 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.

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Considertation_for_absences.pdf) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

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.

[Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academc_Consideration_for_absences.pdf)

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.