



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2132A-001

Partnering, Parenting, and Caring Families

Fall 2022

Monday 6:30pm-9:30pm; SSC-2036

In-person Classes

Instructor: Holly Meaney

Office Hours: Monday from 5:00pm-6:00pm or by appointment

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC #5408

Email: hmeaney@uwo.ca

Course Description:

How are partnering, marriage, and divorce changing? How is the structure of families shifting over time and why? This course examines how families are formed, how choices regarding marriage and parenting are shifting, and how diversity in families is increasing.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2235

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to enhance student's understanding of the following topics:

- What family means from a sociological perspective—how do we conceptualize family in Canada?
- Critically exploring the family as a sociological concept and how this relates to changing patterns in Canada, with reflection on policy, laws, and social dynamics that shape parenting, partnering, and caring in families.
- Socio-demographic, political, and technological transformations and their impact on Canadian families
- Reflections on topics such as LGBTQ2S+, cultural, and immigration patterns in families in Canada.

Course Material:

1. Family Matters: An Introduction to Family Sociology in Canada, Fourth Edition. Mitchell, Barbara A.
2. Please see each week for any supplemental readings provided

Communication:

You can contact me directly at my email hmeaney@uwo.ca, and I encourage you to attend my office hours, or schedule an appointment with me to connect about any concerns or questions you have.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

Methods of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Midterm Exam (35%)

Due Date: In class on October 24, 2022

Description: Will be given in the first hour of class, with short lecture to follow. Will comprise of multiple choice, matching questions, and a short answer question.

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.

Media Presentation Project (25%)

Due Date: November 7, 2022 at 6:30pm

Submission Instructions: Please submit a digital copy of your project in the OWL assignment tab under the correct assignment heading by 6:30pm on November 7, 2022. Late submissions will be

subjected to 5% deduction per day. All submissions will be run through Turnitin- please see section on plagiarism for information on textual similarity review policy.

Description: This project will require you to choose a piece of media that in some way represents families; a TV show clip, magazine image, advertisement, meme, newspaper article, etc. A list of potential media will be provided in the project outline document; however, you may choose a different media source to examine if approved by instructor. You will create either a poster or a PowerPoint presentation that will explain the media through a sociological lens, explaining the messages it is challenging or reinforcing, and the implications of the media and/or the social reaction to it. You will provide a written script to accompany your poster or PowerPoint. Creativity is encouraged in presentation of information, and you are expected to provide: a summary of the media, one theory that can help us understand it sociologically, how this media relates to current trends and statistics explored in the class, and larger sociological implication of this media.

Word Count: Written portion will accompany the presentation and should be clearly outlined so someone can understand what parts of the presentation the written section accompanies. A minimum page count is 2 pages (approx. 500 words double spaced) and should not exceed 5 pages double spaced (approx. 1,500).

Poster Dimensions: (Typical sizes range from 24" high x 36" wide to conference posters as large as 36" high x 48" wide. PowerPoint: 10-15 slides (including introduction slides and conclusion slides)

Please note that references are required, and do not count in the word count/slide count

Final Exam (40%)

Due Date: TBD *in December exam schedule*

Absences from Final Examinations:

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the

Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1 September 12, 2022: We are family; but what does that mean? Introduction to family

Readings:

1. ***Read before class*** “The American Family” Stephanie Coontz, Life Magazine *see link for article*

[The American Family | Stephanie Coontz](#)

2. ***Read after first class*** Chapter 1 Family Matters

Week 2 September 19, 2022: Theory and Trends in Partnering and Parenting

Readings:

1. Chapter 2 & Chapter 3 Family Matters
2. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2022039-eng.htm> (infographic)

Week 3 September 26, 2022: Starting a family

Readings:

1. Chapter 7 & 8 Family Matters
2. “Marriage, Choice, and Couplehood in the Age of the Internet” Michael Rosenfeld [Marriage, Choice, and Couplehood in the Age of the Internet | Sociological Science](#)

Week 4 October 3, 2022: Families and Social Structure: Health and Social Policy Impacting Family Trends

Readings:

1. Chapter 13 & 16 Family Matters

Week 5: Thanksgiving break Monday October 10, 2022- NO CLASS THIS WEEK

Use this week to catch up on readings, or schedule an appointment with me to review content

Week 6 October 17: Indigenous and Migrant Families: Exploring Cultural Contexts

Readings:

1. Chapter 4 & 5 Family Matters

Week 7 October 24, 2022: Gender and Equality in Partnering, Parenting, and Caring

MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS (35%) with short lecture to follow

Information: midterm will cover all readings and lecture material from week 1- week 6

Readings:

1. ***can read after lecture*** Chapter 6 Family Matters *Chapter 6 will not be included in the scope of the midterm exam*

Week 8- READING WEEK OCTOBER 31- NOVEMBER 6, 2022- NO CLASS

Week 9 November 7: Breaking the Mold; Diverse Families

Media Presentation Project Due at start of class- submission on OWL

Readings:

1. 9 & 10 Family Matters
2. “Canadian families growing more diverse, census data shows” Bruce Campion-Smith, Toronto Star. [Canadian families growing more diverse, census data shows | The Star](#)

Week 10 November 14, 2022: Childhood and Socialization

Readings:

1. Chapter 8 & 11 Family Matters
2. “When Dad Stays Home Too: Paternity Leave, Gender, and Parenting” Erin Rehel. https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/t54i2v/cdi_proquest_miscellaneous_1520341323

Week 11 November 21, 2022: Violence in Partnerships and Parenting

Readings:

1. Chapter 15 Family Matters

Week 12 NOV 28: Role reversal: the aging family

Readings:

1. Chapter 12 Family Matters
2. “Third annual report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada 2021” only read section 1 & 4
[Third annual report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada 2021 - Canada.ca](https://www3.internationaljournaloflawandethics.com/Third%20annual%20report%20on%20Medical%20Assistance%20in%20Dying%20in%20Canada%202021%20-%20Canada.ca)

Week 11: December 5, 2022: Review of Concepts

No readings assigned for this week

Important Dates to note Fall 2022:

Thursday September 8, 2022: Fall Term classes begin.

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies

Monday October 10, 2022: Thanksgiving Holiday.

October 31 - November 6, 2022: Fall Reading Week.

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first-term half course without academic penalty

December 8, 2022 (Thursday): Fall Term classes end.

December 10-22, 2022: Examination period.

Department Makeup exams:

- Midterm; Friday November 11 12:00-3:00pm Location TBA
- Final: Friday January 13th 12:00-3:00pm Location TBA

Important Policies

Academic Consideration for Missed Work: Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. The student medical certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

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.

Accessibility Options: Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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.

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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

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

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support

services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html .To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

2022-2023