



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3314G**  
**Family and Work**  
**Winter 2023**  
**Mondays, 6:30-9:30pm, UC 1225**  
**Delivery Method - in-person**

**Instructor:** Awish Aslam  
**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**Department of Sociology, Office:** TBC  
**Email:** aaslam5@uwo.ca

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**Course Description:** A study of changes in family and work, and their interrelationship. The focus is on paid and unpaid work, its division by gender, and the accommodation made by families, workplaces and social policy in terms of the needs to earn a living and care for family members.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level and third or fourth year standing in any module in Sociology, BMOS, or registration in third or fourth year of the School of Health Studies.

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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.

**Anti-requisite(s):** none

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate a sociological understanding of dominant theories, policies, trends, and issues pertaining to the family and work
2. Understand and evaluate empirical approaches to examining the family and work
3. Develop and communicate sound arguments about key debates in the field in oral and written format
4. Work independently and collaboratively to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate theoretical perspectives, empirical debates, and key concepts in published research
5. Apply course knowledge while engaging in critical scholarly discussions to analyze how social structures, institutions, policies, and processes shape the family and work

**Course Format:**

Class will be run in an interactive manner. I will begin each week with a lecture to provide an overview on the topics covered in the readings. Following the lecture, we will engage in group activities and structured discussions. Your job is to attend, listen, and ask and answer questions. I will end class with a summary of the day's discussion and the key takeaways from the readings. I have provided an overview of the methods of evaluation below, but detailed instructions and grading rubrics will be posted on OWL.

## **Course Material:**

All required readings, assignment prompts, and other course materials will be made available through our OWL course site.

## **Communication:**

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.

## **Method of Evaluation - Overview:**

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

<b>Method</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Written commentaries	20%	Every Sunday at 12:00pm on OWL (except for week 1 and 7)
Reading-based class activities/discussion	20%	Weekly (evaluated in class)
Policy memo poster	20%	Monday, Feb. 27, 2023
Policy memo presentation	10%	Monday, Feb. 27, 2023
Policy memo	30%	Monday, April 03, 2023

*This course does not have a final exam.*

## **Method of Evaluation – Details:**

### **Written Commentaries (20%), due weekly on OWL**

It is crucial that you complete the readings listed in the syllabus before each class. To help with this task, you will submit a half-page (double spaced) written response with your thoughts on the assigned readings every week. Your response should **not** include a summary of the readings. Instead, as you read, identify one theme, issue, concept, or argument you would like to discuss. You may want to analyze its strengths or weaknesses, explain why you agree or disagree, or evaluate its contribution or applicability in helping us understand the social condition of families and work. You do not have to address all the readings, but you can draw on similarities or differences between them if you would like. Build up your commentary so that you lead into one clear and focused question that engages with the aspect you discuss throughout your submission. The questions students pose in their commentaries will guide our weekly discussions. As such, you should be ready to elaborate on the points raised in your submission during class discussions. Commentaries are due online every Sunday at 12:00pm (noon) (except for week 1 and 7).

### **Reading-Based Class Activities/Discussion (20%), weekly**

In-class activities and discussions are designed to hone your understanding of the course material through collaborative learning. Such activities are a fruitful and rewarding intellectual exercise when everyone does their part to facilitate a stimulating learning environment. You are expected to share your perspectives, ask questions, and build and challenge one another's ideas while engaging with the course material. Respect is crucial in creating an atmosphere of collegiality. You can be respectful by giving your undivided attention to your peers, refraining

from interrupting or dominating the conversation, and approaching unfamiliar ideas with an open mind. Your grade will be evaluated based on preparation and participation.

Attendance is not an explicit part of the methods of evaluation, but if you do not attend class, you cannot demonstrate your understanding of the course material during in class activities/discussions and/or engage with your colleagues. To receive a passing grade in this course, you must attend a minimum of 80% of classes. This requirement will be waived only in exceptional circumstances with documentation.

Please inform me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a class for medical or personal reasons.

### **Policy Memo Poster (20%), due Monday, February 27, 2023**

Students will identify a policy problem they would like to address in relation to families and work. Choose your topic carefully, as the policy problem you select will also be the basis of your written policy memo (see below). You must notify me of your topic via OWL by or before **Monday, February 6th**.

Based on your topic, you will create an electronic poster (using Microsoft PowerPoint or a similar visual e-portfolio) that presents a draft of your policy memo, incorporating both words and images. Each submission must include a policy question, a description of the problem you plan to address, its sociological and practical relevance, and the thesis you are developing. Posters must be submitted electronically on OWL and a hard copy must be submitted in class on the due date.

### **Policy Memo Poster Presentation (10%), due Monday, February 27, 2023**

Students will prepare and deliver a brief (~7 minute) presentation based on their policy memo poster in class. This assignment provides students the opportunity to outline their memo, link it to current events, share their work with one another, and give and receive feedback in a collegial manner to help prepare their final policy memo.

### **Policy Memo (30%), due April 03, 2023**

Students will submit a 6-page (double spaced) policy memo on the same issue selected for their poster and presentation. The memo must introduce the topic, synthesize relevant literature and current events, demonstrate an understanding of key course concepts, detail two policy recommendations to address the identified social problem, present any limitation or barriers to the recommendations, and describe potential implications. Memos must be submitted electronically on OWL and a hard copy must be submitted in class on the due date.

### **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.

### **Student Absences:**

#### ***Missed classes:***

Please inform me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a class for medical or personal reasons.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

***Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:***

The only assignments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade are the 10 weekly commentaries (which are worth 2% each, totaling 20%). In most cases, students will be granted a one-week extension, but they will be subject to a 0.25 deduction from their grade for each day the commentary is late. After 7 days, the commentary will no longer be accepted. If a student's circumstances require a longer absence or extension, alternative arrangements will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:***

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. In most cases, students with approved documentation will be granted an extension.

**Absences from Final Examinations:**

There is no final exam for this course.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

The weekly course schedule and readings will be listed in a separate document posted on OWL.

**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 [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://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](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](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](http://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](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](http://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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).