



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2134B-001
Issues Facing Modern Families
Winter 2024

Delivery Method - In-person

Instructor: Dr. Mila Kolpashnikova

TA: TBD

Department of Sociology

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This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.

Course Description: This course examines the most pressing issues facing modern families today. We will cover the distribution of paid and unpaid work within families, intergenerational relationships, family policies, and adversity within families.

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2235.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, students should:

1. Critically apply core theoretical frameworks and concepts to social aspects of family.
2. Relate sociological concepts and research to real-life family-related situations.
3. Take a multifaceted perspective to issues facing modern families.
4. Critically interpret quantitative and qualitative data related to family research presented in lay and academic sources.
5. Improve proficiency in oral communication.

Course Material:

The following material is **required** and is available in e-versions on OWL:

WEEK 2 January 18 – Work-Family Conflict

Clark, S. C. (2000). Work/family border theory: A new theory of work/family balance. *Human relations*, 53(6), 747-770.

Wharton, A. S. (2012). Work and family in the 21st century: Four research domains. *Sociology Compass*, 6(3), 219-235.

WEEK 3 January 25 – Gender Inequality in Families and Societies

Scott, J. L., Crompton, R., & Lyonette, C. (Eds.). (2010). *Gender inequalities in the 21st century: New barriers and continuing constraints*. Edward Elgar Publishing. – Introduction (pp.1-16)

Dex, S., Scott, J. L., & Plagnol, A. (Eds.). (2012). *Gendered lives: Gender inequalities in production and reproduction*. Edward Elgar Publishing. -- Introduction: gender inequalities in production and reproduction (pp 1-20)

WEEK 4 February 1 – Gender Inequality & Patriarchy

Chapter 1. Overview (pp. 3-40) of Treas, J., & Drobnič, S. (Eds.). (2010). *Dividing the domestic: Men, women, and household work in cross-national perspective*. Stanford University Press.

Ruggles, S. (2015). Patriarchy, power, and pay: The transformation of American families, 1800–2015. *Demography*, 52(6), 1797-1823.

WEEK 6 February 15 – Work-Family Relations

Misra, J., Budig, M., & Boeckmann, I. (2011). Work-family policies and the effects of children on women's employment hours and wages. *Community, Work & Family*, 14(2), 139-157.

Alexander, A., De Smet, A., Langstaff, M., & Ravid, D. (2021). [What employees are saying about the future of remote work](#). McKinsey & Company, 1-13.

Galinsky, E., Matos, K., & Sakai-O'Neill, K. (2013). Workplace flexibility: A model of change. *Community, Work & Family*, 16(3), 285-306.

WEEK 8 February 29 – Family and Fertility

Lesthaeghe, R. (2014). The second demographic transition: A concise overview of its development. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111(51), 18112-18115.

McDonald, P. (2000). Gender equity in theories of fertility transition. *Population and development review*, 26(3), 427-439.

WEEK 9 March 7 – Race and Families

Burton, L. M., & Tucker, M. B. (2009). Romantic unions in an era of uncertainty: A post-Moynihan perspective on African American women and marriage. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 621(1), 132-148.

Collins, P. H. (2001). Like one of the family: race, ethnicity, and the paradox of US national identity. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 24(1), 3-28.

Choi, K. H., & Ramaj, S. (2023). Multigenerational living and children's risk of living in unaffordable housing: differences by ethnicity and parents' marital status. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1-22.

WEEK 11 March 21 — Gender Pay Gap

Blau, F. D., & Kahn, L. M. (2017). The gender wage gap: Extent, trends, and explanations. *Journal of economic literature*, 55(3), 789-865.

Booth, A. L., Francesconi, M., & Frank, J. (2003). A sticky floors model of promotion, pay, and gender. *European Economic Review*, 47(2), 295-322.

WEEK 12 March 28 – Families and Unpaid Work

Bianchi, S. M., Sayer, L. C., Milkie, M. A., & Robinson, J. P. (2012). Housework: Who did, does or will do it, and how much does it matter?. *Social forces*, 91(1), 55-63.

Sullivan, O. (2000). The division of domestic labour: twenty years of change?. *Sociology*, 34(3), 437-456.

Kan, M. Y., Zhou, M., Kolpashnikova, K., Hertog, E., Yoda, S., & Jun, J. (2022). Revisiting the gender revolution: Time on paid work, domestic work, and total work in East Asian and western societies 1985–2016. *Gender & Society*, 36(3), 368-396.

WEEK 13 April 4 – Final Class—Family and Ageing

Patterson, S. E., & Margolis, R. (2023). Family Ties and Older Adult Well-Being: Incorporating Social Networks and Proximity. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, gbad139.

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:

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

Assessment	% of the Final Grade	Notes	Due
Quizzes	8	Each week is worth 4%	There will be 2 quizzes on weeks before the midterm
In-class activities	8		In class

Midterm Exam 1	25		WEEK 5 February 8
Midterm Exam 2	25		WEEK 10 March 14
Final Exam	34		Final Exam: TBA

For the closed-book midterm exams, you will have 2 hours in class to complete 60 multiple-choice questions. Electronic devices will not be permitted. This is a paper and pen exam. Please remember to bring your own pencils to the exam.

For the closed-book final exam, you will have 3 hours in-person to complete 90 multiple-choice questions. Electronic devices will not be permitted. This is a paper and pen exam. Please remember to bring your own pencils to the exam.

Student Absences:

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:

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, the TA may provide an extension (of no longer than 3 days) for quiz or in-class activity submission if the student provides a valid reason (by emailing the TA). Students must create a 5-minute YouTube video to present their commentary on that week's readings.

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.

If a student misses the midterm exam, they will take a makeup exam, which will be a multiple-choice exam.

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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

WEEK 1 January 11 - Introduction

Course Syllabus

WEEK 2 January 18 – Work-Family Conflict

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WEEK 5 February 8 – MIDTERM 1

WEEK 6 February 15 – Work-Family Relations

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Galinsky, E., Matos, K., & Sakai-O'Neill, K. (2013). Workplace flexibility: A model of change. *Community, Work & Family*, 16(3), 285-306.

WEEK 7 February 22 (NO CLASSES) Reading week

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WEEK 10 March 14 - MIDTERM 2

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Final Exam (TBA)

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)” document

https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health

2023-2024