



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3314G – 001

**Family and Work
Winter 2024**

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Dr. Mila Kolpashnikova

TA: TBD

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

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): Registration in third year or above of any program.

Unless you have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, 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:

Upon the completion of this course, students should:

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 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:

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 and poster presentation
In-class activities	8		In class
Midterm Exam	25		WEEK 5 February 7
Policy Brief Poster and Presentation	25		WEEK 10 March 13
Policy Brief	34		April 8, 5pm, OWL

For the closed-book midterm exam, 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.

Policy Brief Poster (15%), due Week 10

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 brief (see below). You must notify me of your topic via OWL by or before February 28th.

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 brief, 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 Brief Poster Presentation (10%), due Week 10

Students will prepare and deliver a brief (~7 minute) presentation based on their policy poster in class. This assignment provides students the opportunity to outline their brief, 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 brief.

Policy Brief (34%), due April 8, 2024

Students will submit a 6-page (double spaced) policy brief 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. Briefs must be submitted electronically on OWL.

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 10 - Introduction

WEEK 2 January 17 – Work and Family

WEEK 3 January 24 – Gender Inequality

WEEK 4 January 31 – Gender Inequality & Patriarchy

WEEK 5 February 7 – MIDTERM

WEEK 6 February 14 – Work-Family Relations

WEEK 7 February 21 - (NO CLASSES) Reading week

WEEK 8 February 28 – Family Policies

WEEK 9 March 6 – Work and Time Poverty

WEEK 10 March 13 - POLICY BRIEF POSTER PRESENTATION

WEEK 11 March 20 — Gender Pay Gap

WEEK 12 March 27 – Families and Unpaid Work

WEEK 13 April 2 – Final Class—Family and Ageing

FINAL PROJECT DUE APRIL 8th – POLICY BRIEF

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](#)” document

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

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