



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3381F-200
Migration and Family
Blended

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

Course Description: This course examines how family needs and within-family dynamics inform decisions to migrate and investigates how migration alters family organization in sending and receiving communities. The course will consider concepts, theories, and data which lend themselves to the study of the interdependencies between migration and family life.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above.

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 if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisite(s): Family Studies 2220A/B, the former Family Studies 2225.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

In this course, students will:

- 1) Assess how social norms and institutions influence immigrant families' decision to migrate as well as their assimilation outcomes
- 2) Identify the risk and protective factors influencing the outcomes of immigrant families
- 3) Recognize that migration is a multifaceted phenomenon shaping the lives of immigrant families, non-migrants in the country of origin, and the native-born population in the destination country
- 4) Develop the analytical and critical skills necessary to properly assess social phenomena.
- 5) Hone public speaking skills to ensure success in future educational and labor market endeavors.

Course Material:

You can download all articles online on-campus using www.jstor.org or scholar.google.com. The instructor reserves the right to change some of the readings during the course in response to student interests.

Readings can be downloaded free of charge on-campus or using a VPN to obtain a Western IP address or through the library.

How to read

- Read the abstract

- Read the introduction, background, results, and discussion/conclusion.
- Skim/skip the data and methods I am not going to require that you understand the math.
- If it is an empirical article, you are trying to determine:
 - What are the research questions that the various articles are trying to address?
 - What are the findings of prior studies on the topic?
 - What are their 3-4 key findings?

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.

E-mail is the best way to contact me. During weekdays, allow for 24 hours until response. During weekends, allow for 48 hours until response.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Below is a detailed description of the work requirements of this course. You have two options.

Grades: Two options for final grade

Option 1.

- A) Midterm (50%)
- B) Final exam (50%)

Option 2.

- A) Midterm (33%)
- B) Final exam (34%)
- C) Paper (33%)

Students must have a midterm and final exam grade to pass this grade.

In-class exam -- Midterm

- (1) It will be 5-6 short answer questions (subject to my discretion).
- (2) Online.
- (3) You will have 3 hours to complete the exam and a grace period of 30 minutes to turn in your exam.
- (4) After 210 minutes from the start time of the exam, I will deduct a point for every late minute.
- (5) You must e-mail the final exam answers to me (kate.choi@uwo.ca) and the grader (TBD).
- (6) You will be graded on a curve. Your relative performance matters.
- (7) It will be marked by a grader.
- (8) Documentation
 - a. If you are unable to take this exam, you need to go to Academic Counselling or the Dean's Office to obtain the necessary documentation to take the make-up exam. You can make up the exam. The make-up exam will be held during the **departmental make-up exam date** (TBD, no other dates).
 - b. If the student misses both the actual and make-up exam due to a documented reason, then you need to write the optional essay (listed below) and turn it in by the **last day of class**.
 - i. For students to be the beneficiary of this policy, they must obtain documentation from Academic Counselling, the Dean's Office, or the Chair of the Department of Sociology at

UWO. Verbal communication to the instructor does not meet the requirement, nor does a doctor's note sent to the instructor. Notes from parents also do not meet this requirement.

- c. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.
- d. In the event that student turns in the answers for the wrong exam (i.e., exam answers for another class or another test), the student will receive a 0.
- e. The date for exam 1 is **October 19, 2023**, between 9:30-12:30 pm.

Final exam during exam week

Same rules as above, except in three ways:

- 5-6 questions
- Online.
- Same format/rules as the midterm.
- Duration: 3 hours. You have a thirty-minute grace period to turn in the exam in case you run into technological problems.
- After the 210-minute mark from the start time of the exam, I will deduct a point for every late minute.
- Will be held during the final exam week defined by Registrar's Office (i.e., **December 10-22, 2023**).
- If the student misses the final exam and has an official excuse, they can write a 5,000-word essay on a topic of the instructor's choice and turn it in by the department's final exam make-up date and start time.

Optional Research paper

- **Length:** 1500-word essay
- Detailed description and rubric will be offered to the student three weeks ahead of the last class.
- The student can send me a draft ahead of time and ask for feedback. Some students ask for line byline feedback. There are two problems: (a) fairness and (b) handicapping your critical thinking and analytical skills. I will only offer 1 feedback/student and provide "general" advice.
- If you are planning to submit the paper, please fill out the Assignment section titled "Paper?" by March 30th, 2021 at 5:30 pm. You just have to indicate "yes".
- These essays are due by **November 28, 2023, at 9:30 am**. You will have a grace period of 1 week. Because essay is optional and there is a weeklong grace period, essays cannot be submitted after **December 4, 2023, at 9:30 am**.
- E-mail your essays to kate.choi@uwo.ca

Extra Credit: Participation

- (1) Participation is an important aspect of all my classes. It is also the part that students find very enjoyable. It also helps develop mastery in verbal skill sets necessary to help students perform better in job interviews, team meetings upon employment, and when they enroll in law/graduate schools. We are, however, living in the era of COVID-19 and many of you are logging in remotely. It would be unfair to penalize a student's internet connection is not working, but it would also be unfair for me to penalize students who participate actively. Below is a "hybrid" approach to ensure fairness for all students.
- (2) *Expectations:* You will receive a rubric and will be graded accordingly. You must fill out the weekly inventory in the Assignment Section in OWL to receive any marks.
- (3) *Grades:* Up to 10 percentage points can be added to your exam.
- (4) Some students are very verbose. Getting to the point quickly is an important skill to develop for the job market. I want you to try to summarize your point of view in less than 2 minutes unless I prompt you to

elaborate.

- (5) Some students have a fear of public speaking. I encourage students to try to verbalize their point of view. At the beginning of class, the students can use the chat function in zoom where they can type their remarks. The remark has to be less than 3 sentences.
- (6) This is a class where we discuss the causes and consequences of migration in sending and destination countries. It is not a class where we discuss your political views. Repeated discussions of your political views are unwelcome and will be considered “disruptive behavior”.
- (7) To ensure that our class is a pleasant learning environment for everyone, there is a zero-tolerance policy towards disruptive behavior in class. The first time - you will receive a warning in writing; the second time- I will mute you for 3 consecutive classes, preventing you from getting any extra points. The third time – you will be asked to leave the class and I will request that the student be considered for disciplinary action. It is at my sole discretion to determine what is and what is not disruptive.
- (8) This is an extra credit assignment. I will not offer **any** alternate assignments for this portion of the class. If you cannot participate, please forego the participation mark and do well in the exam.
- (9) The sole agenda of this course is to learn academic facts substantiated by empirical research. My statements are based on large bodies of academic work conducted over many years. They are not my political views. When students participate, they must substantiate their statements with **facts**. “Everyone is **entitled** to his own **opinion**, **but** not his own **facts**” – Daniel P. Moynihan

Final grade: The department’s grading guidelines require that the average class grade for a 3000-level course be between 73-80%. The class is graded on a curve. Subject to some variation due to extraordinary circumstances, the class average will be approximately 80%. The midterm exam, final exam, and the optional paper will each be curved to approximate the final class grade, which means that the choice of options A and B will not affect your grade.

Student Absences:

You are required to attend class on the date of the midterm and final exam. I don’t check attendance for other dates, but please note that participation grade is extra credit.

Professors will post the notes. It is the student’s responsibility to ask their peers for information about the content of the class. Professor or TA are happy to offer clarifications and help student better understand course material, but will not hold private lectures for individuals who regularly misses class. These steps ensure that students who attend this morning class – either in-person or online – are awarded for their efforts and ensures equitable assessments of contribution to class.

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: [Not applicable for this course].

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.

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.

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