



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3314G
Family and Work
Winter 2025

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Dr. Mila Kolpashnikova

Department of Sociology

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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): 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 on Brightspace. No textbooks need to be purchased for this course.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) 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.

1. Class participation 10%
2. Midterm Exam 25% (**February 3, 2025**)
3. Policy Brief Poster and Presentation 25% (**February 24, 2025**)
4. Final Policy Brief Paper 40% (due on the final day of the class – **March 31 to April 4, 2025, before 11:59PM**)

Class Participation (10%): The success of this class is dependent on your active participation in class. This means that you need to consistently ask and answer questions, share your reflections on the readings, and engage respectfully with your colleagues. In class, students will be expected to ask and respond to questions about the material. This is a discussion-based course, so active participation will be required. To get the full mark you need to attend and actively participate in 8/10 classes.

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 February 24

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).

Based on your topic, you will create an electronic poster (using Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva, or a similar software) 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 Brightspace.

Policy Brief Poster Presentation (10%), due February 24

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. If you don't want to present in class, you need to submit a 10-minute video presentation to TA two days before the deadline (February 22).

Policy Brief (34%), due March 31 - April 4, 2025

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 Brightspace.

Please note that because the submission deadline for this assessment (final paper) already includes flexibility in the form of a 5-day submission window, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility (April 4th).

Student Absences:

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

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.”

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

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:

Weekly readings will be provided on Brightspace.

Artificial Intelligence:

All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI).

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
- Course Selection
- Absence from Course Commitments
- Missed Tests and Exams
- Religious Accommodations
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence statement

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website 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 .