



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2134A-650
Issues Facing Modern Families
Summer 2024

Delivery Method - Online

Instructor: Dr. Mila Kolpashnikova

Office Hours: by appointment

Department of Sociology

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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. Being able to read and understand academic articles.

Course Material:

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

WEEK 1 – 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 2– Family and Fertility

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

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

WEEK 3–Family & Work Transformation

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

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

WEEK 4– Work-Family Policies

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.

Hook, J. L., & Paek, E. (2020). National family policies and mothers' employment: How earnings inequality shapes policy effects across and within countries. *American Sociological Review*, 85(3), 381-416.

WEEK 5 – Work, Time, and Class

Sullivan, O., & Gershuny, J. (2004). Inconspicuous consumption: Work-rich, time-poor in the liberal market economy. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 4(1), 79-100.

Vagni, G. (2020). The social stratification of time use patterns. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 71(4), 658-679.

WEEK 6– Unpaid Work & Aging

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.

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 Brightspace site 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
Discussion board post	24	4% per each week	Sunday 5pm of each week
Midterm	30	30 short answer questions	Week 3, due May 25 th , 11:59PM
Final Exam	46	20 short answer questions and 1 essay question	Final Exam: June 16 by 11:59PM

For the open-book midterm exam, you will have 1 hour to complete 30 short-answer questions. The exam will be on Brightspace.

For the open-book final exam, you will have 1.5 hours to complete 20 short-answer questions and 1 essay question. The exam will be on Brightspace.

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 weekly reading reflections, no late submissions will be accepted under any circumstances.

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 final exam with Academic Counselling Office's approval, they will take a makeup 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.

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

2024