



Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA

The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLGY 3381G-001
Migration and Family
Winter 2026
In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Senanu K. Kutor

Office Hours: By Appointment

Department of Sociology

Email: skutor@uwo.ca

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

Course Description: Migration is not only an economic or political process; it is also a deeply social one that reshapes family structures, roles, relationships, and identities across places and generations. This course examines the complex and dynamic relationship between migration and family life. It engages with key concepts, theories, case studies, and empirical evidence to examine how families influence migration decisions and, in turn, how migration transforms family organization and everyday life, as well as receiving communities.

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

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:

The purpose of this course is to:

- Synthesize and critically evaluate theoretical arguments regarding international migration.

- Evaluate how interconnected factors shape migration decisions as well as integration outcomes
- Identify the risk and protective factors influencing the outcomes of immigrant families.
- Recognize migration as a multifaceted process that affects the lives of immigrant families, non-migrants in countries of origin, and native-born populations in destination societies.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Explain** key sociological concepts and theories that link migration processes with family dynamics in sending and receiving societies.
- **Develop** the analytical and critical skills necessary to properly assess social phenomenon such as migration.
- **Analyze** how family needs, roles, and relationships influence migration decision-making at individual and household levels.
- **Assess** how migration reshapes family structures, practices, and relationships, including transnational arrangements, across different social contexts.
- **Apply** empirical evidence to evaluate the interdependent effects of migration on families, non-migrants, and host communities.

Course Material:

All other course materials can be downloaded from scholar.google.com or www.lib.uwo.ca. Note that I will also bring additional news articles that will be of relevance to the weekly topics.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [Bright Space](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course. The best way to reach the instructor will be via e-mail (skutor@uwo.ca).

Please allow 24 hours during the week and 72 hours during weekends. You must provide your full name and the purpose of your email. If these are not included, I will not respond. Your message to your professor is a formal correspondence and not to be written as a social media message. If there is a question relevant to many students, the instructor reserves the right to address the question during the next class period. Office hours are by appointment only via Zoom.

Disruptive Behaviour:

Disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated in my class because I care a lot about all my students. Part of caring for my students is ensuring that the classroom is a safe environment for everyone. Politically incorrect speech about the migration will be considered disruptive behaviour. Although students may provide anecdotal evidence to make a point, you cannot use the classroom to discuss your political views that are unsupported by the academic literature. The determination of what is/is not disruptive behavior is at the discretion of the course professor.

Consequences to disruptive behavior: 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; and the second 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.

Expectations and Criteria for Success:

Follow the strategies below if you intend to complete this class with a strong and stress-free grade:

- Be active in your own learning.
- Read ahead and complete all assignments on time. Late assignments would attract a penalty.
- Ask relevant questions and make use of office hours if you need extra help. The instructor will not be able to help you with your course requirements unless you inform him of your circumstances.
- Do not plagiarize.

Online Anonymous Questions Box:

Sometimes, you might have questions about the lectures, concepts/theories, or readings—but you might feel shy, worried that your question is ‘too basic,’ or just prefer not to speak up in front of the class. That’s totally normal! If you have any questions, you can use the online anonymous question box: <https://www.menti.com/blkdfeyntchh> and I will try to address some of the questions either before or at the end of class.

Method of Evaluation:

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

The final grades for this course will be awarded based on the following:

Evaluation Components	Percentage of course Grade	Due Date
Class participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Active participation	10%	Entire semester
Assignment 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Scenario-Based Migration Analysis	20%	February 03, 2026
Mid-Term Exam	20%	February 24, 2026
Assignment 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Migration Issues in the News	20%	March 24 2026
Final Exam	30%	To be determined

Class Participation:

Participation is an important aspect of this course. Student must fill out the weekly participation sheet. There is no set amount the student needs to speak to receive a good grade. Nevertheless, active listening is an important element of participation. If a student seeks to dominate class discussion, I reserve the right not to call on the student when they raise their hand. The student

will earn no marks for irrelevant points. To get the full mark you need to attend and actively participate in 11/11 classes, excluding reading week and mid-term exam week.

Assignment 1: Scenario-Based Migration Analysis:

Assignment 1 is due **February 03, 2026, by 11:50 PM**. In this assignment, you will be presented with a migration scenario to analyze and write a 1500-word (single spaced) response to a series of questions in an essay format. Your answers must draw on course theories and concept, make clear analytical arguments and include references (APA).

Mid-Term Exam:

The midterm will take place on **February 24, 2026**, in the classroom for **two hours**. It will cover material from weeks 1- 5 and including lectures and readings. It will be **40** multiple choice and five short answer questions. This is a paper and pen exam. Please remember to bring your own pencils to the exam.

This is a closed book exam, and no electronic aids are permitted.

Assignment 2: Immigration Issues in the News:

Assignment 2 is due on **March 24, 2026, by 11:50 PM**. In this assignment, you will be given a Canadian newspaper article and asked to write an essay (1500-word and single spaced) that responds to a guiding question, drawing on key concepts and course readings.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be the same format as the midterm but longer (**60 multiple choices and one long answer question**). It will cover materials from week 1 to 13. It will be in person and will be **three hours**. If you miss the final exam, you will require supporting documentation for a makeup exam.

Date: TBD

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

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

Electronic Devices:

Laptops are permitted during classroom to take lecture notes. Cellphones must be turned off during class times. **However, there might be some instances where permission will be granted to use cellphones for some activities.** Recording of the lectures are not permitted. The use of laptops or any kind of electronic devices is not allowed during exams.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Copyright:

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Absence from Course Commitments:

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#)-Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html. 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 scheduled 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 in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf> or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Once the request and supporting documentation have been received and reviewed, appropriate academic consideration, if granted, shall be determined by the instructor in consultation with the academic advisor, in a manner consistent with the course outline. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam, unless otherwise specified in the course outline. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty Academic Counselling Office. Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf.

Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence or University approved emergency during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Code of Student Conduct:

It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize themselves with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University.

Student Responsibility:

Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) they may have taken. Students must familiarize themselves with the Student Responsibility for Course Selection policy https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf and the Registration and Progression policy https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf. Students are responsible for the successful completion of the Graduation Requirements for their degree program https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf.

Support Services:

Office of the Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Faculty Academic Advising - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html.

USC services offers information about student the health/dental plan, Bus Pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc. <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Mental health – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Health & Wellness Services – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>. Additional on-campus services are also available <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/services/index.html>.

Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.

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 or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: http://uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

Western Libraries – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.

Writing support – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>.

Bookstore: Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>.
