

Family Studies 3325B
Diversity and the Canadian Family
January–April 2014
W 11:30-2:30, Room 302

Professor: Dr. Lara Descartes

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Catalogue Copy and Course Description:

This course examines contemporary diversity as it impacts individuals and families. Its psychosocial approach enables students to think through their own perspectives on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, and more in preparation for working with people from diverse backgrounds.

This course also develops transferable skills, namely, synthesizing diverse forms of data and presenting them in written, visual, and oral formats.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will become aware of the range of diversity in Canada
2. Students will learn about the psychosocial theory underpinning the class, and the cycle of socialization/liberation
3. Students will reflect upon their own identities and consider how their identities interact with others' identities
4. Students will understand the historical and social influences affecting different elements of diversity
5. Students will learn about contemporary discrimination
6. Students will become aware of social justice principles and gain insight into how they personally might work to promote social justice

Prerequisite:

1.0 units of a 2000-level Family Studies course.

Required Texts:

Adams, M. et al. (2010). *Readings on diversity and social justice, 2nd Ed.* New York: Routledge.

Evaluation and Grading:

Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Group presentation	20%
Term project	25%
Final exam	25%

Participation

This class relies heavily on your involved, informed participation. This includes: Informed participation (the kind that shows that you've done the readings) in class. Attendance. Attention. Lack of negative participation (inattention, disruption, not attending, texting, regular late attendance, etc.).

Quizzes

These will be at the beginning of class. They will be short. Questions may come from one or more of the reading sections. If you miss a quiz, you must make it up within one week of when it was given, or provide medical documentation, or it goes to zero. *They must be made up in office hours, **not** in or after class.*

Group presentation

Your group will research an area related to the week's readings, specifically in the Canadian context, but that is different than the actual reading. So you'll be spending 20 minutes presenting to the class about something related to our reading. More about this in class.

Term project

A diversity portfolio, preferably electronic, but paper is fine. The topic will be individual, and different from the material used for the group presentation. There will be a separate handout on this.

Final exam

Everything will be covered; all class materials, including videos, etc.

Course Policies:

No laptops, no phones, no electronic devices Class (and quiz and exam!) time is our time, free of texting, FB, etc. If you need a laptop for an individual reason, come speak with me.

Late Assignments The policies governing requests for accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section at the end of the outline. Exams must be taken when specified unless there is academic accommodation via academic advising, granted with documentation for medical and personal emergencies. Assignments must be handed in on the day they're due unless there is academic accommodation. Late assignments get 10 points off per day otherwise, where the day turns over at 4 pm. In other words, hand in your portfolio at 4:01 pm on the day it's due, and it's 10 points off. Just turn it in on time. 😊

A+ 90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A 80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B 70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C 60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D 50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F below 50	Fail

Course Etiquette When sending an email to me, put something in the subject line like “FS3325.” Address email with something like “Dear Dr. Descartes” or “Hello Dr. Descartes.” “Hey” isn’t really a good opening line on a professional email. No opening line isn’t good either. Sign your name to your email.

Most of you are mature adults and don’t need the following reminders, but I’ve learned through the years that it’s best to lay it all out. Come to class. Be on time for class. Don’t leave class early. There are exceptions of course, but these should be rare, not standard. More reminders: in the classroom, when we’re actually having class is not a good time to talk or whisper with your friends and classmates. Finally, please be respectful of each other and of me. Diverse opinions may and should be expressed: If you read or hear something you don’t agree with, talk about it, but try to separate that from going on the offensive or the defensive.

Final Note This syllabus may be amended by the professor if needed.

Course Calendar: Readings are to be done before class (and there's a quiz on the readings)

Date	Topic	Readings and assignments
Jan. 8	Course introduction, thinking about identity	
Jan. 15	Prejudice and discrimination	Q1, RDSJ Intro to Section 1,1,2,3,4,6,7
Jan. 22	Race and ethnicity	Q2, RDSJ 8,14,16,18, Alfred (2009), "Colonialism and state dependency," http://www.naho.ca/jah/english/jah05_02/V5_I2_Colonialism_02.pdf
		Group 1
Jan. 29	Race, ethnicity, and immigration	Q3, RDSJ 20,22,25, Henry & Tator (2006), pp. 74-86, posted on Owl
		Group 2
Feb. 5	Religion	Q4, RDSJ 45,46,47,49,56,skim maps p. 268,270,273. [no quiz on maps]
		Group 3
Feb. 12	Religion	Q5, RDSJ 57,58,60, Helly (2004), "Are Muslims discriminated against in Canada since September 2001?" <i>Canadian Ethnic Studies</i> , 36, 24-47. Available through library website.
		Group 4
Feb. 26	Class	Q6, RDSJ Intro to Section 3 bottom p. 142-top of 145,27,29,36,39,41,42
		Group 5
Mar. 5	Gender	Q7, RDSJ Intro to Section 5, 61,62,63,64,65
		Group 6
Mar. 12	Gender	Q8, RDSJ 66,68,71,72,75,76
		Group 7
Mar. 19	Sexual identity	Q9, RDSJ Intro to Section 6,78,80,81,82,86
		Group 8
Mar. 26	Gender identity	Q10, RDSJ Intro to Section 7,87,89,90,92,93,94,95
		Group 9
Apr. 2	Disability	RDSJ Intro to Section 8,99,101,105,106,107,108,109,110,114
		Projects are due
Apr. 11-30	Final exam, date TBD	Final exam

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not

missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . 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.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.