



**FAMILY STUDIES 1010A SECTION 530  
INTRODUCTION TO FAMILIES IN CANADA**

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Instructor: Professor Michelle Gibson  
Email: To be provided in class  
Office: To be provided in class  
Phone Number: To be provided in class  
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30 to 1:30 or by appointment

Class time/room: Wed 9:30 to 12:30 Rm. 136 (St. James Building)

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

This introductory course explains the field of Family Studies, examining the factors that shape family life, from individual psychology to group dynamics to social forces such as the workplace, the economy, and the government. Families are considered across the life course, and family diversity is highlighted.

0.5 course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This half credit course is designed to introduce students to the study of families. Topics covered in the course include: family theory, dating and mate selection, cohabitation, marriage, fertility, parent-child relationships, institutions, divorce and re-partnering, aging families, stress, conflict and abuse, and changing families. By the end of this course, students will:

- Have an understanding of the major concepts, terms and theories in family studies
- Understand families through life course theory and recognize the stages of family development.

- Demonstrate appreciation of and understanding for how families are influenced by broader social, cultural, political and economic systems.
- Appreciate the diversity and variability of families within Canada and in a global context.
- Develop a critical lens regarding knowledge produced in mass media, public discourse and academia about families and concerns that impact families in Canada.
- Recognize the challenges that may present for Canadian families in the future.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

White, J.M., Martin, T.F., & Bartolic, S.K. (2013). *Families across the life course*. Pearson: Toronto, ON.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE**

Midterm: 30%

Presentation: 20%

Final Exam: 40%

Attendance: 10%

### **Midterm:**

The midterm exam will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short-answer questions based on materials covered in the course between Week 1 and Week 6. The covered materials include textbook information, online or additional readings provided, lecture, presentations, videos and discussions. The midterm will be scheduled on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **Presentation:**

The second week of class you will be assigned to a group of four to six. Groups will be asked to present during the term on the following:

- A controversy within family studies or families
- An example of a topic covered in class that is in the news or popular culture
- A family studies topic of your choice

Topics will be approved by the instructor. Please refer to the presentation handout for further information.

**Final Exam:**

The cumulative final exam will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short-answer questions based on materials covered in the course between Week 1 and Week 12. The covered materials include textbook information, online or additional readings provided, lecture, presentations, videos and discussions. The final exam will be scheduled between December 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

This course will be taught using lectures, discussions, group presentations, and videos. Students are required to prepare for classes by reading the assigned materials before class. Lectures are prepared to assist you to understanding course topics; however, the information provided during lectures will not be sufficient to cover all information included in assigned readings.

It is strongly encouraged that you attend all classes in order to remain updated on course changes and to ensure that you receive information included in lecture presentation. Additionally, attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class to account for the attendance portion of the grading rubric.

During the first class, we will discuss courtesy and class expectations. To ensure a positive learning environment for all students, it is expected that all students will work hard to ensure there are no distractions present during class time. It is an expectation that cell phones will not be used during class and that laptop use will be restricted to note-taking and course information.

Students who fail to appear for an examination at the scheduled time will not be permitted to write the examination paper unless steps detailed in page 6 for academic accommodation have been followed. Should academic accommodation not be provided, there will be no allowance for make-up examinations or extra-work for the purpose of improving grades.

I welcome questions during office hours or after class. Should a student have a complex concern, please schedule an appointment. I will do my best to answer questions by email; however, should your question require a detailed response, you will be asked to meet in person. Emails will not be answered between Friday at 4:00 p.m. and Monday at 9:00 a.m.

Changes in information that appear in this course outline will be discussed in class prior to being implemented.

## COURSE CALENDAR

**Week One:** An Introduction to Family Studies  
September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*READING:*  
Chapter 1: Defining Family Across the Life Course  
(Textbook)

**Week Two:** Life Course Theory  
September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*READING:*  
Chapter 2: Life Course Analysis (Textbook)

**Week Three:** Forming Couples  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*READING:*  
Chapter 3: Dating and Mate Selection (Textbook)

**Week Four:** Cohabitation  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

*READING:*  
Chapter 4: Cohabitation (Textbook)

**Week Five:** Marriage and Married Life  
October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*READING:*  
Chapter 5: Marriage (Textbook)

**Week Six:** **MIDTERM**  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Week Seven:** Expanding Families  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

*READING:*

Chapter 6: Fertility and Having a Child (Textbook)

**Week Eight:**  
October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Parent-Child Relationships

*READING:*

Chapter 7: Parent-Child Relationships (Textbook)

**Week Nine:**  
November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Institutions

*READING:*

Chapter 8: Institutions (Textbook)

**Week Ten:**  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Divorce and Repartnering

*READING:*

Chapter 9: Divorce and Repartnering (Textbook)

**Week Eleven:**  
November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Aging Families

*READING:*

Chapter 10: Aging Families (Textbook)

**Week Twelve:**  
November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Stress, Conflict and Abuse Across the Life Course

*READING:*

Chapter 11: Stress, Conflict and Abuse Across the Life Course (Textbook)

**Week Thirteen:**  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

The Future of the Family

*READING:*

## Chapter 12: Changing Pathways and Emerging Alternatives (Textbook)

### 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](http://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](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.

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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.