

Final Sept /13 LM



BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**FAMILY STUDIES 1020 SECTION 531  
INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY STUDIES: 2013-2014**

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Instructor:	Dr. Laura Mullins
Email:	lmullin6@uwo.ca
Office hours:	Monday 6:00-6:30 or by appointment
Mon 6:30 to 9:30pm	BR-303

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

This course is a multi-disciplinary approach to the family as a biological, social, economic, legal and political unit, continually changing and adapting to a variety of pressures. This course provides students with a broad grounding in the family in the current Canadian context, and examines cultural and historical variations. 1.0 course.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This full credit course is designed to introduce students to a wide range of issues in family studies. By the end of the course students will

- Be familiar with the major concepts, terms and theories in family studies
- Have an understanding of the key factors that affect family dynamics in Canada
- Appreciate the variability that is found in Canadian families today, and historical and social roots of this variability
- Demonstrate increased understanding of how family life is shaped and influenced by socioeconomic changes, legal systems, and political structure throughout history
- Gain appreciation of how scholars from different disciplines study family issues, and how professionals from different fields approach these issues
- Recognize the challenges that face Canadian families

**REQUIRED READINGS**

The required text for this course is:

Ward, Margaret and Marc Bélanger (2011) *The Family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Toronto, Ontario: Thomson Nelson.

A second required text is needed for second term:

Ungar, M. (2007). *Too Safe For Their Own Good: How Risk and Responsibility Help Teens Thrive*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.

Additional readings are required some weeks. The selected readings are available on-line. These readings are required, and students are responsible for downloading and reading the items.

- **Week 1:** Milan, A. et al. (2007) Family Portrait: Continuity and Change in Canadian Families and Households in 2006, 2006 Census
- **Week 3:** Gabb, J. (2009). Researching family relationships: A qualitative mixed methods approach. *Methodological Innovation Online*, 4(2), 37-52.
- **Week 8:** Coontz, S. (2004) The World Historical Transformation of Marriage. *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66, 974-979.
- **Week 11:** Dew, J. & Bradford, W.B. (2011) If Momma Ain't Happy: Explaining Declines in Marital Satisfaction among New Mothers. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 73, 1-12.

### **COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The teaching methods used in this course will include lectures, discussions, group presentations by students, and videos. Students are expected to prepare for classes by doing the reading assigned for a class BEFORE the class meeting.

You are strongly advised to attend every class, to view all media presentations, and to participate actively in class activities.

Owl will be used in this course and all students will need to access this web source regularly. Schematic lecture notes will be posted on-line before class. These notes will be a summary of major points and issues covered in class. Downloading the notes is NOT a good substitute for class attendance.

We will have a discussion about courtesy and class decorum during the first meeting of the class. It is important that a positive learning environment be maintained and that disruptions be minimized. To that end, cellphone use is not permitted during class and laptops only may be used after individual consultation with the professor. If laptops are used, the screen only should be open to class notes during class—not Facebook, email, websites, etc.

Students who fail to appear for an examination at the time set in the timetable will not be allowed to write the examination unless the steps detailed below for academic accommodation have been followed. Similarly, missed assignments (for example a group presentation) may not be made up later. There will not be any make-up examinations or extra work for improving grades.

The instructor will be available outside of class time during scheduled office hours. If you cannot attend office hours, please make an appointment with the instructor by email. When you do so, please use your UWO email account and provide your class code in the subject area. In general, instructors much prefer to talk one on one with students rather than to exchange lengthy e-mails.

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

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Weight</u>
In-class short test Term 1	15%
Midterm exam	20%
In-class short test Term 2	15%
Assignment	20%
Critical Reflection	5%
Final exam	25%

### **In-class short test (15% each)**

TWO short tests will be given in class in the middle of each term

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

February 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

The short test will be primarily multiple choice, but may also include short answer questions based on readings, lectures, discussion, and videos.

### **Assignment (20%)**

Students can choose one of two options for the assignment (15%):

1. A short presentation (20 minutes) to the class by three students working together on a topic in Family Studies **in first or second term**.
2. A written report on a controversy in the study of the family **due March 24<sup>th</sup> 2014**. Students will be provided with further information on choices for this assignment at the first two class meetings.

All students will be required to submit a proposal for the assignment (5%). In the proposal, student should clearly identify the students' choice in assignments (i.e. presentation or paper), group members, topic of study, minimum of three academic resources to be utilized in the assignment. **Proposals are due Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

### **Midterm exam (20%)**

The midterm exam will include multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. Students will be tested on information and ideas covered in readings, lectures, presentations and videos in the first term. **Midterm exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the December examination.**

### **Critical Reflection (5%)**

Students are expected to complete a short 2-page paper demonstrating critical reflection on their reactions to the material presented in class. The critical reflection will be due **April 10<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

### **Final exam (30%)**

The final exam will include multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. The emphasis will be on second term (80%) but some recall of important information and concepts from first term will be expected (up to 20% of the final). **Final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the April examination period.**

## COURSE CALENDAR

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1	Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Course and Family Studies		Online
2	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Theories in Family Studies		FD: Ch 1
3	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Methods for Study of the Canadian Family	Sign-up for presentations	Online
4	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Being Different: Gender roles, racial & ethnic differences		FD: Ch 2
5	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Forming Couples		FD: Ch 3
6	Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Thanksgiving – no class</i>		
7	Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Marriage and Married Life (Part 1)	Quiz	FD: Ch 4
8	Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>	Marriage and Married Life (Part 2)		Online
9	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Expanding Families	Proposals	FD: Ch 5
10	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Young Children and Family Life (Part 1)		FD: Ch 6
11	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Young Children and Family Life (Part 1)	Presentations	Online
12	Nov 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Middle Years & Family Transitions	Presentations	FD: Ch 7
13	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Family Life and the Elderly & Review		FD: Ch 8
December 8 - 19			Midterm	
14	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup>	Single Parent Families and Children		FD: Ch 9
15	Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	Divorce		FD: Ch 10
16	Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	Blended Families		FD: Ch 11
17	Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gender Roles		FD: Ch 12
18	Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Problems		FD: Ch 13
19	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	Family Violence	Quiz	FD: Ch 14
	Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Family day – no class</i>		
20	Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Family Poverty and Inequality		FD: Ch 15
21	Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Future of the Family		FD: Ch 16
22	Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dilemmas of the Teen Years		TS: 1-3
23	Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	Teen Behaviour and Motivation		TS: 4-6
24	Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	A More Dangerous World?	Papers due	TS: 7-9
25	Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Connecting With Teens & Presentations	Presentations	TS: 10-11
26	Apr 7 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations & Review	Presentations	
			Reflection due (April 10 <sup>th</sup> )	
Apr 11-30			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](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.