



Brescia University College
Family Studies 1010A (530): Introduction to Families in Canada
Spring 2017

Dr. Stephen Lin Office hours: by appointment
Email: clin64@uwo.ca
Class time/room:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00am - 12:00pm / BR 304

Course 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.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of Family Studies terminology, concepts, research methods, and theories.
- Be able to identify and explain the different stages of family life.
- Be able to describe how life course theory helps us understand the characteristics and processes of families in different stages.
- Be able to relate ways in which families are influenced by the institutions of their society.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the range of diversity of contemporary Canadian families.
- Understand some of the challenges facing Canadian families, such as poverty and violence.
- Be able to identify how Canadian families likely will continue to change in the future.
- Reflect upon their own attitudes and beliefs about families and family roles.
- Develop skills in synthesizing Family Studies knowledge, and presenting it professionally and coherently.

Prerequisite: None

Required Text: White, J. M., Martin, T. F., & Bartolic, S. K. (2013). *Families across the Life Course*. Pearson: Toronto.

Reading and Participation:

It is expected that students will come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material. There is no attendance grade in this course, but failure to attend classes regularly will put you at a disadvantage. Much of the course is cumulative, so missing one class can cause problems for comprehending the material in the following classes.

BRESCIA COMPETENCIES

You will develop the Brescia competencies at an introductory level in this course. The Brescia competencies include:

Communication

The ability to connect theoretical ideas with personal experiences in various forms of communication, such as in-class group discussion and writing.

Critical Thinking

The ability to exercise critical thinking in order to evaluate different sources of information, such as textbook, mass media and personal stories, and to become a critical information consumer.

Inquiry and Analysis

The ability to make informed decisions by deconstructing complex issues, exploring evidence, demonstrating information literacy, and describing relationships among persons, things, or events.

Problem Solving

The ability to gather different strategies to resolve case-specific problems, and the ability to work as a team to brainstorm ideas to resolve complex issues.

Self Awareness and Engagement

The ability to contribute new ideas and knowledge to course themes, and to practice self-reflection and self-evaluation in all course assignments for personal growth and improvement.

Valuing

The ability to make decisions based on the consistent application of moral principles and ethical codes. Students must also be able to understand the ideas informing one's beliefs and be accountable for their actions.

Method of Evaluation:

In-Class Quiz	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Family Life Course Assignment	30%
Final Exam (cumulative, with more weights on final chapters)	35%

Evaluation Breakdown (detailed information provided in class)

In-Class Quiz (Thursday, May 25):

This in-class Quiz is worth 10% of your total grade and will test students on the list of important theories and concepts related to family studies in the Canadian context. This quiz will consist of multiple short-answer questions and is scheduled on. Please note that there will not be a make-up quiz so It is important that you do not miss it. It will be held during the first half of the class on May 25 and you have **40 minutes** to complete it.

Mid-Term Exam (Tuesday, June 6):

The 2-hour mid-term exam is worth 25% of your total grade and will cover materials from **May 16 to June 1. You are expected to review lectures and chapter 1 to 6.** This exam consists of multiple-choice questions only.

Family Life Course Assignment (Thursday, June 22):

This assignment is designed to help you to understand the history of your own family situations from various theoretical perspectives. You are expected to apply relevant theories, concepts and themes to describe the social dynamics of your family. You must discuss important transitions that your family have gone through in life, and how they impact you and other family members in various ways. Please be selective in terms of the information you would like to present to me since you do not have enough space to discuss everything you have witnessed and experienced in your family. This assignment should be 5 pages in length, double spaced with 12 font size. You must include an introduction that highlights the main ideas of your family situation and a conclusion that sums up your observation of your family situation. Please submit it to me via the online dropbox on OWL by **6:00pm on Thursday, June 22.** Late submission will be penalized by 5% per day.

Final Exam (Scheduled between June 26 and 27):

The 2-hour final exam is worth 30% of your total grade and will cover all the materials from May 16 to June 22. Although this exam is **cumulative, more questions will be from chapter 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and relevant lectures.** This exam will consist of multiple choice only.

Weekly Reading and Important Dates

Date	Topic	Readings, assignments, and exams
May 16	Introduction; Defining Family	Chapter 1
May 18	Life course analysis	Chapter 2

May 23	Dating and mate selection	Chapter 3
May 25	Cohabitation	Chapter 4 / In-Class Quiz (40 minutes)
May 30	Marriage	Chapter 5
June 1	Having or not having children	Chapter 6
June 6	Midterm Exam	Materials from Chapter 1-6
June 8	Parent-child relationships	Chapter 7
June 13	Social institutions and families	Chapter 8
June 15	Divorce and repartnering	Chapter 9
June 20	Aging families	Chapter 10
June 22	The future of the family	Chapter 12 (Family Profile Assignment due)
June 26-27	Final Exam Period	Materials cumulative, but Chapter 7,8,9, 10, 12 are weighted more heavily

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/2014/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

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

[ad.pdf](#).

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, between Western University 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.