



Brescia University College
Family Studies 1010A (Section 531)
Introduction to Families in Canada
Fall 2021
(Asynchronous Teaching)

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Office hours: Zoom Meeting by appointment

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 Competencies: By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Express knowledge of Family Studies terminology, concepts, research methods, and theories (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 2).
- Identify stages of family life (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 2).
- Describe how family theories help us understand the characteristics and processes of families in different stages (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 1).
- Understand how families are affected by social institutions (social awareness and engagement level 2, inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 1).
- Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in contemporary Canadian families (social awareness and engagement level 1, inquiry and analysis level 1, critical thinking level 1, valuing level 2).
- Understand some of the challenges facing Canadian families, such as poverty and violence (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 1, problem solving level 2, valuing level 2, social awareness and engagement level 2).
- Demonstrate knowledge of ongoing changes in Canadian families (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 1, valuing level 2).
- Reflect upon their attitudes and beliefs about families and family roles (critical thinking level 1, valuing level 1, self-awareness and development level 2).
- Develop skills in synthesizing Family Studies knowledge, and presenting it professionally and coherently (critical thinking level 1, inquiry and analysis level 2, valuing level 2, communication level 2).

Antirequisite: Family Studies and Human Development 1020 and the former Family Studies 1020

Suggested Text: White, J. M., Martin, T. F., & Bartolic, S. K. (2013). *Families across the Life Course*. Pearson: Toronto (ISBN: 978-0132148139)

****Note:** This book is out of print, so having this textbook is not mandatory. You can find a second-hand copy from different sources if you need to have a hard copy. I will provide each chapter's key points and lecture slides for your study.

Course Delivery Method

The content of this course will be delivered fully online via **an asynchronous learning format**. Asynchronous learning means that the instructor and the students in the course all engage with the course content **at different times (and from different locations)**. The instructor provides students with a sequence of units which the students move through as their schedules permit. Each unit might make use of assigned readings or uploaded media, online quizzes, discussion boards, and more. The instructor guides the students, provides them with feedback, and assesses them as needed.

Course Participation & Expectation

It is expected that students complete the weekly reading and listen to the pre-recorded lecture. This course is delivered fully online. Much of the course is cumulative, so failing to keep up with the reading and recorded lectures will put you at a disadvantage. If you have questions regarding the course materials, please feel free to contact me by email.

Methods of Evaluation

Online Quiz (October 6)	15%
Online Midterm (October 20)	25%
Family Life Course Assignment (December 8)	25%
Online Final Exam (TBA)	35%
	100%

Evaluation Breakdown

Quiz – 15% (Wednesday, October 6)

This quiz is worth 15% 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 cover the material from **Chapter 1 to 3** and will consist of multiple short-answer questions. Quiz questions and important notes will be released on **Wednesday, October 6**.

Midterm Exam – 25% (Wednesday, October 20)

This mid-term exam is worth 25% of your total grade and will cover materials from **September 8 to October 18. You are expected to review lectures and chapter 1 to 5.** This exam consists of multiple-choice questions only.

Family Life Course Assignment – 25% (Wednesday, December 8)

This assignment (25%) 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 your family have gone through in life, and how they impact you and other family members in various ways. Please be selective instead of discussing everything you have witnessed and experienced in your family. This assignment should be 4 pages in length, double spaced with 12 font size. You must include an introduction that highlights 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 **Assignment Tab** on OWL by **11:55pm on Wednesday, December 9**. Late submission will be penalized by 5% per day.

Final Exam – 35% (TBA)

This final exam is worth 35% of your total grade and will cover all the materials from since the first class. Although this exam is **cumulative, more questions will be from chapter 6, 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
Sept 8 - 12	Course introduction	Preparation for the Online Course
Sept 13 - 19	Defining family	Chapter 1
Sept 20 - 26	Life course analysis	Chapter 2
Sept 27 - Oct 3	Dating and mate selection	Chapter 3
Oct 4 – 10	Cohabitation	Chapter 4 Quiz: Oct 6 (Chapter 1 – 3)
Oct 11 - 17	Marriage	Chapter 5
Oct 18 – 24	Midterm Week	Midterm Exam (Chapter 1 – 5): Oct 20
Oct 25 – 31	Having or not having children	Chapter 6
Nov 1 - 7	Fall Reading Week	No Reading
Nov 8 -14	Parent - child relationships	Chapter 7
Nov 15 - 21	Social institutions & families	Chapter 8
Nov 22 - 28	Divorce and repartnering	Chapter 9
Nov 29 - Dec 5	Aging families	Chapter 10
Dec 6 - 8	The future of the family	Chapter 12 Family Life Course Assignment (Dec 8)

2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed a **maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 for illness 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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](#) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor (https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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

(http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC 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:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 (<http://www.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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the 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 prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia** (https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

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.
