

**Brescia University College**  
**Family Studies 1010A**  
**Introduction to Families in Canada**  
**Sept.-Dec. 2017, M 11:30-1:30, W 11:30-12:30, Room 201**

**Professor:** Dr. Lara Descartes

**Phone:** 432-8353 ext. 28059 (e-mail is better)

**Office hours:** T. 11:30-12:30, W. 12:30-1:30, and by appt.

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**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 and Competencies:** By the end of the semester, it is intended that students will:

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

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required Text:** Ward, M., & Bélanger, M. (2014). *The Family Dynamic: Canadian Perspectives* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

- Two midterm exams (see calendar for chapters covered) 20% (1), and 25% (2)
- Final exam (cumulative, with more weighting on final chapters) 35%
- Term paper 20%

**Assignments/Grades:**

The policies governing requests for accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline (i.e., exam makeups and late assignments are only possible with permission from an academic advisor, given with *documentation* of a medical or personal emergency). Assignments must be handed in on the day they're due unless there is academic accommodation. Without accommodation, late penalties are 5 points per day, with the day ending at 4 pm.

**UWO Grade Scale:**

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

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

**Course Policies:** This course has an Owl site where marks will be posted. You should monitor your mark throughout the term.

No audio- or video-recording is allowed in class. All class materials are copyrighted. No aids or electronic devices are allowed for exams.

There of course cannot be any cheating on exams, but also not in papers (e.g., plagiarism from other people's written work and websites). You will receive additional instructions on how material for your papers should be cited. Please see the Academic Policies regarding cheating and plagiarism.

Please do not: text or take calls during class, make a habit of coming late or leaving early, or whisper for extended periods. Those behaviours distract me and other students, and because of that I will speak to you on the spot if I observe them. Along the same lines, please use laptops only for class notes. Electronic devices in general are not encouraged. Research does not indicate that phones, laptops, or powerpoints aid student comprehension or retention of material (if you find research indicating otherwise, please bring it to my attention; I'm always open to new information).

Our notes will be written on the board. Our notes will cover elements of the chapters (and additional material) but notes will not summarize every single concept in a chapter: you are expected to read the material yourselves, and ask questions on-line or in-person if something is unclear. This is a survey class and a great deal of material is covered. Exams will cover all reading material and all class material. If you miss a class and want to get the notes, you can ask a classmate. There is a forum on Owl where you can communicate with classmates.

We may cover sensitive topics in class and class materials, including death, violence, bullying, alcoholism, and more. Topics related to sex and reproduction will be discussed, as will sexuality and gender.

Please also be aware that a range of opinions and ideas may be expressed in class. We may not always agree with each other but we should treat each other with calmness and consideration.

When sending an email to me, put something in the subject line like "FS1010." Address email with something like "Dear Dr. D." or "Hello Dr. D." Please sign your name to your email.

**Course Calendar:** Read the chapter before class. So read Chapter 1 before Sept. 13's class, etc.

Please remember that exams cover not only the readings, but anything additional that is covered in, comes up in, or is handed out in class.

Sept. 11	Course introduction, process, Family theory and methodology	<b>Read these chapters before class:</b>
13	Family theory and methodology	TFD C1
18	Diversity and social justice	TFD C2
20	Intimate relationships	TFD C3
25	Marriage and cohabitation	TFD C4
27	Continue	
Oct. 2		<b>Exam 1 TFD 1-4 in our classroom</b>
4	Childbearing decisions & issues	TFD C5
9 and 11	Reading week	
16	Raising and socializing children Middlesex Health Unit guest speaker	TFD C6
18	Middle years and aging	TFD C7
23	Aging	TFD C8
25	Lone parent families	TFD C9
30	Divorce	TFD C10
Nov. 1	Continue	
6		<b>Exam 2 TFD 5-9 in Auditorium</b>
8	Remarriage and stepfamilies	TFD C11
13	Problems in families CAS guest speaker	TFD C13
15		
20	Abuse and violence Anova guest speaker	TFD C14
22		
27	Families in poverty	TFD C15
29	Continue	
Dec. 4	Future of the Canadian family	<b>Term paper due</b>
6	Future of the Canadian family	TFD C16
Dec. 10-21	Final Exam, Date TBD by Registrar	Final Exam, location TBD by Registrar (cumulative, but C10 through C16 (omitting 12) are more heavily represented)

# 2017-18 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 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 her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation 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. 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 from: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). 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.

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 policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html> ). 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 (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html> )

## 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 the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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, 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 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 Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

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

([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf) and [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf)).

#### **6. PREREQUISITES**

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 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/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> .

## **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 learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. 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.

## **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 <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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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.