

Brescia University College
Family Studies and Human Development 1010A 531
Introduction to Families in Canada
Sept.-Dec. 2019, M 4:30-5:30, W 3:30-5:30, Room St James 136

Professor: Dr. Lara Descartes

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

Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:20 and by appointment

Office: St. James 301D

Email: ldescart@uwo.ca

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 level 1, critical thinking level 1).
- Be able to identify and explain the different stages of family life (inquiry and analysis level 1, critical thinking level 1).
- Be able to describe how life course theory helps us understand the characteristics and processes of families in different stages (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 2).
- Be able to relate ways in which families are influenced by the institutions of their society (social awareness and engagement level 1, inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 2).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the range of diversity of contemporary Canadian families (social awareness and engagement level 1, inquiry and analysis level 1, critical thinking level 1, valuing level 1).
- Understand some of the challenges facing Canadian families, such as poverty and violence (inquiry and analysis level 1, critical thinking level 1, problem solving level 1, valuing level 1, social awareness and engagement level 1).
- Be able to identify how Canadian families likely will continue to change in the future (inquiry and analysis level 2, critical thinking level 2, valuing level 1).
- Reflect upon their own attitudes and beliefs about families and family roles (critical thinking level 2, valuing level 2, self-awareness and development level 2).
- Develop skills in synthesizing Family Studies knowledge, and presenting it professionally and coherently (critical thinking level 2, inquiry and analysis level 2, valuing level 1, communication level 1).

Prerequisite: None

Antirequisite: FS 1020, FS 1010AB

Required Text: Bélanger, M., & Ward, M. (2018). *The Family Dynamic: Canadian Perspectives* (7th Ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

Evaluation and Grading:

- Two midterm exams (Oct. 2 and 30, see calendar for chapters covered) 20% (1), and 25% (2)
- Final exam (cumulative, with more weighting on final chapters) 35%
- Term paper 20%, due Nov. 25 on Owl (Turnitin, under assignments tab)

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

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

No pictures or 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 those same lines, no earbuds, etc. in class, please.

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). Research does indicate that coming to class is correlated with higher marks, as is attentive note-taking. ☺

Our notes will be written on the board (if you prefer a different delivery method, we offer three other sections of this class per year, and they use PowerPoints). 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 large

amount of material is covered, plus we have videos, guest speakers, activities, etc. 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, sexual assault, 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 “FSHD1010.” 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. 11's class, etc. Remember that exams cover the readings, and anything additional that is covered in, comes up in, or is handed out in class.

Sept. 9	Course introduction, process	
11	Family theory and methodology	TFD C1
16	Diversity and social justice	TFD C2
18	Intimate relationships	TFD C3
23	Marriage and cohabitation	TFD C4
25	Continue	
30	Childbearing decisions & issues	TFD C5
Oct. 2		Exam 1 TFD 1-4 in Auditorium
7	Middlesex Health Unit guest speaker	
9	Raising and socializing children	TFD C6
14	Thanksgiving	No class
16	Middle years and aging	TFD C7
21	Aging	TFD C8
23	Lone parent families	TFD C9
28	Divorce	TFD C10
30		Exam 2 TFD 5-9 in Auditorium
Nov. 4, 6	Reading week	No class
11	Remarriage and stepfamilies	TFD C11
13	Problems in families CAS guest speaker	TFD C13
18	Continue	
20	Abuse and violence Anova guest speaker	TFD C14
25	Continue	Term paper due
27	Families in poverty	TFD C15
Dec. 2	Future of the Canadian family	TFD C16
4	Future of the Canadian family	
Dec. 8-19	Final Exam, Date TBD by Registrar	Final Exam, (cumulative, but TFD 10-16 (omitting 12) are more heavily represented)

2019-20 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at http://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 (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&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&SelectedCalendar=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. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](#), <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.

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&ArchivedID=#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 **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) 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 <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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.