



## **FAMILY STUDIES 1020**

### **SECTION 530**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY STUDIES**

Instructor: Professor Michelle Gibson

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Office: TBD

Phone Number: To be provided in class

Class time/room: MTWTH 1-4, Room TBD

#### **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.
- Understand families through life course theory and recognize the stages of family development.
- 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 Belanger (2011) *The Family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Toronto, Ontario: Thomson Nelson.

Additional readings may be required and will be posted to OWL or emailed to students. These readings are required, and students are responsible for down-loading and reading the items. Details are provided below on the weekly schedule.

## **COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

This course will be taught using lectures, discussions, group presentations, and videos. Students are required to prepare for classes by reading the assigned materials before class. Lectures are prepared to assist you to understanding course topics; however, the information provided during lectures will not be sufficient to cover all information included in assigned readings.

It is strongly encouraged that you attend all classes in order to remain updated on course changes and to ensure that you receive information included in lecture presentation. Additionally, attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class to account for the attendance portion of the grading rubric.

During the first class, we will discuss courtesy and class expectations. To ensure a positive learning environment for all students, it is expected that all students will work hard to ensure there are no distractions present during class time. It is an expectation that cell phones will not be used during class and that laptop use will be restricted to note-taking and course information.

Students who fail to appear for an examination at the scheduled time will not be permitted to write the examination paper unless steps detailed in page 6 for academic accommodation have been followed. Should academic accommodation not be provided, there will be no allowance for make-up examinations or extra-work for the purpose of improving grades.

I welcome questions during office hours or after class. Should a student have a complex concern, please schedule an appointment. I will do my best to answer questions by email; however, should your question require a detailed response, you will be asked to meet in person. Emails will not be answered between Friday at 4:00 p.m. and Monday at 9:00 a.m.

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

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE**

In-class Exams (2):	40%
Presentation:	25%
Final exam:	35%

### **In-class exams (20% each)**

There will be two exams in the term in addition to the final exam. Everything will be covered: readings, videos, in-class activities and lectures. It will be multiple choice. The second exam will not cover material from the first exam, but the final exam will be cumulative.

### **Group Presentation (25%)**

There will be a separate outline for this assignment posted during the first week of class. Please see OWL.

### **Final exam (35%)**

The final exam will include multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be cumulative and will be scheduled during the June exam period.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

**Day One:** *Introduction to the Course and to Family Studies*

**May 11th, 2015** Online Reading: Canadian households in 2011: Types and growth, Milan, A. and L.Martel 2012, Statistics Canada. (link on Owl)

Bring back the mandatory long-form census.  
Edmonton Journal May 9 2013 (link on Owl)

**Day Two:** *Methods for Study of the Canadian Family*

**May 12th, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 1: What is a Family?

**Day Three:** *Being Different: Gender roles, racial and ethnic differences*

**May 13th, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 2: Being Different

**Day Four:** *Forming Couples*

**May 14th, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 3: Getting Together

**NO CLASS ON MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 FOR VICTORIA DAY**

**Day Five:** *Marriage and Married Life*

**May 19th, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 4: Wedding Bells...And After

**Day Six:** *Cohabitation*

**May 20th, 2015**

**Day Seven:** *Expanding Families*

**May 21st, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 5: Children --Yes or No?

**Day Eight:** *Exam*

**May 25th, 2015**

**Day Nine:** *Parent Child Relationships*

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Day Ten:** *Young Children and Family Life and Family*

**May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Text Reading: Chapter 6: Bringing Up Baby

**Day Eleven:** *Social Influences on the Child*

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Day Twelve:** *The Middle Years and Family Transitions*

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

Text Reading: Chapter 7: The Middle Years and the Not-So-Empty Nest

**Day Thirteen:** *Family Life and the Elderly*

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

Text Reading: Chapter 8: Grey Power and the Sunset Years.

**Day Fourteen:** *Single Parent Families and Children*

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

Text Reading: Chapter 9: The Lone-Parent Family

**Day Fifteen:** *Divorce*

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Text Reading: Chapter 10: Coming Apart – The Divorce Experience

**Day Sixteen:** *Blended Families*

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Text Reading: Chapter 11: The Second Time Around

**Day Seventeen:** *Exam*

**June 9th, 2015**

**Day Eighteen:** *Gender Roles*

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 12: The Family and the World of Work

**Day Nineteen:** *Family Problems*

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 13: The Family Beleaguered – When Problems Come

**Day Twenty:** *Family Violence*

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 14: Abuse and Violence

**Day Twenty-One:** *Family Poverty and Inequality*

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 15: Poverty and the Family

**Day Twenty-Two:** *The Future of the Family*

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Text Reading: Chapter 16 The Crystal Ball – Predicting the Future of the Family

**Day Twenty-Three:** *Selected Topic and Review*

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## 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](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

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.

##### 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.

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.