



BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**FAMILY STUDIES 1020 (530): INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY STUDIES
2011 – 12**

Instructor: Dr. Wei-Wei Da Office hours:
Office: 219 Merici Wing Wed 10-11 AM; Thu 2-3 PM
Tel: 432-8353 ext. 28276 Or by appointment
Email: wda@uwo.ca

Class time/room:
Tu 11:30-1:30; Thu 11:30-12:30/Room 19, St. James

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
- 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

- Ward, Margaret and Marc Belanger (2011) *The Family Dynamic: A Canadian Perspective, 5th Edition*. Toronto, Ontario: Thomson Nelson.

- Custom Course Book - Introduction to Family Studies for the course with selected readings, available at the Western bookstore (listed as “CCB” below).

In addition, on-line readings will be assigned that the student is responsible for accessing independently.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The teaching methods used in this course will include lectures, discussions, group presentations by students, and videos.

COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY

You are strongly advised to attend to every class, to view all media presentations, and to participate actively in class activities.

There is not participation mark, however, a seating chart will be used to monitor attendance. Students who are absent are responsible for obtaining missed work.

Lecture notes will be posted on Web CT after class. These notes are only a schematic guide to the material that will be covered in class, and are intended to give you advance notice of the topics and issues that will be covered. Downloading the notes is NOT a good substitute for class attendance.

Students who fail to appear for an examination at the time set in the timetable will not be allowed to write the examination paper thus missed unless the steps detailed below (page 7) for academic accommodation have been followed. Similarly, missed assignments (for example the group presentation) may not be made up later. There will not be any make-up examinations or extra work for the purpose of improving grades.

I much prefer to talk with students in person than to exchange lengthy e-mails on questions regarding course materials, lecture notes and the like.

When you send an e-mail to instructor, please use UWO email account and provide your class code in the subject line. All e-mails will be responded within two days.

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

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Group presentation	15%
In-class quiz Term 1	15%

In-class quiz Term 2	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam (Not accumulative)	30%

Two in-class quizzes (15% each)

- Oct 20 2011 (Thur 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)
- Feb 7 2012 (Tu 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)

The format of the quiz will include multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions based on readings, lectures, discussion, and videos.

Group presentation (15%)

Students will be assigned randomly to small groups (4-5 members) within the first two weeks of the start of the course. Each group will choose from, but not limited to, a list of topics and dates. We will try to ensure that presentations on a particular topic are made during a week when the readings and lecture focus on a similar topic.

The steps to be taken to prepare a good group presentation will be discussed in class, and guidelines will be posted on WebCT.

Midterm exam (30%)

The midterm exam will include multiple-choice, true/false and short-answer questions. Students will be tested on information and ideas covered in readings, lectures, presentations and videos in the first term.

Final exam (35%)

The final exam will include multiple choice, matching, and short-answer questions. Students will be tested on information and ideas covered in readings, lectures, presentations and videos in the second term.

COURSE CALENDAR

FIRST TERM

Week 1 Sept 8 *Introduction to the Course and to Family Studies*

Week 2 Sept 13 & 15 *Methods for Study of the Canadian Family*

Reading #1 Online: Changing family demographics: Amazing Canadian families.

http://www.consultmcgregor.com/documents/publications/canadian_family_demographi_cs_2001_census.pdf

Textbook Reading: Chapter 1 What is a Family?

*****Groups will be set up for group presentations.**

Week 3 Sept 20 & 22 *Socio-economic changes on families*

CCB Reading #2: Gomacchio, C (1999). The New Order: Socio-economic Changes and Family Relations.

Week 4 Sept 27 & 29 *Being different*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 2 Being Different

CCB Reading #3: Shirpak, Khosro Refaie, et al. (2007). Iranian Immigrants' perceptions of sexuality in Canada.

Week 5 Oct 4 & 6 *Forming Couples*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 3 Getting Together

CCB Reading #4: Milan, Anne (2003). Would you live common-law?

Week 6 Oct 11 & 12 *Marriage and Married Life (Part 1)*

Textbook Reading Chapter 4: Wedding Bells...And After

CCB Reading #5: Coontz, Stephanie (2004) The World Historical Transformation of Marriage

Week 7 Oct 18 & 20 *Marriage and Married Life (Part 2)*

CCB Reading #6: Larson, Jeffrey H. (2008). Increasing the Awareness of Risks and Needs for Premarital Interventions of Individuals at Risk for Relationship Dysfunction.

*****Quiz on October 20!**

Week 8 Oct 25 & 27 *Expanding Families (Part 1)*

Textbook Reading Chapter 5: Children --Yes or No?

Week 9 Nov 1 & 3 *Expanding Families (Part 2)*

CCB Reading #7: Arnup, Katherine (2005). Lesbian and Gay Parents.

Week 10 Nov 8 & 10 *Young Children and Family Life (Part 1)*

Textbook Reading Chapter 6: Bringing Up Baby

Week 11 Nov 15 & 17 *Young Children and Family Life (Part 2)*

CCB Reading #8: Fox, Bonnie (2001). Reproducing Difference: Changes in the Lives of Partners Becoming Parents.

Week 12 Nov 22 & 24 *Middle Age and Family Transitions*

Textbook Reading Chapter 7: Middle Age and the Empty Nest

Reading #9: Beaupré, Pascale et al. (2006). When is junior moving out? (on line)

Week 13 Nov 29 & Dec 1 *Family Life and the Elderly*

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

CCB Reading #10: Novak, Mark et al. (2006). Aging in Canada.

Week 14 Dec 6 Review

Examination Period: December 10 – 21, 2011

SECOND TERM

Week 14 Jan 10 & 12 *Single Parent Family and Children*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 9: The Lone-Parent Family

Week 15 Jan 17 & 19 *Divorce*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 10 Coming Apart – The Divorce Experience

CCB Reading #11: Swiss, Liam. (2009). Father-child contact after separation: The influence of living arrangements.

Week 16 Jan 24 & 26 *Blended Families*

Text Reading: Chapter 11 The Second Time Around

Week 17 Jan 31 & Feb 2 *Gender Roles*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 12 The Family and the World of Work

CCB Reading #12: Eichler, M. and P. Albanese. (2007). What is housework work? A critique of assumptions underlying empirical studies of housework and an alternative approach. *Canadian Journal of Sociology*. 32(2), 227-258

Week 18 Feb 7 & 9 *Family Problems*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 13 The Family Beleaguered – When Problems Come

***Quiz on Feb 9!

Week 19 Feb 14 & 16 *Family Violence*

Textbook Reading Chapter 14 Home Dangerous Home.

** Family Day Feb 20

** Reading Week Feb 20 to Feb 24

Week 20 Feb 28 & Mar 1 *Religion and the Family*

CCB Reading #13: Dollahite, D. C., Marks, L. D. and Goodman, M. A. (2004). Families and religious beliefs, practices, and communities.

Week 21 Mar 6 & 8 *Media and Its Impact on the Family*

CCB Reading #14: Moscovitch, Arlene (2007) Good servant, bad master? Electronic media and the family.

CCB Reading #15: He, M.Z, J. Irwin et al. (2005) Screen-viewing behaviors among preschoolers: parent's perceptions.

Week 22 Mar 13 & 15 *Family Economic Stress*

CCB Reading #16: Ambert, Anne-Marie (2006). Effects on families of economic changes and inequality.

Week 23: Mar 20 & 22 *Family Poverty and Inequality*

Textbook Reading: Chapter 15 Poverty and the Family

CCB Reading #17: Fiske, Jo-Anne and Rose Johnny (2003) The Lake Babine First Nation Family: Yesterday and Today.

Week 24: Mar 27 & 29 *Transnational Adoption and Kinship*

CCB Reading #18: Volkman, T. A. (2004) Introduction: New geographies of kinship.

Week 25: April 3 & 5 *Family and Welfare & The Future of the Family*

CCB Reading #19: Pulkingham, Jane and Tanya Van Der Gaag (2004). Maternity/ Parental Leave Provisions in Canada: We've come a Long Way, But There's Further To Go. *Canadian Woman Studies*, 23(3-4).

Text Reading: Chapter 16 The Crystal Ball – Predicting the Future of the Family

Week 26: April 10 Review

April Examination Period

The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the April examination period which runs from April 14-30, 2012.

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.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, 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 document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered 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/2011/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

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.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

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.