

**Brescia University College**  
**Family Studies 2200E**  
**Issues in Family Studies**  
**September 2011 – April 2012**  
**M 11:30-2:30**

**Professor:** Dr. Lara Descartes

**Phone:** 432-8353 ext. 28059

**Office hours:** MWF 10:45-11:30 fall, MT 10:45-11:30 winter

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**Course Description:**

This full credit essay course will allow students to develop their writing skills. Students will learn about various issues and challenges facing families at different stages of family life, and the theories and methods that contributes to our understandings of families. Students will read a variety of materials that will contribute to their perspectives on family life in Canada today. Lectures, in-class activities, and group presentations will add to our knowledge about current Canadian family life.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Students will develop their writing skills.
2. Students will become familiar with social science writing standards.
3. Students will develop their critical thinking and analytic skills.
4. Students will be encouraged to address contemporary family issues analytically.
5. Students will develop their oral presentation skills.
6. Students will explore various contemporary family issues in-depth, such as mate selection, family rituals, the sandwich generation, and aging.

**Prerequisite:**

FS1020

**Required Texts:**

Holden, G. W. (2010). *Parenting: A dynamic perspective*. London: Sage. PDP

Kingsmill, S. & Schlesinger, B. (1998). *The family squeeze: Surviving the sandwich generation*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. FS

Otnes, C. C. & Pleck, E. H. (2003). *Cinderella dreams: The allure of the lavish wedding*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. CD

Muller, J. (2010). *Writing in the social sciences: A guide for term papers and book reviews*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. WSS

**Evaluation and Grading**

Participation 5%

Group presentation of book 10%

Essays (Four total)

    Personal reflection 10% 3pp.

    Book review 15% 5 pp.

    Wedding movie essay 15% 5 pp.

    Parenting advice essay 20% 7 pp.

Exams (Three total) 10% each, for a total of 30%

Quiz 5%

## **Participation**

This is a class that depends on active student discussion. You should read all of the readings before class and to be able to discuss them. Participation can be negatively affected by not being prepared for class, inattention, lack of attendance, regular lateness/early leaving, and disruption (lots of whispering, etc.). Attendance will be taken and there will be a seating chart.

## **Group Presentation of Book**

You'll be assigned to a small group and you will have responsibility for presenting on a book: I'll supply a list of titles. You will be graded on accuracy, clarity, how engaging your group session is, and how well planned it is. There'll be a group grade, at my discretion: if a group member doesn't participate fully, she may receive a separate grade.

## **Essays**

There will be a separate handout on these assignments. There will be four essays (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt., 2.5 cm. margins) on various current issues in family life. There must be 20 total pp. of writing; excluding refs. and title. Please note: book reviews are due **2 weeks** after your group's presentation, therefore they are not marked on the course calendar.

## **Exams and Quiz**

On the readings and class materials. Possible: multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay format.

## **Course Policies:**

**No laptops, no phones, no electronic devices** Class time is our time, free of texting, FB, etc.

**Late Assignments** The policies governing requests for accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section at the end of the outline. Exams must be taken when specified unless there is academic accomodation, granted with documentation for medical and personal emergencies. Assignments must be handed in on the day they're due unless there is academic accomodation. Late assignments get 10 points off per day otherwise, where the day turns over at 4 pm. In other words, hand in your paper at 4:01 pm on the day it's due, and it's 10 points off. ☺ Assignments not handed in in class must be handed in at the registrar.

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 Etiquette** When sending an email to me, put something in the subject line like "FS2200." Address email with something like "Dear Dr. Descartes" or "Hello Dr. Descartes." "Hey" isn't really a good opening line on a professional email. No opening line isn't good either. Sign your name to your email. Come to class. Be on time for class. Don't leave class early. There are exceptions of course, but these should be rare, not standard. More reminders: in the classroom, when we're actually having class is not a good time to talk or whisper with your friends. Finally, please be respectful of each other and of me. Diverse opinions may be and should be expressed, but respectfully.

**Course Calendar: (Readings should be completed before class.)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings and assignments</b>
Sept. 12	Course Introduction	
Sept. 19	Writing—mechanics, aims, and arguments	WSS 1 2 3
Sept. 26	Writing—different kinds of writing	WSS 4 5 6
Oct. 3	Weddings—history, romantic ideals, and the modern wedding	CD 1 2
		Group 1 <b>Personal reflection due</b>
Oct. 17	Weddings—consumerism and marketing	CD 3 4
		Group 2
Oct. 24	Weddings—rituals in flux	CD 5 6
		Group 3
Oct. 31	Weddings—media and globalization	CD 7 8
		Group 4*
Nov. 7	Weddings—diversity and culture	CD 9 10
		Group 5
Nov. 14	Exam 1 WSS and CD	<b>Exam 1</b>
Nov. 21	Parenting—beliefs and theory	PDP 1 and 2
		Group 6
Nov. 28	Parenting—research	PDP 3
		<b>Wedding movie essay due</b>
Dec. 5	Parenting—influence	PDP 4
		Group 7
Jan. 9	Determinants of parenting	PDP 5
		Group 8
Jan. 16	Becoming a parent	PDP 6
		Group 9
Jan. 23	Exam 2 PDP 1-6	<b>Exam 2</b>
Jan. 30	Parenting children	PDP 7 and 8
		Group 10
Feb. 6	Parenting adolescents	PDP 9
		Group 11
Feb. 13	Non traditional families	PDP 10
		Group 12
Feb. 27	Culture and parenting	PDP 11
		Group 13
Mar. 5	Child maltreatment	PDP 12
		Group 14
Mar. 12	Social policy	PDP 13
		Group 15

Mar. 19	Exam 3 PDP 7-13	<b>Exam 3</b>
Mar. 26	The sandwich generation and caregiving	FS Preface and 1 2 3
		Group 16
Apr. 2	Formal care options	FS 4 5 6 7
Apr. 9		<b>Quiz on FS, Final Essay Due</b>

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

## 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](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**

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

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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.