

**Brescia University College**

**Western University**

**Sociology 2235 (530)**

**Sociology of the Family**

**Dr. Helene A. Cummins (Fall)**

**Phone: 519 432-8353 x 28055**

**Office: Portable Room 7 [hcummins@uwo.ca](mailto:hcummins@uwo.ca)**

**Office Hours: Monday 10:30-11:20**

**Dr. Nichole Edwards (Winter)**

**Phone:**

**Office:**

**Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:20**

**Lectures: Monday 11:30 A.M. - 2:20 P.M. Room 18**

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**Course Description**

This full-credit course is designed to develop a sociological awareness of the dynamics of the Canadian family. The modern day family has changed significantly over the years. This course examines sociological theories and concerns linked to the institution of the family. How do we choose our mates? How do we raise children? Do children make couples happy? How do we negotiate finances and differences in the family? These questions and issues of socialization, alternative family structures, divorce, family violence and the aging family forms the base from that which we focus our analyses.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course students will:

- be able to understand the complexities of family and the methods used to study them. (Brescia Competencies: Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)
- be familiar with the diverse family forms and functions to be found in family. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Communication, Valuing)
- perceive the challenges of age, gender, sexuality, socio-economic status, race, and ethnicity as they intersect in families. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Communication, Social Awareness & Engagement)
- be able to evaluate the complexity of family interaction as family members' age and grow. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Communication, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)
- learn to become better family members in order to occupy family roles that unify and segment human relationships. (Brescia Competencies: Valuing, Social Awareness & Engagement)

**Course Prerequisites:** 1.0 from Soc 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B

## **Course Textbooks:**

**These textbooks are required for the course.**

Maureen, Baker. 2014. Choices and Constraints in Family Life. Third Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford U. Press.

Fox, Bonnie (Ed.) 2014. Family Patterns: Gender Relations. Fourth Edition. Canada: Oxford U. Press.

## **Course Evaluation:**

Midterm Examination 1	20%
Midterm Examination 2	20%
Group Assignment	30%
Final Exam	30%

There will not be any make-up examinations or extra work for the purpose of improving grades. Missed lectures and any materials given in class are the responsibility of the student, not the Professor. The course involves student participation and reading on one's own time. You are advised to attend all lectures and are responsible for all media presentations and guest lectures.

This course involves student thought and participation during class time. The classroom is a place where we respect the views of others as we discuss the subject. Many sensitive issues may arise during these discussions and therefore, it is important that each student respect their classmates during these discussions.

The course covers a breadth of material and in some cases we may need to move on as time may curtail the discussions.

Cell phones, technology and all texting devices are to be turned off in the classroom. Texting in class is not acceptable. Laptop computers are to be used only for the purpose of taking notes in the classroom. Talking to neighbors is discouraged as it interferes with the concentration of your classmates and my lectures.

Class office hours are a good time to meet me for any issues with regards to the course. It is best to dialogue face-to-face over email. Quick questions may be addressed via email however, substantive issues will only be addressed through phone conversation or meetings in my office or other. Marks are not given via email.

## **Topic and Reading Schedule**

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Sept. 11	General Introduction	
Sept. 18	Variations in the Family	Baker Chapt. 1
Sept. 25	Theories of Family	Baker Chapt. 2
Oct. 2	Theories of Family	Baker Chapt. 2
Oct. 9	<b>Fall Reading Week</b>	

Oct. 16	Methods of Family Research	Baker Chapt. 2
Oct. 23	Social & Economic Origins of Family	
Oct. 30	Work & Family	Baker Chapt. 6
Nov. 6	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Nov. 13	Reproductive & Genetic Technology	
Nov. 20	Forming Intimate Relationships	Baker Chapt. 3
Nov. 27	Formalizing Relationships	Baker Chapt. 4
Dec. 4	Rearing & Raising Children	Baker Chapt. 5
Jan. 8	Midlife, Aging & Retirement	Baker Chapt. 8
Jan. 15	Divorce	Baker Chapt. 8
Jan. 22	Family Violence	Baker Chapt. 7
Jan. 29	Changing Faces of Fatherhood	TBA
Feb. 5	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Feb. 12	Adoption, Abortion and the Family	TBA
Feb. 19	<b>Reading Week</b>	
Feb. 26	Groups 1, 2, 3, 4	
Mar. 5	Groups 5, 6, 7, 8	
Mar. 12	Groups 9, 10, 11, 12	
Mar. 19	Groups 13, 14	
Mar. 26	Transgender Identities and the Family	TBA
Apr. 2	Non-Monogamous Families	TBA
Apr. 9	The Future of the Family	Baker Chapt 9

## 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.