

Course Outline – Theoretical Perspectives in Family Studies Research School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

General Information

Course #:	FSHD4220A
Section #:	530
Term:	Fall
Year:	2022
Delivery:	Online asynchronous

Instructor Information

Name:	Dr. Descartes
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Office hours:	By appointment on Zoom: I also can do in-person office hours by appointment Mondays starting at 10:30

Course Description

Students will be introduced to the major theoretical frameworks used by social scientists to explain variation in family life including life span, life course, developmental, social learning, social exchange, social conflict, symbolic interactionist, ecological, family systems and feminist theory perspectives.

Prerequisite

A 3000-level Family Studies and Human Development course or a former 3000-level Family Studies course or permission of the instructor.

Required Course Materials

Smith, S. R., & Hamon, R. R. (2022). *Exploring Family Theories (5th Ed.)*. Oxford University Press.

Students can order print or ebook copies through the Western book store (link: [Textbook Search | The Book Store at Western \(uwo.ca\)](#)). Students also can rent or buy the ebook versions from the publisher (link: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/exploring-family-theories-suzanne-r-smith-raeann-r-v9780197530511?term=9780197530528>)

Articles are available through the library's website and via the course readings link on Owl.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will review what theory is, and be able to communicate how theory aids Family Studies research and practice.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with some of the main bodies of theory used in Family Studies.
3. Students will become aware of and be able to discuss how these bodies of theory have developed in Family Studies over time.
4. Students will demonstrate their research, analytic, and critical thinking skills through comparing different theories' applicability and usefulness for a selected social issue.
5. Students will show that they can synthesize and apply theory.
6. Students will create a new analytic approach to a selected social issue.
7. Students will demonstrate their transferable skills through clearly communicating their work.

Brescia Competencies (mapped onto Learning Outcomes and Assessments)

1. Students will review what theory is, and be able to communicate about how theory aids Family Studies research and practice. Critical thinking level 3, inquiry and analysis level 3: forum, papers, sample reading project, papers, and exams.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with some of the main bodies of theory used in Family Studies. Critical thinking level 3, inquiry and analysis level 3: forum, sample reading project, papers, papers, and exams.
3. Students will become aware of and be able to discuss how these bodies of theory have developed in Family Studies over time. Critical thinking level 3, inquiry and analysis level 3: forum, papers, and exams.
4. Students will demonstrate their research, analytic, and critical thinking skills through comparing different theories' applicability and usefulness for a selected social issue. Critical thinking level 4, inquiry and analysis level 4, problem solving level 4: papers and exams.
5. Students will show that they can synthesize and apply theory. Critical thinking level 4, inquiry and analysis level 4, problem solving level 4: papers and exams.
6. Students will create a new analytic approach to a selected social issue. Critical thinking level 4, inquiry and analysis level 4, problem solving level 4: papers and exams.
7. Students will demonstrate their transferable skills through clearly communicating their work. Problem solving level 4, communication level 4, critical thinking level 4, inquiry and analysis level 4: forum, sample reading project, papers, and exams.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course centres on the readings. The course has an Owl site where we will have a forum discussion board open. I'll start a discussion in forum for every chapter. You can include your sample reading exercise under that thread or you can put it in VoiceThread (it is easier to upload video files to VoiceThread). Forum can be used for questions, comments, and observations by any of us during any part of the term. As you're doing a week's readings for example, feel free to post questions on anything that's unclear, any observation you want to share, etc. Marks also will be posted on Owl.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor.

Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Evaluation

'Informed forum participation' indicates doing the readings and engaging in meaningful conversation about them. To pass this component, you need a minimum of two substantive postings per week, at least one on the main reading and one on the sample reading. This component will receive one final mark at term end.

For 'sample reading slides or video' you will create some way (PowerPoint, short video, etc.) to summarize for other students the sample reading or article for the chapter, focusing on showing us how the authors use the theory of the week to explain/understand their chosen issue. You'll sign up for this in the first week.

Exams are open-book and will have essays and maybe multiple choice. They will be timed: three hours for the midterm and four hours for the final. They will be released 48 hours before they're due so that you can take it at a time convenient to you. They are to be done individually, as is the term paper. The final is cumulative, with more weighting on material from after the midterm.

The term paper will be handed in under the 'Assignments' tab in Owl through Turnitin. There is a separate document under 'Resources' about the sample reading project and the term paper.

We use the official Western rubric for marking assignments, which is this:

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

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar. For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation is not required. Whenever possible students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, the course instructor should be contacted within two business days.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Due Date	Learning Outcome (see above)	Brescia Competencies
Informed forum participation	15	Ongoing	1, 2, 3, 7	Communication level 3 and 4, critical thinking level 3 and 4
Sample reading article slides or video project	15	See calendar for your chapter	1, 2, 7	Communication level 3 and 4, critical thinking level 3 and 4, inquiry and analysis level 3 and 4
Open-book midterm exam 3 hrs.	20	Oct. 21	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Communication level 3 and 4, critical thinking level 3 and 4, inquiry and analysis level 3 and 4, problem solving level 4
Term paper	25	Dec. 7	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Communication level 3 and 4, critical thinking level 3 and 4, inquiry and analysis level 3 and 4, problem solving level 4
Open-book final exam 4 hrs.	25	To be determined by registrar	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Communication level 3 and 4, critical thinking level 3 and 4, inquiry and analysis level 3 and 4, problem solving level 4

Course Content

Weekly Organizer:

Class	Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due
1	Sept. 9	Course introduction	Read syllabus, post a response video to my introductory video on Owl VoiceThread.
2	Sept. 14	What is theory?	Introduction of Smith & Hamon. Start forum postings (continue through term).
3	Sept. 16	Critiquing family theories	Daly, K. (2003). Family theory versus the theories families live by. <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i> , 65, 771-784. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2003.00771.x
4	Sept. 21	Critiquing family theories	Letiecq, B. L. (2019). Surfacing family privilege and supremacy in Family Science: Toward justice for all. <i>Journal of Family Theory & Review</i> , 11, 398-411. https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12338
5	Sept. 23	Symbolic interactionism theory	C1
6	Sept. 28		C1 Sample reading
7	Sept. 30	Family development theory	C2
8	Oct. 5		C2 Sample reading
9	Oct. 7	Family stress theory	C3
10	Oct. 12		C3 Sample reading.
11	Oct. 14	Family systems theory	C4
12	Oct. 19		C4 Sample reading
13	Oct. 21	Midterm exam, open-book	Midterm exam (Intro., C1-4, sample readings for C1-4, Daly, Letiecq). These are due by 11 p.m. This will be released on Owl on the 19th and you will choose your 3 hr. time slot.
14	Oct. 26	Ecological systems theory	C5

15	Oct. 28		C5 Sample reading
	Nov. 2, 4	Fall Reading Week	
16	Nov. 9	Conflict theory	C6
17	Nov. 11		C6 Sample reading
18	Nov. 16	Social exchange theory	C7
19	Nov. 18		C7 Sample reading
20	Nov. 23	Attachment theory	C8
21	Nov. 25		C8 Sample reading
22	Nov. 30	Feminist theory	C9
23	Dec. 2		C9 Sample reading
24	Dec. 7	Biosocial theory	C10 Last forum posting. Term paper due
26	Dec. 10-22	Final exam, open-book. Time and date to be determined by registrar.	Final exam, released on Owl 48 hrs. before it's due. It is cumulative, with more weighting on post-midterm material. You will choose your 4 hour exam time slot within the 48 hour period.

2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135

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 (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&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. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. 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.

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 https://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.

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 (https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<https://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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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 (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64).

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: https://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.

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

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#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 Development & Success 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 **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php 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 https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

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.
