



Course Outline - Family Studies 1010A: Introduction to Families in Canada

General Information

Course #: FSHD1010A
Section #: 001
Term: Fall 2024
Delivery: In person

Instructor Information

Name: Stephen Lin, PhD
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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

This introductory course explains the field of Family Studies, examining the factors that shape family life, from individual psychology to group dynamics to social forces such as the workplace, the economy, and the government. Families are considered across the life course, and family diversity is highlighted.

Antirequisite: Family Studies and Human Development 1020 and the former Family Studies 1020.

Required Text(s)

Bélangier, M., & Ward, M. (2018). *The Family Dynamic: Canadian Perspectives* (7th Ed.). Toronto: Nelson. ISBN: 9780176700003.

To buy the textbook, please click the following link:

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/FAS1010A

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Express knowledge of Family Studies terminology, concepts and theories
2. Identify stages of family life
3. Describe how family theories help us understand the characteristics and processes of families in different stages
4. Understand how families are affected by social institutions
5. Demonstrate an understanding of diversity in contemporary Canadian families
6. Understand challenges facing Canadian families, such as poverty and violence
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ongoing changes in Canadian families
8. Reflect upon their attitudes and beliefs about families and family roles
9. Develop skills in synthesizing Family Studies knowledge, and presenting it professionally and coherently

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course requires class engagement with the assigned readings and completion of assignments.

Use of Generative AI

AI is allowed for assessments. You may choose to use generative AI tools as you work through the assignments in this course; this use must be documented in an appendix for each assignment. The documentation should include what tool(s) were used, how they were used, and how they were incorporated into the submitted work. You are ultimately accountable for the work you submit. My own experience with marking generative AI-assisted assignments has been unsatisfactory: the assignments tend to be vague and contain false/limited references, so I don't recommend using AI. Copyright and Intellectual Property Lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically 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.

Course Evaluation

| Assessment | Date | Weight | Learning Outcomes |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Midterm Exam | October 23-25 | 35% | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| Family Profile Assignment | December 6 | 25% | 3, 5, 8, 9 |
| Final Exam | During December Exam Period | 40% | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| | | 100% | |

Evaluation Breakdown

Midterm Exam (35%) – Between Wednesday October 23 to Friday October 25

This online midterm exam will cover the materials from Sept 9 to Oct 11. It will consist of multiple-choice questions only. Requirements of this exam include memorization of facts and definitions and application of information from the reading and lectures. To ease your exam preparation, I will only test you on the materials from lectures. If you miss the exam, you must have academic accommodation in order to have a makeup exam.

Family Profile Assignment (25%) – Friday, December 6

In this assignment, you will create a brief family profile by using relevant lecture content. To begin, you will use the life course perspective you have learned in Week 3 lecture as the main structure of your paper. Specifically, you will select a number of key life course transitions that characterize your family. Then, you will **apply as many relevant themes, concepts or theories from other lectures as possible** to the selected family life course transitions. This assignment should contain one cover page, three pages of the family profile (double spaced) and one page of reference. Please **bold the themes, concepts and theories** you withdraw from the course materials. **Please use the APA referencing format**. You can consult the APA guide on Brightspace. This assignment should be submitted to the assignment folder on Brightspace by 5:00pm, Friday, December 6. For late submission, there will be 5% deduction per day unless you have academic accommodation.

Examples of Citing Lectures

- In-text citation: (Lin, 2024)
- Reference citation: Lin, S. (2024). Defining Families [Powerpoint Slides].
Course link: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/le/lessons/30460/topics/2368783>

Final Exam (40%) – During December Exam Period

This final exam will cover all the materials you have learned in this course. It will consist of multiple-choice questions only. However, more questions will come from the materials covered after the midterm exam. Requirements of this test include memorization of facts and definitions and application of information from the reading and lectures. To ease your exam preparation, I will only test you on the materials from lectures. If you miss the exam, you must have academic accommodation in order to have a makeup exam.

Course Schedule, Reading and Key Dates

| Week | Dates | Topics | Readings |
|-------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Sept 6 | Course Introduction & Expectations | None |
| 2 | Sept 9, 11, 13 | Defining Family | Chapter 1 |
| 3 | Sept 16, 18, 20 | Diversity and Social Justice Life Course Analysis | Chapter 2 Supplemental Reading |
| 4 | Sept 23, 25, 27 | Dating and Mate selection | Chapter 3 |
| 5 | Sept 30, Oct 2, 4 | Marriage and Cohabitation | Chapter 4 |
| 6 | Oct 7, 9, 11 | Childbearing Decisions | Chapter 5 |
| 7 | Oct 14, 16, 18 | Reading Week (No Class) | None |
| 8 | Oct 21, 23, 25 | Midterm Exam Week | None |
| 9 | Oct 28, 30, Nov 1 | Parent-child Relationship | Chapter 6 |
| 10 | Nov 4, 6, 8 | Social Institutions & Families | Supplemental Reading |
| 11 | Nov 11, 13, 15 | Divorce and Repartnering | Chapter 10 & 11 |
| 12 | Nov 18, 20, 22 | Population Aging and Family Ties | Chapter 8 |
| 13 | Nov 25, 27, 29 | Housing Crisis in Canada | Supplemental reading |
| 14 | Dec 2, 4, 6 | Course Review Family Profile Assignment Due on Dec 6 | None |

The table below outlines University-wide grade descriptors.

| Letter grade | Number grade | Description |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| 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 Policies and Statements

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

The websites for Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>), and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>) and the Student Development Services, should be provided for easy access.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on [Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term **without** supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should note that the instructor may **designate** one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes), when there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period), or when timed assessments (e.g., quizzes) are available over an extended period of time (e.g., when given a 72 hour time period to finish the assessment).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examination dates. The Faculty of Health Sciences has set School-specific dates for these Special Examinations. Please speak with your instructor about the date on which the Special Examination for this course will be held.

Academic 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 the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism

Student work is expected to be original. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and could lead to a zero on the assignment in question, a zero in this course, or your expulsion from the university. You are plagiarizing if you insert a phrase, sentence or paragraph taken directly from another author without acknowledging that the work belongs to him/her. Similarly, you are plagiarizing if you paraphrase or summarize another author's ideas without acknowledging that the ideas belong to someone else. All 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 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 Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, you may only use artificial intelligence tools (e.g., “ChatGPT”) in ways that are specifically authorized by the course instructor. All submitted work must reflect your own thoughts and independent written work.

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Without the explicit written permission of the instructor, you may not submit any academic work for which credit has been obtained previously, or for which credit is being sought, in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

Use of Statistical Pattern Recognition on Multiple Choice 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.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. Students are further expected to attend to announcements presented through Brightspace, and to read emails generated in this way.

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams

Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations. **These devices MUST either be left at home or with your belongings at the front of the room. They MUST NOT be at your test/exam desk or in your pocket. Any student found with a prohibited device will receive an automatic grade of zero on the test or exam.**

During Lectures and Tutorials

Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Contingency Plan for an In-Person Class Pivoting to 100% Online Learning

In the event of a situation that requires this course to pivot to online content delivery, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

Appealing a Grade Within this Course

You have the right to appeal any grade within this course. The grounds for a grade appeal may be one or more of: medical or compassionate circumstances, extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, bias, inaccuracy, or unfairness. All grounds advanced in a request for relief must be supported by a clear and detailed explanation of the reasons for the request together with all supporting documentation.

Appeals generally proceed in this order:

1. Course instructor (informal consultation)
2. Department Chair (submission of written request)
3. The Dean of the Faculty (submission of written request)

In the case of perceived procedural unfairness, steps 2 and 3 are carried out within the Department and Faculty offering the course. In the case of extenuating medical or compassionate circumstances that impact on a grade, steps 2 and 3 are carried out within a student's Home Department and Faculty.

A request for relief against a mark or grade must be initiated with the instructor as soon as possible after the mark is issued. In the event that the instructor is not available to the student, or fails to act, or if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily with the instructor, a written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the Department within three weeks of the date that the mark was issued. In the case of a final grade in a course, the written request for relief must be submitted to the Chair of the department by January 31st (for first-term half courses) or June 30th (for second-term half courses or full-year courses).