



Course Outline – FSHD 4220A

Theoretical Perspectives in Family Studies Research

I recognize with respect that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. I acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and I accept responsibility as a member of a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation and inequalities.

General Information

Course #:	FSHD4220A
Section #:	001
Term:	Fall
Year:	2024
Delivery:	In person

Instructor Information

Name:	Dr. Descartes
E-mail:	ldescart@uwo.ca
Telephone #:	x28059
Office hours:	By appointment, in person or zoom

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 permission of the instructor.

Required Course Materials

Book only: Allen, K. R., & Henderson, A. C. (2023). *Family theories today: A critical intersectional approach (2nd Ed.)*. Cognella. ISBN 978-1-7935-8230-0. You can order a digital copy from Cognella: <https://store.cognella.com> or you can order print copies in the Western bookstore.

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 show that they can synthesize and apply theory.
5. Students will demonstrate their transferable skills through clearly communicating their work.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

Each week before class, you should read the textbook chapter for that week (the readings are a time commitment, so be sure to allot adequate time every week). In class we will engage with the readings through summary notes, discussion, videos, quizzes, and other activities. Marks are from quizzes, a class presentation project, participation, and a term project. There is no final exam.

On our course's Brightspace site we will have a discussion board open. This 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 Brightspace.

Use of Generative AI

AI is allowed for term assignments but not the quizzes. You may choose to use generative AI tools on assignments; this use must be documented in an appendix for each. The documentation should include what tool(s) were used (Grammarly, ChatGPT, etc.), how they were used, and how they were incorporated into the submitted work. You are accountable for the work you submit. My own experience with marking generative AI-assisted work has been unsatisfactory: it tends to be vague and contain false/limited references, so I don't recommend using AI.

Evaluation

Quizzes will be on the prior week's material (excepting Quiz C13), and will be in class. Quizzes will start at 9 p.m. and will be 15 minutes long (On Dec. 5, quizzes will start at 8:30 p.m.). Time accommodations will be available as needed. Quizzes will be short answer. Three marks, including zeros for missed quizzes, will be dropped (as such there is no academic accommodation for quizzes). No AI is allowed.

Participation Each week, using the rubric below, you will have the opportunity to mark yourself on your participation in discussions and activities in class. The expectation is of meaningful contribution (showing that you have read and engaged with the material, in class) in at least 10 of the 13 weeks, beginning Sept. 12. You will turn in a short, written justification for your mark within 24 hours of class. If there is no justification, there will be a 0 for the week. Ten marks will be recorded (if you have more, the lowest 3 are dropped, including 0s for missed classes and/or missed justifications). As such, requests for academic accommodation for participation will be denied. No AI allowed.

Creative in class An opportunity to illustrate the week's theory with something fun/interesting/creative. You will sign up for a chapter ahead of time, beginning with the week of Sept. 12. This assignment does require academic consideration if the deadline is missed. In such a situation, the assignment is expected to be presented at the next class meeting. AI allowed.

Term projects will be handed in under the "Assignments" tab in Brightspace with Turnitin. The write-up for the term project should include insights you've gathered from working with the class materials (TNR, 12 point, double spaced, APA style cover page and citations, please paginate and align text to the left). The term project uses the "Multimedia Suggestions" from the text. Each chapter has "Multimedia Suggestions" at the end. Look for two that interest you the most (just read ahead if you want to complete this assignment early). Use the "Activate your theory app" questions as guidelines to work with the theory. Then, for each, think of how a different theory can illuminate the issues too. Use the same guidelines to write about the media content, but with the different theory. So you're engaging with two chapters' "Multimedia Suggestions," and you're applying two theories to each: the original, plus an extra of your own choosing (each extra must be different). So, four theories total. Each write-up should be about 5 pages (so for two write-ups, it'll be about 10 pages). Grammar and clarity count toward the mark. AI is allowed if carefully documented as described above. You will choose and commit to your own deadline. The last possible time and day to commit to turn it in is Dec. 6 at 11 p.m. AI allowed. This assignment does require academic consideration with documentation for missing the deadline. In such a situation, it is still expected that you will turn in the project within 72 hours.

We use the Western rubric for marking, 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

Evaluation Breakdown

Component	Weight	Due Date	Learning Outcome
Quizzes	40%	In each class, starting on Sept. 19. There are 13 total. The lowest 3 scores will be dropped, including scores for any missed quiz. As such, requests for academic accommodation will be denied. No AI allowed.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Participation	20%	Each week, you will have the opportunity to participate in discussions and activities on the weekly readings. Self-marked, with justification within 24 hours after class. You are required to contribute for at least 10 of the 13 weeks, beginning Sept. 12. If you have more than 10 marks, the lowest will be dropped. As such, requests for academic accommodation will be denied. No AI allowed.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Creative in class	10%	Everyone will have the chance to do something creative to illustrate that week's chapter, beginning Sept. 12. This assignment <u>does</u> require academic consideration for missing a deadline. AI allowed.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Term project	30%	Discussed on prior page. This assignment <u>does</u> require academic consideration with documentation for missing the deadline. You will choose and commit to your own deadline. The last possible time and day to turn it in is Dec. 6 at 11 p.m. AI allowed.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Course Content

Weekly Organizer: **Remember to turn in your participation self-marks within 24 hours of class.**

Class	Date	Description	Readings and Assignments Due
1	Sept. 5	Course introduction	Read syllabus.
2	Sept. 12	What is theory?	Read C1.
3	Sept. 19	Functionalist	Read C2. Quiz C1.
4	Sept. 26	Conflict	Read C3. Quiz C2.
5	Oct. 3	Symbolic interactionism	Read C4. Quiz C3.
6	Oct. 10	Family development	Read C5. Quiz C4.
	Oct. 17	Reading week	Reading week
7	Oct. 24	Family systems	Read C6. Quiz C5.
8	Oct. 31	Social exchange	Read C7. Quiz C6.
9	Nov. 7	Feminist	Read C8. Quiz C7.
10	Nov. 14	Life course	Read C9. Quiz C8.
11	Nov. 21	Family ecology	Read C10. Quiz C9.
12	Nov 28	Critical race	Read C12. Quiz C10.
13	Dec. 5	Queer	Read C13. Quiz C12 and Quiz C13.
	Dec. 6	Term project	Last possible due date, by 11 p.m. on Brightspace.

FHS Common Course Outline Attachment

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 also 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 you are given a 72 hour time period to start – and 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.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

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).