



St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of Sexuality, Marriage, and Family Studies
SMF 101
Introduction to Relationships and Families
Spring 2018
Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

MC 4020

Instructor

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A note on email communication: I appreciate hearing from students and staying in contact throughout the semester. You can expect a response to your emails within 24 hours during the weekday. Emails sent over the weekend will often be responded to on the next business day.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of couple, marital, and family relationships from a broad interdisciplinary perspective.

Expanded Description

This is an introductory course designed to introduce first year students to critical theories and historical perspectives that underpin the interdisciplinary study of relationships and families. At the core of this class is the development and application of critical thinking in the study of families and relationships.

The topics of relationships and families are necessarily complicated, contested, and deeply personal. The content and the structure of the course have been designed to lift the level of analysis and thinking beyond the individual for students to learn how families and relationships are framed, if not produced by various ideas, constructs, discourses, and structures. Course topics include: the normalization of power; the history of the family; race relations, marriage, and divorce; disability, sexuality, and marriage; pets as family members; social policy and the welfare state; and questioning the family in crisis.

A significant portion of the class will focus on the history of families and relationships in Canada and beyond for students to understand how contemporary structures, discourses, patterns, and policies have evolved to their present form. History is not over, and it continues to dramatically frame our understanding of what family is and how families should function.

This class has several components that have been designed to work together for an integrated learning experience. They are all important for the successful completion of the course. These include: lectures, documentaries, large and small group discussions, and readings. All of them are important and all of them may be used as test material.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain contributing factors to the understanding and structure of family over time
- Articulate important issues related to mate selection and close relationships over time
- Discuss socialization in the family and fathering or fatherlessness
- Describe the associations between employment and caregiving
- Demonstrate understanding of major issues facing families and the impacts on individuals and family functioning
- Discuss issues associated with divorce or termination of close relationships and effects on individuals, families, and societies
- Describe variations in family transitions and current trends
- Appraise and address issues and/or problems in close relationships from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Critically appraise the effects of technology on close relationships

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is expected as lectures will supplement material in the course textbook. Students are responsible for both textbook and lecture materials. Lectures are designed to augment and clarify the assigned course textbook and will not always review all the materials in the textbook. Your attendance will facilitate an understanding of the materials. Please be on time for class and refrain from texting or surfing the internet during class. Opportunities may be provided for extra credits throughout the course.

Required Readings

Textbook. The textbook can be purchased at the Bookstore and one copy will also be placed in the Library on reserve.

McDaniel, S. A., Tepperman, L., & Colavecchia, S. (2019). *Close relations: An Introduction to the sociology of families* (6th ed.). North York, Ontario: Pearson.

Highly Recommended Reading. The course requires assignment(s) to be in APA style 6th edition.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Course Website

Supplemental materials will be posted on LEARN. Also, students will be placed in groups on LEARN for group assignment.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assignments in this course consist of two in-class tests, weekly quizzes, and a group project (two submissions).

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Test 1	June 12	25%
Test 2	July 24	25%
Weekly Quizzes	All classes except May 1, June 12, and July 24	18%
Group Project	Draft: June 19 & Revised: July 3	32%
Total		100%

Assessment 1

This multiple choice test covers the first half of the semester.

Assessment 2

This multiple choice test covers the second half of the semester.

Assessment 3

Students will participate in weekly quizzes at the end of each lecture based on textbook readings and lecture materials. Students can earn a maximum of 2% each class. To participate, students will need iCliketree accounts (Socrative may also be utilized).

Assessment 4

The aim of the group project is for students to demonstrate their capacity to appraise and address issues and/or problems in close relationships from an interdisciplinary perspective. For this

project, students will work in groups of a maximum of seven to critically analyze the documentary or movie “[We Will Be Free](#)” (see course website for further instructions). Students will submit a full draft of the assignment for feedback (5%) and a revised final version (27%).

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings Due
May 1	Welcome & Introduction	No assigned reading
May 8	Conceptualization of Families: Past & Present	Chapters 1 & 2
May 15	Family Formation: Dating & Mating	Chapter 3
May 29	Composition of Intimate Relationships	Chapter 4
June 5	Characteristics of Healthy Families	Chapter 5
June 12	<i>Test 1 and Group Meeting</i>	
June 19	Parenting: Socialization in the Family <i>Draft Group Project Due</i>	Chapter 6
June 26	Families & Work	Chapter 7
July 3	Problems in the Family: Stress and Violence <i>Final Version of Group Project Due</i>	Chapter 8
July 10	Issues in the Family: Divorce and Ending Relationships	Chapter 9
July 17	Future Families	Chapter 10
July 24	<i>Test 2 and Review</i>	

Late Work

Group project. Assignments are due 11:59 p.m. Late assignments will receive a deduction of **1% PER DAY** (e.g., 32% -1% = 31%). To avoid penalties, students **MUST** make special arrangements with the instructor along with proper documentation based on university policies **BEFORE** the day that the assignment is due. Assignments will not be accepted after 1 week of due date.

Tests. Tests will only be rescheduled under very limited conditions; it is your responsibility to read and abide by the following:

1. You **must** notify me prior to the test if you are unable to write at the scheduled time due to medical or religious circumstances (or at minimum the day before test). **Students who fail to do so will receive a grade of ZERO on the test.**
2. You must provide appropriate documentation (see UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed

Tests* - a UW VOI form must be submitted) in order to have a test rescheduled.

3. Rescheduling is at the discretion of the course instructor. Verification of Illness Form (VOI) dates will weigh heavily in this decision. Note that a make-up test session is facilitated by St. Jerome's University on Fridays from 1pm to 4pm; please make yourself available at this time in the event that you are granted a make-up test opportunity.

Make up opportunities for in-class assignments and discussion will only be provided under very limited conditions and in extreme circumstances.

You **must** notify me prior to the in-class assignment or discussion if you are unable to attend at the scheduled time due to medical or religious circumstances (or at minimum the day of the assessment). **Students who fail to do so will receive a grade of ZERO on the assessment.**

2. You must provide appropriate documentation (a UW VOI form must be submitted) in order to have a makeup opportunity.
3. Makeup assignments are at the discretion of the course instructor. Verification of Illness Form (VOI) dates will weigh heavily in this decision.

Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices can be distracting for students. You are welcome to use a computer or other electronic device to type notes during class. Lectures and discussion must not be recorded or taped. Please do not use your device for personal reasons during class, and please be respectful of your classmates' learning experience.

Important Information

Intellectual Property: Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their professor and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the professor or used by the professor with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the professor and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from the professor or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in

subsequent terms/years. Doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the professor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know.

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Academic Integrity Office (UW): A resource for students and instructors.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term. **** Please also feel free to meet with me at the beginning of term to discuss any accommodation(s) you need.

******Safety, Health and Counselling Services on Campus:** Your health, safety, and well being are important. For a list of on campus services, please see <https://uwaterloo.ca/police/safety-resources>. If you are on campus in the evenings, please make use of the on and off campus shuttle service. More information about it can be found here - <https://uwaterloo.ca/police/shuttle-service>

Mental Health Services:**On Campus**

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 x32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from the Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Extended Assessment Unit Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: Support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x222

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Contact Health Services

[Health Services Building](#)

Call 519-888-4096 to schedule an appointment

Call 1-866-797-0000 for free 24/7 advice from a health professional

Contact Counselling Services

[Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401](#)

Call 519-888-4567 x 32655 to schedule an appointment

counserv@uwaterloo.ca