



Sociology 2285a (670)
The Family
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Kayla Baumgartner

Email: kbaumga2@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course examines sociological, psychological, and other research perspectives on diverse family structures and functioning.

Antirequisite(s): Family Studies and Human Development 1010 A/B, [Sociology 2235](#), [Sociology 2132A/B](#), [Sociology 2134A/B](#).

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 Sociology courses at the 1000 level, or registration in the Honours Specialization or Major module in Childhood and Youth Studies. Note: [Sociology 1050A/B](#) cannot be used to fulfill this prerequisite.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this 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 prerequisites.

King's University College

Sociology 2285

Sociology of the Family

Online (Asynchronous)

Prof: Dr. Kayla Baumgartner

Email: kbaumga2@uwo.ca

- Please contact me by email, not via OWL

Office hours: Zoom – Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm, or by appointment

Meeting ID # 579 358 3166

Teaching Assistant: Lori Parker (lparker9@uwo.ca)

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the sociological analysis of families and gives them an understanding of family within the larger social system. The course begins by looking at different conceptual and theoretical issues, which challenge the commonly-held views of the family. We will consider how families are formed and look at the choices that people make regarding marriage and parenting. We will take a closer look at different aspects of family life, including the distribution of paid and unpaid work within families, diverse family forms and intergenerational issues. We will consider adversities experienced by families, including violence, addictions, and divorce. Finally, we will consider policy issues relevant to families and the future prospects for the family in a changing society.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will be able to

- Understand the intersection between family life and the public sphere.
- Comprehend the various theories used to explain the structure and dynamics of families.
- Understand how families from various cultures are connected, despite their different lifestyles.
- See how contemporary patterns of work reflect changes in the economy and ideologies of gender.
- Recognize that there is no single institutionalized life course with respect to family development.
- Appreciate the diversity in structure and processes of families in contemporary Canadian society.
- See how difficulties like poverty, abuse, addictions, etc. negatively impact family members.

Course Materials

- Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives (5th ed) by Patrizia Albanese – Available online through [VitalSource](#) - \$45.99 for a 180-day rental. Also note that a hard copy is available for a 2-hour loan at the King's Library.
- Other course materials will be posted to OWL under Course Content → Resources.

Evaluation

"Concept in Context" Discussions (20%)

Sociological Autobiography (25%)

Midterm Exam (25%)

Final Exam (30%)

"Concept in Context" Discussions (five total, every other academic week)

Every two weeks, you will find and post to OWL a real-world example that connects directly to a concept, theory, or theme from the course. Your example can come from anywhere, e.g., an ad, a TV or movie scene, a social media post, a public sign, a news article, or something you encounter in your own community. But you must clearly describe where you found it and upload the image or screenshot. In your short, written analysis (150 - 200 words), explain how the example illustrates the concept, citing either the textbook or an article cited within the textbook to support your explanation. These posts are meant to spark connections between course material and everyday life, so choose examples that are fresh, specific, and relevant.

Due dates and further instructions will be posted to OWL.

Sociological Autobiography (due December 9 by noon)

For this assignment, you'll explore your own life through a sociological lens while also critically engaging with artificial intelligence. First, you'll use an AI tool to generate a short autobiographical essay that connects aspects of your personal or family experience to specific concepts from the course. Then, you'll revise and expand that draft into a fully researched paper, drawing on course materials and credible academic sources to correct inaccuracies, add depth, and strengthen your arguments. You'll also include a short reflection on what the AI got right, what it missed, and how the process shaped your understanding of the topic.

Further instructions will be posted to OWL.

Midterm & Final Exams (October 20 and TBD)

Students will have one midterms and one final exam. These exams will be administered via Proctortrack (accessed through OWL). There will be a 24-hour period under which to

complete them, but once started, students will have an hour and a half to finish the midterm, and two hours for the final. To ensure academic integrity, students will need to log into Proctortrack in OWL (further instructions will be posted). The final exam will NOT be cumulative, but will cover all material, including the PPT slides, recordings, assigned readings, videos, guest presenters, etc. since the midterm. The format of these exams may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions, and true/false questions.

[Link to Western's Scholastic Discipline policy](#)

Notice on Turnitin

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>)

Notice on remote proctoring

Note that this course uses Proctortrack for its midterm and final assessments. To access this service, students will need the following:

- Stable, high-speed internet connection
- Webcam
- Microphone
- A quiet, private location

Timeline

*Note: While this is an asynchronous online course, the lectures themselves will be posted Monday evenings. These are the dates shown. You can find the lectures in OWL under Content → Course Lectures

Week 1 (September 8) – Course Introduction

Reading: None

Week 2 (September 15) – How do we think about families?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 1: Introduction to Diversity in Canada's Families

Week 3 (September 22) – What do families in Canada look like?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 2: Canada's Families

CiC #1 due to OWL by noon

Week 4 (September 29) – How are families formed?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 4: Intimacy, Commitment, and Family Formation

Week 5 (October 6) – Why do we have children?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 5: Children and Parenting

CiC #2 due to OWL by noon

Week 6 (October 14*) – What happens when a marriage falls apart?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 6: Separation and Divorce

Week 7 (October 20) – **Midterm Exam** (on OWL)

Available in Tests & Quizzes section on OWL from 12:01AM on October 20 – 12:00AM on October 21. Once a student begins the assessment they will have 90 minutes to finish.

Week 8 (October 27) – How does work affect the family?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 9: Paid and Unpaid Work

CiC #3 due to OWL by noon

Week 9 (November 10) – How does poverty impact the family?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 10: The Correlates and Coping Strategies of Families Experiencing Poverty in Canada

Week 10 (November 17) – How does violence impact the family?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 14: Violence in Families

CiC #4 due to OWL by noon

Week 11 (November 24) – What challenges do immigrant and queer families face?

Readings: Chapter 11: Immigrant and Refugee Families; Chapter 3: 2SLGBTQI+ Families in Canada

Week 12 (December 1) – What does the future hold for families?

Reading: Albanese, Chapter 16: Predicting the Future of the Family

CiC #5 due to OWL by noon

Final Exam: Date TBD, but will also be held online via OWL/Proctortrack during the final exam period

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King’s 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.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

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

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.