



Sociology 3314g (670)
Family and Work
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: R. Miele
Email: rmiele@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

A study of changes in family and work, and their interrelationship. The focus is on paid and unpaid work, its division by gender, and the accommodation made by families, workplaces and social policy in terms of the needs to earn a living and care for family members.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level and third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology or BMOS.

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
SOC3314G – Distance Studies/Online
Family and Work, Winter 2025

Instructor: Dr. Rachelle Miele (she/her)

Email: rmiele@uwo.ca

Office Hours (Zoom): Tuesday, 2:30 - 3:30 pm or by appointment

Kings University College is on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples. In our class, we are working towards reconciliation by learning about the history, experiences, and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

Course Description:

This online/distance studies course will examine the intersection of family and work. This course aims to analyze family and work and their relationship to one another, focusing on how these institutions create challenges and opportunities for individuals and society more broadly. We will examine paid and unpaid labour and its division by gender. In our course, we will consider historical and contemporary workplaces and how the family has evolved. We will also examine the ways in which social locations and social structures including class, race, culture, and gender shape and impact work and family experiences. This course will assess social policies and workplace accommodations related to family.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, you will:

- Have a strong understanding of the main issues and debates related to work and family.
- Be able to critically examine and discuss past and current family and work dynamics.
- Consider the impact of social locations and social structures on work and family experiences.
- Refine your communication skills through online class participation.
- Incorporate course material into class discussions and assignments.
- Improve your communication, writing, and analytic skills through course work.

Mode of Instruction: Online

Course Textbooks/Materials:

- **Required Text(s):** Assigned readings, documentaries, or podcasts are available on OWL. There are no textbooks or materials that need to be purchased.
- **OWL Brightspace:** As an online/distance studies course, our course will occur on OWL. Lecture slides and recordings will be posted weekly on OWL along with course information/ schedule, assigned readings, and assignment instructions. Please make sure to check our OWL site frequently.

Method of Evaluation:

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- Forum Discussions (3 total: Jan 30, Mar 6, Apr 3): 45% (15% each)
- Documentary Critical Reflection (Feb 27): 25%
- Final Essay (April 9): 30%

Assignment Descriptions – See OWL for detailed instructions:**Forum Discussions (45%) (3 x 15%) – Ongoing**

In 500-750 words (around 2-3 pages double spaced), you will complete three forum discussion posts throughout the course. Each week, you will have the opportunity to respond to a prompt where you will focus on critically reflecting on the topic, course materials, and readings. The focus of the discussion posts is on reflecting on the topic, using your critical thinking skills, and applying the knowledge from the course. Your discussion posts can be in response to a classmate but should be respectful and should lead to a meaningful discussion. Full instructions will be posted on OWL. You must complete one forum post in the designated weeks below:

- Post 1: weeks 1 - 4; due by Jan 30
- Post 2: weeks 5 - 8; due by Mar 6
- Post 3: weeks 9 - 12; due by Apr 3

Documentary Critical Reflection (25%) – Due February 27

During week 6, you will be given a choice of two documentaries along with a prompt will be given where you will need to respond in essay format. Using course material and lectures, you are to respond to and critically reflect on one documentary in an essay 5-8 pages double spaced. Full instructions will be posted on OWL.

Final Essay (30%) – Due April 9

Your final essay is your opportunity to explore a topic you are interested in relation to family and work. A list of topics will be provided but if you have other ideas, please email your professor for approval. Once you have decided on your project and topic, you will write an 8–10-page paper double spaced (not including reference list). Full instructions will be posted on OWL.

Academic Considerations:

Please reach out to your professor via email if you need an extension for your assignments. Together we will come to an agreement so that you can submit your written assignment without penalty.

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, at the following Web site:

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

- Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.
- Notice of Turnitin Analysis: All assignment 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>).

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Lecture slides and recording will be posted on Mondays; assessments will be due on Fridays unless otherwise stated.

Week 1: Jan 5

- **Introduction to the Course**
 - Syllabus; Perry-Jenkins & Gerstel (2020); Chp 11: Work & Families in Cohen (2024)

Week 2: Jan 12

- **Historical Constructions**
 - Marks et al (2016); Adams (2020); Assche & Simard (2020)

Week 3: Jan 19

- **Social Change and the Modern Families**
 - The Atlantic [Video](#); Blair-Loy (2015); Midgette & Chernyak (2025); Craig & Churchill (2021)

Week 4: Jan 26

- **The household, family economics, and gender**
 - Young et al (2023); Goldberg (2013); Yavorsky et al (2015)
 - **Forum discussion #1 due, Jan 30**

Week 5: Feb 2

- **Mothering, Femininities, and Social Reproduction**
 - Fox (2006); Randles (2021); Wall (2013)

Week 6: Feb 9

- **Fathering, Masculinities, and Work**
 - Rehel (2013); Berdahl et al (2018); Randles (2018)

Reading Week: Feb 16 – Rest!

Week 7: Feb 23

- **2SLGBTQIA+ Families and Work**
 - Moore (2008); Gibson et al (2025); Reczek & Bosley-Smith (2021)
 - **Documentary Critical Reflection due, Feb 27**

Week 8: Mar 2

- **Race, Racism, and Transnational Labour**
 - Tungohan et al (2015); Arat-Koç (2006); Baker & O'Connell (2022)
 - **Forum discussion #2 due, Mar 6**

Week 9: Mar 9

- **Reproduction, Gender, and Work**
 - Introduction & Chp. 3 in Littlejohn (2021); Raybould & Sear (2021)

Week 10: Mar 16

- **Care Work, Disabilities, Aging, and the Family**
 - Ward et al (2023); Drew (2009); Holland (2025)

Week 11: Mar 23

- **Labour Policies**
 - Kelly et al (2014); Tremblay (2009); McKay et al (2016)

Week 12: Mar 30

- **Visions for the Future**
 - Matysiak & Vignoli (2024); Morero-Minguez & Ortega-Gaspar (2022)
 - **Forum discussion #3 due, Apr 3**

Week 13: Apr 6 (no lecture)

- **Final Essay Due (Apr 9)**

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.