



## **Course Outline – FSHD 1010A**

### **Introduction to Families in Canada**

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) face in Canada, and I accept responsibility as a member of a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation and inequalities. –Professor Descartes

#### **General Information**

Course #: FSHD1010A  
Section #: 650  
Term: Intersession  
Year: 2025  
Delivery: Online asynchronous

#### **Instructor Information**

Name: Lara Descartes  
E-mail: ldescart@uwo.ca

Telephone number: 519-432-8353 x28059  
Office hours: By appointment, in person or on zoom

#### **Teaching Assistant Information**

Name: Olamide (Lami) Williams  
E-mail: owilli22@uwo.ca

## Course Description

This introductory course explains the field of Family Studies and Human Development, 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.

## Prerequisite

There is no prerequisite.

## Required Course Materials

Bélanger, M., & Ward, M. (2022). *The Family Dynamic: Canadian Perspectives* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Nelson Publishers. Students need to purchase this edition. Older editions will not be sufficient. This text is available through the Western bookstore in electronic form. You do not need to pay for the extra online materials. The cost is \$69. [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2025&courses%5B0%5D=650\\_UW/FAS1010A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2025&courses%5B0%5D=650_UW/FAS1010A)

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, it is intended that students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Family Studies and Human Development terminology, concepts, research methods, and theories.
2. Be able to identify and explain the different stages of family life.
3. Be able to describe how life course theory helps us understand families and individuals.
4. Be able to relate ways in which families are influenced by the institutions of their society.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the range of diversity of contemporary Canadian families.
6. Demonstrate comprehension of challenges facing Canadian families, e.g., poverty, violence.
7. Reflect upon their own attitudes and beliefs about families and family roles.
8. Develop skills in synthesizing Family Studies and Human Development knowledge, and presenting it professionally and coherently.

## Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This asynchronous online course will involve reading the textbook and viewing the video commentaries too. The videos are meant to add to your experience and present the material in slightly different form, sometimes with anecdotes 😊. There may be additional videos assigned, depending on the week. PowerPoint slides are posted for each chapter.

This course has a Brightspace site where resources and marks will be posted and tests will be taken, with ProctorTrack. You should monitor your mark throughout the term. The site organizes our material into modules under the Content tab.

When sending an email to me, put something in the subject line like "FSHD1010." Please address email with something like "Dear Dr. D." or "Hello Dr. D." Please sign your name to your email.

No screenshots or audio- or video-recording, please. All class materials are copyrighted. There of course cannot be any cheating on exams. Please see the Academic Policies regarding cheating and plagiarism. Exams are closed-book, and to be taken individually and without AI.

This is a survey class and a large amount of material is covered. Exams can cover all reading material and all class material. As an intersession class, there's a lot of reading per week, plus the exams, so you have to plan ahead to have time for it all. We may cover sensitive topics in class materials, which may include death, violence, sexual assault, bullying, alcoholism, and more. Topics related to sex and reproduction will be covered, as will sexuality and gender.

There are videos that may be part of the weekly work. These videos have been selected to ensure that they are free to watch and reasonably short. Many are produced in the United States: this is due in part to the selection available online. I considered the content in those selected to be transferable to the Canadian context.

### Use of Generative AI

AI is **not** allowed for assessments.

### Copyright and Intellectual Property

Lecture videos and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor or the publisher. 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.

## Evaluation

There will be 3 closed-book tests, with Midterm 1 weighted at 20%, Midterm 2 at 30%, and Test 3 (the Final) at 50%. Multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, and written response all are possible. Tests can cover all class material: text, videos, etc. Tests will be on Brightspace and will be timed (1 hr. each for the Midterms, 2 hrs. for the Final). They will open 24 hours before they are due so you can choose your time in which to take them. The second exam is designated as an assignment that requires documentation should it be missed. Due to the flexibility conferred by the 24 hour window for each Midterm, academic consideration may be denied. If academic consideration is granted, a makeup exam will be administered. The final is cumulative. If you miss the final exam, as it is scheduled by the registrar, it would require supporting documentation to be considered for a Special Examination. ProctorTrack is used on all exams. AI and collaboration are not allowed.

Note re ProctorTrack: there is a non-credit onboarding quiz (with fake questions: it's just to get you set up in the system) that must be completed for those new to ProctorTrack or who have been away from it for a while. You must allow time between the completion of the onboarding quiz and the commencement of an exam. It can take up to 8 hours for approval. So you should do the onboarding quiz ahead of the time you want to start your exam.

## Evaluation Breakdown

Component	Weight	Date/Deadline	Learning Outcome
<b>Midterm exams 1 (TFD C1, C2, C3, C4) and 2 (TFD C5, C6, C7, C8, C9) (the 2<sup>nd</sup> midterm requires documentation should it be missed. Academic consideration is not guaranteed due to the 24 hr window in which you have to take each exam). ProctorTrack is used on all exams. Closed book. AI and collaboration are not allowed.</b>	20% (Midterm 1) and 30% (Midterm 2)	May 28 & June 11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>Final exam, cumulative. If you miss the final exam, as it is scheduled by the registrar, it will require supporting documentation to be considered for a Special Examination. ProctorTrack is used on all exams. Closed book. AI and collaboration are not allowed.</b>	50%	Opens June 23 at 7 a.m., due no later than 7 am. on June 24	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

## Course Content

### Weekly Organizer:

Class	Date	Description	Readings	Activities
1	May 13	Course introduction, process	Syllabus	Video about syllabus
2	15	Theory and methods	<i>The Family Dynamic</i> (TFD) Chapter 1 (C1)	Video about C1
3	20	Diversity and social justice	TFD C2	Watch <i>That's a Family!</i> <a href="https://uwo.kanopy.com/product/thats-family-divorce-lgbt-single-parents-m">https://uwo.kanopy.com/product/thats-family-divorce-lgbt-single-parents-m</a>  Video about C2
4	22	Intimate relationships	TFD C3	Watch <i>The Dating Game</i> <a href="https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma993813847505151">https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma993813847505151</a>  Video about C3
5	27	Marriage and cohabitation	TFD C4	Video about C4  After you have read TFD C1, C2, C3, and C4, and watched the videos, go to Brightspace and take Test 1. This is due May 28 by 11 pm. This is a timed test. Once you start you will have one hour.
6	29	Childbearing and children (planning note: these	TFD C5 and TFD C6	Video about C5, 6

		chapters together are fairly lengthy)		
7	June 3	Middle years and aging	TFD C7 and TFD C8	Video about C7, 8
8	5	Lone parent families	TFD C9	Video about C9
9	10	Divorce and remarriage	TFD C10 and TFD C11	Video about C10, 11  After you have read TFD C5, C6, C7, C8, and C9, and watched the videos, go to Brightspace and take Test 2. This is due June 11 by 11 pm. This is a timed test. Once you start you will have one hour.
10	12	Problems in families	TFD C13	Video about C13
11	17	Abuse and violence	TFD C14	Video about C14
12	19	Families in poverty	TFD C15	Watch <i>No Place Called Home</i> at <a href="https://www.nfb.ca/film/no_place_called_home/">https://www.nfb.ca/film/no_place_called_home/</a> (you can log in to the lib.uwo.ca site to access, and then let it take you to the NFB). Please be aware that this film refers to violence against women and children.  Video about C15
13	23-24	Final Exam Opens June 23 at 7 a.m., due no later than 7 am. on June 24		Having completed the material for TFD C10, C11, and C13, and studied the prior material, go to Brightspace and take Test 3, which is a cumulative final. This is a timed test. Once you start you will have two hours.  Congratulations on finishing the course material for FSHD1010! Have a great summer! 😊



## 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://academicssupport.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](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](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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> (for first-term half courses) or June 30<sup>th</sup> (for second-term half courses or full-year courses)