



COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS
AND APPLIED NUTRITION

FRHD*4020 Family Theory

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2018

1. CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course analyses theoretical approaches and concepts in the study of the family.

Credit Weight: 0.5 credits

Course Hours: 3-0 (36 lecture; 0 lab/seminar)

Pre-Requisite(s): 12.50 credits including FRHD*1020

Co-Requisites(s): None

Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs or specializations or semester levels during certain periods. Please see departmental website for more information.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of contemporary theories about families that are used by social science researchers, policy-makers, academics, and service-providers who work with family members and practice in a primarily Western context. These theories reflect various *macro-level* (population trends and patterns) and *micro-level* (family members' experiences and meaning-making) perspectives on family life.

Students will learn to use theory as a 'tool' or 'lens' for viewing families in order to address problems, understand dilemmas, or identify resiliencies.

We will consider how these theories fit for families in a contemporary Canadian context. In particular, we will examine two groups of traditionally marginalized families (Indigenous families and newcomer families from collectivist cultures), and how Indigenous knowledges and collectivist perspectives on families and relationships can serve to extend and augment the family theories presented in this course.

3. TIMETABLE

Lecture: Mon & Wed 4:30 – 5:20pm; Weekly online learning activities in place of Fri class

Location: CRSC 117

Final Exam: NO EXAM

4. INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Course Instructor: Dr. Lynda M. Ashbourne, PhD, RP, RMFT

Indigenous Unit Instructor: Dr. Kim Anderson, PhD

Email: lashbour@uoguelph.ca kimberle@uoguelph.ca

Email response by next working day - do not expect a response on weekends

Telephone: 519-824-4120 ext. LMA x54237 KA x58027

Office: LMA Rm 248, CFT Centre, Macdonald Hall Annex KA Rm 227A, MINS

Office Hours: LMA Fridays Noon – 1:00 pm

Teaching Assistant: Curtis Holmes

Email: cholmes@uoguelph.ca [put course code FRHD*4020 in subject line]

Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

5. LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Resource(s):

Allen, K.R., & Henderson, A.C. (2016). Family Theories: Foundations and applications. West Sussex: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Other readings as assigned (available through Library Course Reserve and/or Courselink)

Recommended Resource(s):

If you are thinking about graduate school in the area of family science, you may wish to check out the more advanced level text: White, Klein, & Martin (2015). Family Theories: An Introduction, 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Hardcopy on reserve at U of G library

6. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Describe what theory is and how it can be used to analyze family experience.
2. Identify and compare the theoretical frameworks currently used by social scientists and practitioners to understand families.
3. Describe how theoretical frameworks and concepts contribute to and shape family therapy, research, and policy design/interventions with respect to specific family issues.
4. Demonstrate, in writing and discussion, a curiosity and critical perspective toward family theories, the context in which they were developed, and how they are applied in research, practice, and policy. This will include particular attention to the areas of potential discrepancy between these theories and Indigenous knowledge and collectivist concepts of families.
5. Describe how Indigenous knowledge and collectivist concepts about families reflect aspects of family relationships, intergenerational roles and responsibilities, and family life that are distinct from or not captured by current family theories.
6. Reflect on your own conceptual biases and theoretical assumptions related to families.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

| Week | Date | Topics | Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers | Notes & Due Dates |
|------|----------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Sept. 7 | Course Introduction Overview of Family Theories | Chapter 1 | |
| | Sept. 10 | Newcomer Canadians & Collectivist Cultures | | |
| | Sept. 12 | Be a Better Blogger | Guest Presenter: Dr. Owen Roberts | experienced journalist, Director of Research Communications, U of G. |
| | Online | <i>Collectivist lens LMA</i> | | |
| 2 | Sept. 17 | Indigenous Knowledge | Indigenous Unit Instructor: Dr. Kim Anderson | Assoc Prof, FRAN Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Relationships |
| | Sept. 19 | Indigenous Knowledge | | |
| | Online | <i>Indigenous lens KA</i> | | |
| 3 | Sept. 24 | Theorizing Intro | Daly (2003) | |
| | Sept. 26 | Functionalist Theory | Chapter 2 | |
| | Online | <i>“using theory” activity LMA</i> | | Weekly Theory Highlights due (noon) – Functionalist Theory |
| 4 | Oct. 1 | Family Development Theory | Chapter 5 | |
| | Oct. 3 | Life Course Theory | Chapter 9 | |
| | Online | <i>Indigenous lens KA</i> | | Weekly Theory Highlights due (noon) – Family Development & Life Course Theories |
| 5 | Oct. 8 | No Class | | |
| | Oct. 10 | Family Stress & Resilience Theory | Chapter 11 | |
| | Online | <i>Collectivist lens LMA</i> | | Weekly Theory Highlights due (noon) – Family Stress & Resilience Theory |
| 6 | Oct. 15 | Family Systems Theory | Chapter 6 | Due Date: Blog from Week 2 or Week 4 (noon) |
| | Oct. 17 | Family Ecological Theory | Chapter 10 | |

| Week | Date | Topics | Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers | Notes & Due Dates |
|------|---------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| | Online | <i>Indigenous lens KA</i> | | Due Date: Theories Families Live By Assignment due (noon) Weekly Theory Highlights due (noon) – Family Systems and Family Ecological Theories |
| 7 | Oct. 22 | Symbolic Interactionist Theory | Chapter 4 | |
| | Oct. 24 | Social Exchange Theory | Chapter 7 | |
| | Online | <i>Collectivist lens LMA</i> | | Weekly Theory Highlights due (noon) – Symbolic Interactionist and Social Exchange Theories |
| 8 | Oct. 29 | Conflict Theory | Chapter 3 | |
| | Oct. 31 | Feminist Theory | Chapter 8 | |
| | Online | <i>Indigenous lens KA</i> | | 40 th Class Day Weekly Theory Highlights due (noon) – Conflict and Feminist Theories |
| 9 | Nov. 5 | Review and Compare Theories | | Due Date: Blog from Week 5 or Week 7 (noon) |
| | Nov. 7 | No Class – Dr. Ashbourne away | | |
| | Online | <i>Critical perspectives LMA</i> | | |
| 10 | Nov. 12 | In-class Student Presentations | | See schedule for poster presentations |
| | Nov. 14 | In-class Student Presentations | | |
| | Online | To be announced (TBA) | | Due Date: Poster Presentation submission (noon) |
| 11 | Nov. 19 | TBA – weaving together what we've learned | | Due Date: Blog from Week 6 or Week 8 (noon) |
| | Nov. 21 | TBA – more weaving | | |

| Week | Date | Topics | Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers | Notes & Due Dates |
|------|---------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Online | TBA – reflecting on application and theory | | |
| 12 | Nov. 26 | TBA – and yet more weaving... | | |
| | Nov. 28 | Wrap-up and Celebrate | | |

Note: This is a tentative schedule; however, due to various unknown factors there may be changes. Any changes will be announced during class and an announcement will be posted on the CourseLink site.

8. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

| Assessment | LOs Addressed | Due Date | % of Final |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|------------|
| Poster Presentation (Group) | 1, 2, 3 | Present in class: Nov. 12 & 14/18 Submit: Nov. 16/18 noon | 40 |
| Blogs (3) | 4,5 | Oct. 15/18 noon Nov. 5/18 noon Nov. 19/18 noon | 30 |
| Theories Families Live By | 6 | Oct. 19/18 noon | 10 |
| Weekly Theory Report | 1,2,3 | Friday noon on Weeks 3,4,5,6,7,8 | 12 |
| Class Participation (Online) | 4 | TBD | 8 |
| Total: | | | 100% |

9. COURSE STATEMENTS

Course Website:

There is a course website at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. All components of this course will be housed on the CourseLink site including this course outline, assignments, and links to further resources. Your assignments will be submitted through the Dropbox function. Marks and feedback will also be released on the site. Please familiarize yourself with this website as soon as possible and visit it regularly throughout the semester.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be accepted up to 5 days following the due date and will receive a penalty of 10% per day EXCEPT under documented grounds for compassionate consideration. Assignments submitted more than one week late without documented grounds will receive a grade of zero. If you are going to hand an assignment in late, you must contact your course instructor to inform them when you will be submitting your assignment.

Receipt of Grades:

After you receive a grade on CourseLink, please review your feedback. Any inquiry or dispute over the grade must be made within two weeks from the date they are posted. If you fail to protest any grade during this time limit, changes to the grade will not be considered. [Grades will be based on the Grading Procedures outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Turnitin Software:

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

10.UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS**E-mail Communication:**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot meet a course requirement:

When you find yourself unable to meet in-course requirements due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing with name, ID#, and email contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop date:

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments:

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility:

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

Academic misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

[The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of materials:

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources:

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.