

FRHD*1020 01 Couple and Family Relations

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2026

1. CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

A survey of family dynamics throughout the life course, emphasizing themes of power, intimacy, and family diversity. Topics may include gender socialization, sexuality, mate selection, communication, abuse, couple interaction, parent-child relations, divorce, remarriage.

Credit Weight: 0.5 credits

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

Pre-Requisite(s): None

Co-Requisites(s): FRHD*2010

Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Some restrictions may apply during some time periods. Please see the departmental website for more information.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction and overview of couple and family relationships, including past and contemporary issues, from both theoretical and applied perspectives. We will examine different types of family structures within various sociocultural contexts, and will discuss and reflect on our own perceptions, biases and responses to the challenges and opportunities experienced by them. Topics will include, and are not limited to, the formation of couples and families, children and parenting, divorce, immigrant, refugee, 2SLGBTQI+ and Indigenous families, gender and disability issues related to families, poverty and the future of families within Canada.

3. TIMETABLE

Lecture:

Location:

Final Exam:

4. INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Course Instructor: Dr. Natalie Evans

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Office:

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm or by appointment

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5. LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Resource(s):

Title: Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives

Author(s): Patricia Albanese

Edition / Year: 5th Edition, 2022

Publisher: OUP

ISBN (perpetual eBook): 9780199039678

You can purchase the textbook at the [Guelph Campus Co-op Bookstore](#) or the [University of Guelph Bookstore](#).

Cost of Textbook and Learning Resources

The cost of the required text for this course, *Canadian Families Today: New Perspectives 5th ed.*, is \$45.99 for the digital version through the campus bookstore. Hardcopies are \$113.99 in the campus bookstore. The prices in other locations may differ from that at the bookstore and prices at the bookstore are subject to change.

Recommended Resource(s):

None

6. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Help create a dynamic, exploratory, respectful and inclusive learning environment for both students and instructor in an online learning environment;
2. Describe the multidimensional experience and diversity of intimate relationships, families, and marriages in the Canadian context;
3. Identify issues impacting couples and families, including the variety of political, religious, cultural, biological, social, and historical forces that influence family life;
4. Explain the dynamics of couple and family relationships throughout the life course;
5. Demonstrate the personal and practical implications of the course content by getting personally involved with course content and reflecting on the personal experiences that have contributed to one's development with respect to couple and family relationships;
6. Evaluate and examine their own experiences, values, and biases in relation to the various dimensions of family and couple relationships.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Week	Topics	Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers	Notes & Due Dates
1 Jan. 6	Introduction to the course Course overview Introduction to the topic	None	
2 Jan. 13	Introduction to Diversity in Canada's Families Historical and Contemporary Variations	Chapter 1 & 2	Journal Entry
3 Jan. 20	Intimacy, Commitment, and Family Formations	Chapter 4	Discussion

Week	Topics	Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers	Notes & Due Dates
4 Jan. 27	Children and Parenting: Cultural Expectations and Social Realities	Chapter 5	Journal Entry
5 Feb. 3	Separation and Divorce: Examining the Fragmentation and Renewal of Families	Chapter 6	Journal Entry
6 Feb. 10	<i>Midterm online</i>	Covers content from weeks 1-5	Begins 7pm for 90 minutes
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break-NO CLASS	N/A	N/A
7 Feb. 24	Paid and Unpaid Work	Chapter 9	
8 Mar. 3	Immigrant and Refugee Families	Chapter 11	Journal Entry
9 Mar. 10	Indigenous Families and Lack of Support	Chapter 12 & 13	Discussion
10 Mar. 17	Violence in Families	Chapter 14	Journal Entry
11 Mar. 24	Predicting the Future of the Family	Chapter 16	Discussion
12 Mar. 31	Summary, Conclusions and Final Exam Preparation	None	None

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
Discussions (3 @ 5% each)	1, 5, 6	Weeks 3, 9, 11	15%
Commonplace Reflection Journal (5@3% each)	1, 5, 6	Feb. 10	15%
Midterm (Online)	2, 3, 4	Weeks 2, 4, 5, 8, 10	25%

Assessment	LOs Addressed	Due Date	% of Final
Final Exam (In Person)	2, 3, 4	April 15, 2026, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm	45%
			Total: 100%

9. COURSE STATEMENTS

Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them. Acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.

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.

Statement regarding use of generative AI within this course:

Students may not use generative AI for any work in this course, given the nature of the specific assignments and course outcomes. Use of generative AI for any assessments within this course will constitute academic misconduct.

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 an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail 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 last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes 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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

Academic misconduct:

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

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.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct see: <https://csahs.uoguelph.ca/faculty-research/hub-teaching-learning-excellence/academic-integrity>

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.

Disclaimer:

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via Courselink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

Illness:

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

COVID-19 Safety Protocols:

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, that these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.