Renison University College Land Acknowledgement
With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

Fall 2022
Course Code: SDS 354R
Course Title: Values and the Contemporary Families
Class Times/Location: 1:00-2:20 pm in REN 2106
Instructor: Theresa Romkey
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: tromkey@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description
An exploration of how religious, economic, political and other social institutions shape values in our society, and what impact society's changing values are having upon marriage and families.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
- Explore relationships between societal values and social institutions
- Explore the role of social institutions in defining contemporary families
- Investigate shifting constructions from ‘the family’ to ‘families’
- Challenge constructions of the idealization of the heterosexual nuclear family
- Examine the shifting relationships between institutions, values and families
- Investigate theoretical frameworks for studying values, institutions and families

Required Text

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Reflection papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>or Critical Book Review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social construction of family paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Course Requirements and Assessment

1. Participation (10%)

The criteria for evaluating class participation will be based on a student’s understanding of material and the ability to actively contribute to class discussions. Attendance (arriving on time, staying for the whole class) is worth 50% and participation is worth 50% of the grade.

2. Social construction of family (families) in the media (20%)

The purpose of this course is to examine the sociological study of families. How we conceptualize family (families) is often shaped by constructions in books, movies, television shows, or other sources. For this assignment, you will examine one media source and provide a sociological analysis of how family (families) are constructed in this source. You are to integrate course material (at least 3 different sources) and course theories in your analysis (at least 2 theories discussed in the course). Your paper should be 7-8 pages (double spaced, APA citation) and is due on October 6 (11:59 pm) via Learn. The marking rubric is posted on Learn.

3. You have the choice of writing 6 shorter Critical Reflection papers or one longer Critical Book Review.

   Critical Reflection Papers (30%)
   Length: approximately 2-2.5 pages (double spaced) for each paper
   Each paper is worth 5% each (6 papers for a total of 30%)

The objective of this assignment is for students to engage with, or respond to, an issue raised in course readings or the TED talk. Your grade will be based on the quality of the argument/analysis (i.e. depth, insight and persuasiveness), and not on the breadth or quantity of information presented.

The critical reflection papers are due Wednesday at 1:00 pm on Learn. You need to complete 6 Critical Reflection papers over the term and each paper is due on the designated Wednesday. You select when you wish to submit each paper (e.g. the specific readings/TED talk for that week) but you can't submit more than one paper per week or submit them all at the end of the term.

A few tips:

➢ Begin with a brief (one or two paragraph) summary of the article (thesis, key ideas, key findings)
➢ Focus on two or three ideas from the reading that you find interesting
➢ Engage with and/or respond to this idea thoroughly and clearly
➢ Write in a clear, direct, and concise manner (using first-person/I is fine)
➢ Inclusion of other course material is encouraged
➢ Cite your information using APA and provide a Reference list

   Critical Book Review (30%)
   Due Date: November 16 (11:59 pm)

➢ Marking rubric is posted on Learn
➢ 9-10 pages
➢ 4 peer-reviewed academic sources (external sources) required
➢ APA citation

You are to select one of the following four books:

For this assignment, you are to read and critically engage with a selected book. Your essay needs to include a brief (about two pages) summary of the book. You are expected to not only understand the central arguments, but to position the work in relation to ongoing arguments concerning shifting values, institutions, and contemporary families. You will need to include 4 external peer-reviewed academic sources (journal articles). You can use our course material, but these articles will not count towards your 4 required sources.

4. Final Exam (40%)
The final exam will be a 2.5 hour, in-person cumulative exam consisting of concepts, short essay, and long essay questions. Generally, the university will announce the final exam schedule by week six of term.
Introduction

September 8 and 13

What is a family?

September 15 and 20

Critically examining the construction of 'the family'

September 22 and 27

Dating

September 29 and October 4
Getting Married (or not)

October 6 and 18

Family formation and the State

October 20 and 25

Having children (or not)

October 27 and November 1

Balancing work (paid and unpaid) and family

November 3 and 8
Examining some of the challenges with family life
November 10 and 15
3. El-Khani, A. (2016, February). What it’s like to be a parent in a war zone [Video]. TED Conferences. https://www.ted.com/talks/aala_el_khani_what_it_s_like_to_be_a_parent_in_a_war_zone

Examining some of the challenges with family life (II)
November 17 and 22

Elderly couples and families
November 24 and 29

The demise of 'the family' or embracing new frameworks?
December 1 and 6
Course Guidelines

- You must keep a copy of all assignments.
- The penalty for late case study papers is 5% per day including weekends.
- APA citation style is required.
- Assignments will be submitted and marked online only.
- You must write the final exam in order to pass this course.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students’ submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Students who choose to use electronic devices to support their learning may do so provided that the individuals in the class are not disturbed or prohibited from their own learning. Electronic devices should be used for the purposes of supplementing the learning experience and focus on topics being discussed in class. Phones should be kept on silent during the class.

“Policy 71’s glossary defines plagiarism, in part, as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others (whether attributed or anonymous) as one’s own in any work submitted whether or not for grading purposes”…

The Vice-President Academic and Dean has the authority to assess instances of plagiarism and the resultant penalties that are raised by an instructor. An instructor can propose a grade penalty to the Vice-President Academic and Dean, who will decide whether to accept the penalty or initiate a formal inquiry.”

For additional information on how plagiarism is dealt with at Renison, review the policy from where the above text is copied: Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available at uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

Email, using the uWaterloo provided email address, is the approved method of communication for Renison. The Office 365 email that you use to login using your WatIAM login and password is secure and confidential. Take caution when forwarding your WatIAM email to an external email service as confidential information forwarded to a third-party provider could be a data security breach and violation of FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) under which all students, staff, and faculty are bound by law.

Final Examination Policy
For Fall 2022, the established examination period is December 9-23. The schedule is available now. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time. See the Final Examination Schedule at uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Academic Integrity, Grievance, Discipline, Appeals and Note for Students with Disabilities

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage at uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour for more information.

Renison University College is committed to the view that when a problem or disagreement arises between a faculty member and a student every effort should be made to resolve the problem through mutual and respectful negotiation. Most issues are resolved by a student/faculty meeting to discuss differences of opinion. It is only after this stage, when a common understanding or agreement is not obtained that further actions listed below could be taken.

Discipline: Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity website at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor or academic advisor. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check the Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the Department’s administrative assistant, or Academic Advisor, who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals. Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): The website can be found at uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities AccessAbility Services is located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, and collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Students are encouraged to register with AccessAbility Services (AAS) at the start of each term if they require accommodations due to a disability. However, some students not connected to AAS may require accommodations later in the term. In that case, you should immediately consult with your instructor and/or your Academic Advisor.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

· lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)

· lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)

· questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)

· work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)

Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus · Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4096 · MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services · Health Services – Student Medical Clinic: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off Campus, 24/7 · Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454

· Empower Me: Confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, faith inclusive mental health and wellness service.
A Respectful Living and Learning Environment for All

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.

If you feel that you are experiencing the above from any member of the Renison community (students, staff, or faculty), you may contact Melissa Knox, Renison’s external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officer, by email (mnknox@uwaterloo.ca) or by phone or text (226-753-5669). Melissa is an employment and human rights lawyer and part-time Assistant Crown Attorney for the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. Melissa is experiences in case management, discipline and complaints processes, and works with organizations across Canada to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive work and learning environments through policy development, educational workshops, conflict mediation and dispute resolution, and organizational culture audits. For additional information see Renison’s Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse policy.