

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3630 Section M
PSYCHOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
Winter, 2017**

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Erin C. Ross, PhD
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 Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:15 – 10:15 am, no appointment needed
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T.A.	Alexis Strazds	Claire Wicks
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Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

The psychology of family differs from many other courses offered in psychology. It combines theory-based with applied research to a much greater extent than other areas of psychology (except possibly social psychology), and there is more open debate in the literature about basic assumptions than you will find in other areas. As well, to some extent, it crosses into other academic disciplines, especially sociology. The purpose of this course is to survey the major approaches of the area, particularly as they have been applied to various topic areas (e.g., divorce, mate selection), and to explore basic assumptions made about family/families. In short, this course is designed to expose you to a variety of ways in which psychologists have conceptualized and researched families.

Required Text

- Stinnett, N., Stinnett, N., DeGenova, M.K. & Rice F.P. (2017). Intimate relationships, marriages, and families (9th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.
ISBN: 9780190278571
- Lecture materials provided on Moodle

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the psychology of the family
2. Articulate trends in family psychology
3. Express knowledge of psychology of the family in written form
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in family psychology
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information on the psychology of the family to one's own and others' life experiences
6. Understand how race, gender and sexualities intersect in families

Course Requirements and Assessment

There are two exams and a written assignment in this course. To pass the course, you must receive a total course grade of 50% or better. The dates on which exams occur in this course are listed below. Exams are multiple choice and are 2 hours in duration. More specific information about the exams will be posted on Moodle – click on the exam information topic. When you come to the exams, you must present acceptable photo identification in order to be admitted – acceptable identification includes a York University identification card, a government issued card, such as a Health Card or Driver's Licence or a passport. Please note that there are chapters covered on each examination which will not be the topic of a lecture – students are responsible for this textbook material on their own, though I will gladly answer questions on the material in class. The written assignment will require that students read an article relevant to family and engage in critical analysis of the article. Proper use of the English language is one of the criteria used in marking this assignment.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Exam 1	February 15, 2017	40%
Exam 2	Final Exam Period	40%
Written Assignment	March 15, 2017	20%
Total		100%

Description of Assignment

The short written assignment worth 20% of your course mark entails reading an assigned paper and responding to a set of structured questions. This must be done in 4 (four) typed, double-spaced pages, and the assignment is to be submitted in person, either during my office hours or at the beginning of class (If you hand it in at the end of class, it is considered late and a late penalty is applied. If you hand it in to the Psychology Department office or under my door during class hours, it is also considered late.). Note that the assignment is due on March 15, 2016 by 11:30 a.m. The following penalties apply for late assignment submission – 25% of the grade for the first 24 hours or any part thereof. For each 24 hours (or part thereof) after this, 10% of the grade will be deducted. There is a title page provided for the assignment on Moodle – the title page does NOT count as one of the four pages. More detailed information will be provided on Moodle.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes>)

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Please see the Missed Examinations document available in the Examination Information folder on Moodle.

READ IT THOROUGHLY!!

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Important Dates](#)

Important dates	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan. 18, 2017
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Feb. 1, 2017
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	March 10, 2017
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript) – make sure you read the information at http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/ and http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/course-withdrawal	March 11 - Apr. 5, 2017

Information on Plagiarism Detection

The instructor and the teaching assistants will have read the article for the assignment very thoroughly and so using the words of the sources for this assignment (textbook, lecture notes, and the article) without quotation and page citation is readily apparent. Learn what it really means to paraphrase. Be aware of the University Policy on Academic Honesty – see the section below on Academic Integrity. Plagiarism, even if it is ‘inadvertent’ is still plagiarism and will be dealt with in accordance with the Senate Policy. The take away message on this isDON'T.

Electronic Device Policy

You may not capture audio or video or still images of me without my explicit permission. This includes audiotaping lectures, using a webcam to capture images of me lecturing or taking still photographs of me.

In class, I expect all cell phones to be placed in a non-ringing mode (vibrate or off). If your phone goes off during lecture, I expect you to leave the lecture hall to answer it. If you are using a laptop during the lecture and you are using it for purposes other than note-taking, I may ask that you shut it off as it may disturb other students around you. Headphones attached to media devices are not to be worn in class, as the noise emanating from them may be disruptive to other students.

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is expected of all students. I use Camtasia to record lectures, which includes the audio component of the lecture along with images of the material presented on the lecture hall screen (though materials like video clips or video content may be blocked from distribution for copyright reasons – in this case, the screen will go blank and no audio will be heard). Recordings are available through Moodle. Be aware that, once the course is finished, you will no longer have access to these files. Please be aware that this is NOT an online course. These recordings are a supplement to the lectures, not a replacement for attending. If, for whatever reason, the lecture recording fails, I do NOT provide the material in an alternate form. While Learning Technology Services does their very best to provide this service (and they are awesome!), there is no guarantee it will be available 100% of the time.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

Test Banks:

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Course Materials Copyright Information:

These course materials are designed for use as part of the HH/PSYC 3630 3.0M course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of copyright law. See the following: [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#)

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources.

Policy Statement: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For further information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#)

Tentative Course Schedule:

Date	Lecture Topic	Chapter from textbook (see Note 1)
Jan. 11	Families in Canada	Ch. 1
Jan. 18	Gender and Families	Ch. 2
Jan. 25	Choosing a Life Partner	Ch. 5
Feb. 1	Marital Satisfaction	Chs. 6 & 7
Feb. 8	Poverty and Families in Canada	Ch. 8
Feb. 15	EXAM 1 (see Note 2)	
Feb. 22	READING WEEK	
Mar. 1	Same- Gender Relationships	
Mar. 8	Parent-Child Interactions	Ch. 13
Mar. 15	Sibling Relationships	Ch. 14
Mar. 15	Written Assignment Due	
Mar. 22	Child Neglect	Ch. 15
Mar. 29	Effects of Divorce on Children & Adults	Ch. 16
Apr. 5	Stepfamilies	Ch. 17
Apr. 7 - 24	EXAM 2 - Final Exam Period (see Note 3)	

Note 1. Not all chapters from Stinnett et al. are covered in lecture, but they will be tested.

Note 2. Examination 1 covers Chapters 1 - 8 of Stinnett et al. and lecture material from Jan. 11 – Feb. 8

Note 3. Examination 2 covers Chapters 9 - 17 of Stinnett et al. and lecture material from Mar. 1 – Apr. 5