

Family Studies 2300A
Understanding Family Research
Sept.-Dec. 2016
Mon. 9:30-11:30, Weds. 9:30-10:30, Room 136

Professor: Dr. Lara Descartes
Phone: 432-8353 ext. 28059 (e-mail is better)
Office hours: M. 11:30-1:30 and by appt.

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Catalogue copy and course description:

Students will become familiar with the primary research methods used by Family Studies professionals. Other topics such as research ethics will be covered.

Course objectives:

1. Students will become aware of the ethical standards and procedures required when working with human research participants.
2. Students will learn the basics of social science literature reviews.
3. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the fundamentals of sampling.
4. Students will become aware of and learn about the primary methods of research in Family Studies.
5. Students will learn about the basics of analyzing research data.
6. Students will demonstrate their ability to comprehend and evaluate social science research literature.

Prerequisite:

1.0 units of a 1000-level Family Studies course.

Required texts:

Greenstein, T. N., & Davis, S. N. (2012). *Methods of family research, 3rd Ed.* NY: Sage. Additional readings may be posted on Owl or provided in class.

Additional readings may be assigned in class.

Evaluation and grading:

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 20%

Final exam (cumulative): 35%

Research assignment stage 1: 10%

Research assignment: 20%

We will discuss the individual evaluation components in class and there will be a handout about the research assignment.

Course policies:

Readings Readings should be done by the day they are discussed. So for Sept. 19's lecture, have C1 read.

Marks and assignments Owl will be used for posting marks and turning in assignments. Assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.

Late assignments The policies governing requests for accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section at the end of the outline. Exams must be taken when specified unless there is academic accommodation via academic advising, granted with documentation for medical and personal emergencies. Assignments must be handed in on the day they're due unless there is academic accommodation. Late penalties are 5 points per day, with the day ending at 4 pm.

Electronic devices are not encouraged If you do use a laptop for notes, it is expected that you only will have your notes document open during class time. Cell phones should be tucked away; no texting during class, please. No audio- or video-recording is allowed in class. All class materials are copyrighted. No aids or electronic devices are allowed for exams. You won't need a calculator for exams.

Course etiquette When sending an email to me, put something in the subject line like "FS2300." Address email with something like "Dear Dr. D." or "Hello Dr. D." No opening line isn't good. Please sign your name to your email.

Most of you don't need the following reminders, but just in case: Come to class. Be on time for class. Don't leave class early. There are exceptions of course, but these should be rare, not standard. In the classroom, when we're actually having class is not a good time to talk or whisper with friends and classmates. Please be respectful of each other and of me.

Owl Site This course has an Owl site where, as noted, marks will be posted, and also where we will have a discussion board open. This discussion board can be used for questions, comments, and observations by any of us during any part of the term. All of us should feel free to contribute, to comment on others' postings, etc. As you're doing a week's readings for example, feel free to post questions on anything that's unclear, any observation you want to share, etc.

Final Note This syllabus may be amended by the professor if needed.

Course calendar: Readings are to be done before class

Sept. 12	Course introduction	
Sept. 14	Why do research on families?	Read C1
Sept. 19	Causal inference in family research	Read C2
Sept. 21	Causal inference in family research	
Sept. 26	Ethics and politics in family research	Read C14
Sept. 28	Searching and reading the literature	Read C3
Oct. 3	Program evaluation	Read C13
Oct. 5	Exam 1 40 mc. questions	Exam 1 in Auditorium
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Break	
Oct. 12	Sampling issues	Read C4
Oct. 17	Sampling issues	
Oct. 19	How do we measure concepts?	Read C5
Oct. 24	Scales and indices	Read C6
Oct. 26	Scales and indices	Research assignment first stage due
Oct. 31	Quantitative methods	Read C7
Nov. 2	Quantitative methods	
Nov. 7	Exam 2 40 mc. questions	Exam 2 in Auditorium
Nov. 9	Qualitative methods	Read C8
Nov. 14	Qualitative and Mixed methods	Read C9
Nov. 16	Mixed methods	
Nov. 21	Using other people's data	Read C10
Nov. 23		
Nov. 28	Analyzing data	Read C11
Nov. 30		
Dec. 5	Analyzing data	Read C12
Dec. 7		Research assignment due
Dec. 10-21	Final exam ~90 mc. questions, date TBD by registrar	Final exam, date TBD

NOTES:

Exam 1 covers 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, plus any additional readings

Exam 2 covers 4, 5, 6, 7, plus any additional readings

Final covers 1 through 14, with more emphasis on 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, plus any additional readings

Research assignment first stage and final paper may be turned in early

2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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 Web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required 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 for such checking 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html>)

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.