

**Family Studies 2300F**  
**Understanding Family Research**  
**Sept.-Dec. 2018 T. 8:30-10:30, Th. 8:30-9:30**  
**Room 303 St. James**

**Professor:** Dr. Lara Descartes  
**Phone:** 432-8353 ext. 28059 (e-mail is better)  
**Office hours:** T. after class 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 and competencies:**

1. Students will become aware of the ethical standards and procedures required when working with human research participants. (self awareness and development level 2, valuing level 2)
2. Students will learn the basics of social science literature reviews (inquiry and analysis level 2).
3. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the fundamentals of sampling (inquiry and analysis level 3, problem solving level 2).
4. Students will become aware of and learn about the primary methods of research in Family Studies (critical thinking level 2, problem solving level 2).
5. Students will learn about the basics of analyzing research data (inquiry and analysis level 2, problem solving level 2, critical thinking level 2).
6. Students will demonstrate their ability to comprehend, evaluate, and communicate effectively about social science research literature (inquiry and analysis level 3, critical thinking level 2, communication level 3).

**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. The text is on reserve at the library.

**Evaluation and grading:**

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 20%

Final exam (cumulative): 30%

Research assignment stage 1: 10%

Research assignment: 25%

***You must pass the essay component to pass the course. That is, the mean of the mark for both the written assignments must be at least 50%.***

We will discuss the individual evaluation components in class and there will be a handout about the research assignment. Exams cover all material in the text, in lecture, on webpages you are directed to, etc. We'll also do an Owl syllabus quiz for extra credit.

**Course policies:**

*Readings* Readings should be done by the class in which they are discussed. This will help you understand the material when we cover it in lecture and you can ask questions as we go if anything is unclear.

*Marks and assignments* Owl will be used for posting marks and turning in assignments. Final papers will be submitted to Turnitin (assignments tab).

*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* Current research does not support the idea that using a laptop in class (or powerpoints or e-books) aids in student comprehension (if you find contradictory research please do bring it to my attention!). If you do decide to 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 (research also shows a correlation with cell phone use in class and lower marks, plus they distract me...). 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.

Research does indicate that what is correlated with higher student marks is class attendance. ☺

*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." Please use your UWO account for 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. 6	Course introduction	
Sept. 11	Why do research on families?	Read C1
Sept. 13	Causal inference in family research	Read C2
Sept. 18	Causal inference in family research	
Sept. 20	Ethics and politics in family research	Read C14
Sept. 25	Searching and reading the literature	Read C3
Sept. 27	Program evaluation	Read C13
Oct. 2	<b>Exam 1 40 mc. questions</b>	<b>Exam 1 in Classroom</b>
Oct. 4	Sampling issues	Read C4
Oct. 16	Sampling issues	
Oct. 18	How do we measure concepts?	Read C5
Oct. 23	Scales and indices	Read C6
Oct. 25	Scales and indices	<b>Research assignment stage 1 due: hard copy, in class</b>
Oct. 30	Quantitative methods	Read C7
Nov. 1	Quantitative methods	
Nov. 6	<b>Exam 2 40 mc. questions</b>	<b>Exam 2 in Auditorium</b>
Nov. 8	Qualitative methods	Read C8
Nov. 13	Mixed methods	Read C9
Nov. 15	Using other people's data	Read C10
Nov. 20	Using other people's data	
Nov. 22	Analyzing data	Read C11
Nov. 27	Analyzing data	
Nov. 29	Analyzing data	Read C12
Dec. 4	Analyzing data, review	<b>Research assignment due: electronic copy, Owl (assignments tab)</b>
Dec. 6	Analyzing data, review	
Dec. 10-21	<b>Final exam ~90 mc. questions, date TBD by registrar</b>	<b>Final exam, date TBD</b>

**NOTES:**

**Exam 1 covers 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, plus any additional material (webpages, videos, etc.)**

**Exam 2 covers 4, 5, 6, 7, plus any additional material**

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

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

# 2018-19 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.

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. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

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.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) . 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.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your 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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=> ). 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.*

## 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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68) ).

#### **4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20) .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 (<http://www.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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

#### **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the 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).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> .

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html), for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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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.