

Course Outline - Understanding Family Research

School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

General Information

Course #: FSHD2300F
Section #: 530
Term: Fall
Year: 2020
Delivery: Online asynchronous

Instructor Information

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Course Description

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

Prerequisites

1.0 from Family Studies and Human Development courses at the 1000 level or 1.0 from former Family Studies courses at the 1000 level.

Antirequisites

FS2300FG

Note

Because this is an essay course, as per Senate Regulations, you must pass the writing component to pass the course. That is, the average mark of your written assignments must be at least 50%.

Required Course Materials

Greenstein, T. N., & Davis, S. N. (2012). *Methods of family research (3rd ed.)*. Sage. Additional readings may go on Owl. The text is on reserve at the library. The text may be purchased through the Western bookstore <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search> or through amazon.ca.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will become aware of and be able to describe the ethical standards and procedures required when working with human research participants.
2. Students will learn and apply the basics of social science literature reviews.
3. Students will become aware of and learn about the primary methods of research in Family Studies and Human Development.
4. Students will learn about and be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the basics of analyzing research data.
5. Students will demonstrate their ability to comprehend, evaluate, and communicate effectively about social science research literature.

Brescia Competencies (mapped onto Learning Outcomes and Assessments)

1. Students will become aware of and be able to describe the ethical standards and procedures required when working with human research participants. Self-awareness and development level 2, valuing level 2: quizzes, exams, and writing assignments.
2. Students will learn and apply the basics of social science literature reviews. Inquiry and analysis level 2: quizzes, exams, and writing assignments.
3. Students will become aware of and learn about the primary methods of research in Family Studies and Human Development. Critical thinking level 2, problem solving level 2: quizzes, exams, and writing assignments.
4. Students will learn about and be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the basics of analyzing research data. Inquiry and analysis level 2, problem solving level 2, critical thinking level 2 and 3: quizzes, exams, and writing assignments.
5. 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 and 3, communication level 3: writing assignments.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This online class centres on reading the text, watching the recommended videos, and completing the quizzes, exams, and writing assignments. Every chapter will have an Owl Forum thread started by me, where I'll communicate introductory information about the chapter, provide links to recommended videos, and where you can ask questions as you work through the materials.

As noted, you must pass the writing component of the course to pass the course, per UWO requirements. UWO also requires that FG courses include writing a minimum of 1500 words. Assignments 2 and 3 must take into account feedback you receive from the prior assignment(s).

Quizzes and exams may cover all material in the text, any notes I present in Owl Forum, webpages you are directed to, etc. Because this class is online, quizzes and the exam are open-book. They are to be done individually, however. Each chapter varies in its length and complexity, so each quiz will too.

Owl will be used for posting marks and turning in assignments. Writing assignments will be submitted to Turnitin ('Assignments' tab in Owl), which includes a plagiarism check. Feedback on the writing shows up through Turnitin (click the flag). Quizzes and assignments must be handed in by their due date unless there is academic accommodation. Late penalties are 5 points per day, with the day ending and re-setting at 4 pm.

When sending an email to me, please use your UWO account and put something in the subject line like "FSHD2300." Please address email with something like "Dear Dr. D." or "Hello Dr. D."

Copyright and Intellectual Property

Notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Evaluation

Quizzes and the final exam will be on Owl in the 'Tests and Quizzes' tab. They will be timed and will assume you have completed the readings before taking them. They may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer. Each quiz will be released a few days before its due date and you will be able to choose the day and time you begin work on it, although once you start it, it will be timed. The final exam will be released 12 hours before it is due and you will have 3 hours to complete it once you start it. There is a separate handout regarding the writing assignments, under the Owl 'Resources' tab.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Due Date	Learning Outcome (see above)	Brescia Competencies
Open-book quizzes, one per chapter, 14 total	2.5% each, for a total of 35%	See calendar	1, 2, 3, 4	Critical thinking level 2 and 3, inquiry and analysis level 2, problem solving level 2, self awareness level 2, valuing level 2
Writing assignment 1	10%	September 30	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Communication level 3, critical thinking level 2, inquiry and analysis level 2
Writing assignment 2	10%	October 26	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Communication level 3, critical thinking level 2, inquiry and analysis level 2
Writing assignment 3	20%	December 2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Communication level 3, critical thinking level 2, inquiry and analysis level 2
Open-book final exam, cumulative	25%	To be determined by Registrar	1, 2, 3, 4	Critical thinking level 2 and 3, inquiry and analysis level 2, problem solving level 2, self awareness level 2, valuing level 2

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar. For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation is not required. Whenever possible students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, the course instructor should be contacted within two business days.

Course Content

Every assignment is due on the due date by 4 pm but can be completed early. I've given extra time around writing deadlines. You should check Owl Forum for every chapter, where you will find an introductory post to the chapter, with links to any useful sites/videos, and is a place for questions.

Class	Due Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due
1	Sept. 9	Introduction	Read syllabus, respond to my intro. post in Owl Forum
2	Sept. 14	Why do research on families?	Chapter 1, Quiz 1
3	Sept. 16	Ethics and politics	Chapter 14, Quiz 2
4	Sept. 21	Causal inference	Chapter 2, Quiz 3
5	Sept. 23	Searching and reading literature	Chapter 3, Quiz 4
6	Sept. 28		
7	Sept. 30		Writing assignment 1
8	Oct. 5	Sampling	Chapter 4, Quiz 5
9	Oct. 7	Measuring concepts	Chapter 5, Quiz 6
	Oct. 12	Thanksgiving	
10	Oct. 14	Scales and indices	Chapter 6, Quiz 7
11	Oct. 19	Quantitative methods	Chapter 7, Quiz 8

Class	Due Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due
12	Oct. 21		
13	Oct. 26		Writing assignment 2
14	Oct. 28	Qualitative methods	Chapter 8, Quiz 9
	Nov. 2, 4	Reading week	
15	Nov. 9	Mixed methods	Chapter 9, Quiz 10
16	Nov. 11	Using other people's data	Chapter 10 (just skim through the USA info.: I'll provide Canadian info. in separate notes in Owl Forum), Quiz 11
17	Nov. 16	Analyzing data	Chapter 11, practice non-credit quiz
18	Nov. 18	Analyzing data	Quiz 12
19	Nov. 23	Analyzing data	Chapter 12, Quiz 13
20	Nov. 25	Program evaluation	Chapter 13, Quiz 14
21	Nov. 30		
22	Dec. 2		Writing assignment 3
23	Dec. 11-22	Final exam period. Final exam date to be determined by registrar.	Final exam, cumulative. It will be released 12 hours before it is due and you will have 3 hours to complete it once you start it.

2020-21 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed a **maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;

7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. 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;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

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

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; please refer to the [Registrar's website](#), <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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).

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.

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, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals 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.

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/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

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/>.

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.
