



***Brescia University College***  
Family Studies 4230A (530): Qualitative Research in Family Studies  
January to April, 2017

---

Wei-Wei Da, PhD 219 Merici Wing Tel: (519) 432-8353 ext. 28276 Email: wda@uwo.ca Class time/room: Tu 1:30 - 2:30AM; Thu 12:30 - 2:30 PM / RM14	Office hours: Mon 1-2PM, Tue 3-4 PM; or by appointment
--	---

---

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to qualitative research and its application to the study of the family. Topics to be considered include participant observation, interview skills, life histories and methods of analysis.

**COURSE INTRODUCTION**

This course provides students a conceptual understanding of qualitative research and their application in the studies of the family. The course introduces major concepts and terms, and different qualitative methods including case studies, in-depth interview, participant observation, life histories and ethnographies. It focuses on developing a theoretical understanding of qualitative methodology and also experiential learning.

**PREREQUISITE**

A FS 3000-level course, or permission of the instructor.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Family Studies students are expected

- to understand the nature of the qualitative research and its main characteristics
- to gain familiarity with different approaches/perspectives, and methods in data collection as well as their weakness and strengths
- to learn how to critically review literature, and identify research gaps (Critical Thinking and Information Literacy)
- to learn the major components of qualitative research design
- to have hand-on experience in developing a research application based on a selected topic related to the family (Inquiry and Analysis)
- to understand the process of research, including data collection and analysis and ethical issues

**TEXTBOOK**

Lune, Howard Berg, Bruce L.(2017). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences* (9th Ed.). Pearson Education, Inc

The textbook is available for purchase in the university bookstore and will also be placed on reserve in the BUC library.

### **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

Teaching methods will include lectures, discussions, presentations and group activities.

### **COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The course involves a large commitment of student participation and reading on your own. You are advised to attend to every lecture and view every media presentation, as well as participate in class activities at various levels. Missed lectures and any material given in class are the responsibility of the student, not the professor. **There will NOT be any make-up examinations nor extra work for the purpose of improving grades.**

Late submission of an assignment by due date will result in .5 deduction of total weight of the assignment for each day beyond the deadline except when the instructor recognizes that there are legitimate and documented exceptional circumstances (e.g., illness, death in the family).

The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the attached Academic Policies and Regulations.

Changes in information that appear in this course outline will be discussed in class prior to being implemented.

**Please note:** All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced and submitted both through Drop Box in OWL and in hard copy in class on the due date.

The written work will be evaluated on both of the contents and style. Your demonstrated ability to apply and integrate the conceptual materials learned from the course is one of the important aspects of evaluation. The other aspects centre on professional writing, including coherent, concise, comprehensive, spelling, grammar, punctuation, pagination, paragraphing, use of headings when necessary, precise citation and referencing.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Group work	20%
Quiz	15%
Research plan	35%
Final exam (Accumulative)	30%

#### **Group work – 20%**

Students are required to form a group with two or three members. Each group is required to choose a topic related to the family for a literature review by presenting more up-to-date information on your chosen topic in class. A detailed guideline for this assignment will be provided to students in class.

### Quiz – 15%

A quiz will be scheduled **on Feb 9, 2017**. The format of the quiz consists of multiple choice, true/false and short-answered questions based on the readings/lecture notes from Chapter 1 - 4.

### Research plan – 35%

A detailed instruction on this assignment will be provided at the beginning of the course. The assignment is due **on March 23, 2017**.

### Final exam - 30%

The format of the final exam will be based on readings and lectures of the entire course. It consists of multiple choices, true/false, and short answer questions.

### Course schedule Jan – Apr 2017

Date	Topics	Readings
<b>January</b> 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the course</li><li>• Basic Concepts in Qualitative Research</li></ul>	
10, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Qualitative research and the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective</li></ul>	Chapter 1
17, 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designing Qualitative Research</li></ul>	Chapter 2
24 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethics of Social Research</li></ul>	Chapter 3
31 <b>February</b> <b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-depth Interview</li></ul>	Chapter 4
7 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus Group Interviewing</li><li>• <b>Quiz</b></li></ul>	Chapter 5
14, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethnographic Field Strategies</li></ul>	Chapter 6
21 - 23	<b>Family Day and Reading week</b>	
28 <b>March</b> <b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action Research</li></ul>	Chapter 7
7, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unobtrusive Measures</li></ul>	Chapter 8
14, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral history and Historiography</li></ul>	Chapter 9
21 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case Study</li><li>• <b>Research plan due in class</b></li></ul>	Chapter 10
28, 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis and Interpretation of Qualitative Data</li></ul>	Chapter 11

<b>April</b> 4, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing report;</li> <li>• Review</li> </ul>	Chapter12
Final exam	To be scheduled by registrar	

Note: The course outline may be amended if needed.

## 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](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](http://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 <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/](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.