

**Family Studies and Human Development 2300G**  
**Understanding Family Research**  
**Jan.-Apr. 2020 M. 12:30-2:30, W. 1:30-2:30**  
**Room 136 St. James**

**Professor:** Dr. Lara Descartes

**Phone:** 432-8353 ext. 28059 (e-mail is better)

**Office hours:** M. 11:30-12:20 and W. 12:30-1:20 and by appt.

**Office:** St. James 301D

**Email:** ldescart@uwo.ca

**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.

**Antirequisite:**

FS2300FG

**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%

*FG courses require a two-part writing process, which is why there are two stages in the research assignment. Because it is an FG course, you must pass the essay component to pass the course. That is, the mean of the mark for research assignment stages 1 and 2 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 before 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). Feedback on the papers shows up in Turnitin (click the flag).

*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 earbuds, etc. 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 and note-taking. 😊

*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.

**Course calendar: Readings should be done before class.**

Jan. 6	Course introduction, why do research on families?	There will be some notes on C1 today but it's not expected you'll have read it for today.
Jan. 8	Why do research on families?	Read C1
Jan. 13	Causal inference in family research	Read C2
Jan. 15	Causal inference in family research	
Jan. 20	Ethics and politics in family research	Read C14
	Guest speaker: Dr. Pham, MSHU	
Jan. 22	Searching and reading the literature	Read C3
Jan. 27	Program evaluation	Read C13
Jan. 29	Sampling issues	Read C4
Feb. 3	<b>Exam 1 40 mc. questions, 1 hr. 50 min.</b>	<b>Exam 1 in Auditorium</b>
Feb. 5	Sampling issues	
Feb. 10	How do we measure concepts?	Read C5
Feb. 12	Scales and indices	Read C6
Feb. 17, 19	<b>Reading week</b>	
Feb. 24	Scales and indices	
Feb. 26	Quantitative methods	Read C7 <b>Research assignment stage 1 due: hard copy, in class</b>
Mar. 2	Quantitative methods	
Mar. 4	Qualitative methods	Read C8
Mar. 9	<b>Exam 2 40 mc. questions, 1 hr. 50 min.</b>	<b>Exam 2 in Auditorium</b>
Mar. 11	Mixed methods	Read C9
Mar. 16	Using other people's data	Read C10
Mar. 18	Using other people's data	
Mar. 23	Analyzing data	Read C11
Mar. 25	Analyzing data	
Mar. 30	Analyzing data	Read C12
Apr. 1	Analyzing data	<b>Research assignment stage 2 due: electronic copy, Owl (assignments tab)</b>
Apr. 6-26	<b>Final exam 90 mc. questions, 3 hrs., date to be determined 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 and second stages may be turned in early**

# 2019-20 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](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](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](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](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.

**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, 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&ArchivedID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchivedID=#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](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.