

**FRHD 3070: Research Methods
Fall 2017 Course Outline**

**Department of Family Relations and Human Development
University of Guelph**

“Inquiry is fatal to certainty” – Will Durant

Instructor: Dr. Carol-Anne Hendry, C. Psych.
Office: Old MacKinnon, Room 545
Office hours: Mondays 4:30 (by appointment only); Wednesdays 2:00 pm (by appointment only)
Email: chendry@uoguelph.ca
Class Time: Monday/Wednesday 2:30 – 3:20 THRN 1200

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Office hours: The GTA for the section of the small group seminar that you are registered in will be available by appointment to meet with you if you have questions related to readings, seminars, and exams. If you are meeting to discuss readings or seminars, please bring your readings and written lecture and seminar notes. It is not feasible for the GTAs to discuss course content via email because this discussion often requires considerable time and elaboration. I expect that most of you will have your questions adequately answered by meeting with the GTAs.

Required Text: Neuman, W.L., & Robson, K. (2015). Basics of social research: Qualitative and quantitative approaches (3rd Canadian ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada Inc

Dwyer, J. (2016). FRHD*3070 (Fall 2016) Research Methods - Family Studies Seminar Workbook. The seminar activities and journal articles (i.e., readings) are in this workbook. Bring this workbook to the seminars.
4th edition

Dates to Note:

Holidays: Monday, October 9, 2017
Drop Date: (40th day): Friday, November 3, 2017
Examination Period: December 4 – December 15th, 2017
Final Exam: Friday, December 15th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Course Description: This undergraduate course is designed to provide you with a conceptual understanding of the issues and methods that are related to conducting research in the social sciences. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be covered. There are two primary goals in this course. The first is to learn about the scientific methods that are commonly used in research. The second is to think critically about those methods and understand the advantages and limitations of their use in applied research. The Department of Family Relations and Human Development provides an interdisciplinary program of studies in applied human nutrition; child, youth and family; and

gerontology. Whenever possible, we'll use research from these areas of study to highlight the concepts we're discussing.

Course Objectives:

- To develop conceptual and operational definitions of constructs commonly used in research, through in-class discussion.
- To develop sound research objectives or hypotheses to guide research, through in-class discussion.
- To critique and develop survey questions based on principles of survey design, through in-class discussion.
- To apply principles of measurement about establishing the validity and reliability of existing and new measures, during in-class discussion.
- To critically appraise research described in the media and peer-reviewed journal articles.
- To develop specific research designs to examine various research objectives or hypotheses, through in-class discussion.
- To assess ethical issues in empirical research, through in-class discussion.

Class Format: Classes will follow a lecture/discussion format twice weekly in addition to weekly seminar meetings that will be more discussion based. Lectures are designed to augment the assigned course textbook and will not be a review of your readings. You are encouraged to keep pace with the assigned readings in order to meaningfully participate in the class discussions and seminars and to be adequately prepared for examinations.

Seminars: Each of you are registered in a small group seminar held once a week. Please note that you may not alter your seminar assignment without contacting the register and are expected to attend the seminar you are assigned to. The seminars provide an opportunity to apply the information learned in the lectures, to discuss readings, and to collaborate on a research proposal. 25% of your grade will be based weekly on the assessment of workbook activities completed within a small seminar group during the entire duration of seminars. Therefore it is important to attend the seminars and participate in the seminar activities. Seminar workbook sheets completed outside the seminars will not be accepted. You should regularly check your grade for each seminar posted on CourseLink. Your mean will be calculated to determine your final seminar grade.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Please be on time for class. Please note that the lectures will supplement material in the course text. Students are responsible both for text and lecture materials. Your attendance will facilitate an understanding of these materials. Attendance at seminars will be equally as important to facilitate discussion and as you work through your seminar workbooks.

Class Website: Please consult CourseLink on a regular basis for updates related to lectures, assignments, and exams. Power point slides will be posted after lecture (i.e., not before).

Timetable: Please note that the schedule shows the order in which topics will be covered. The amount of time spent on each topic may vary slightly from the published schedule.

Reading Assignments and Class Topics

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading

1	Introduction to Social Research	Chapter 1, Chapter 2
2	Ethics	Chapter 3
3	Reviewing the Literature/Planning	Chapter 4&5
4	Quantitative & Qualitative	Chapter 6
5	Midterm (no class Monday – holiday)	*Midterm (Wed)
6	Sampling	Chapter 7
7	Survey Research	Chapter 8
8	Experimental Research	Chapter 9
9	Statistics & such	Chapters 10 & 11
10	Qualitative Interviewing	Chapter 12 + *Midterm (Wed)
11	Field Research	Chapter 13
12	Non-Reactive Qualitative	Chapter 14

Evaluation	Weight	Date
Seminar Assessment	25%	Ongoing
Midterms	40%	Oct 11, Nov 15
Final Exam	35%	Dec 15

Course Requirements:

Seminar Discussion: In small groups, students will lead and participate in group discussions based on the assigned readings from the text. Please note that when working within a group, each person will receive the same grade, regardless of the perceived distribution of workload.

Midterms: These will be two closed book midterm exams, which occur during regularly scheduled class on **Wednesday, October 11th** and **Wednesday, November 8th**. The midterms will consist of multiple-choice questions based on the lectures, chapter readings from your textbook, and required chapter readings from any other textbooks assigned. Specific content from the assigned journal articles will not be on the quiz.

*Please note that the only accepted reasons for missing a midterm exam are medical or compassionate reasons that are verified by official documentation (e.g. medical doctor, BA counselor, funeral home). If you miss the midterm you must provide the original copy of this verification within 7 days, or you will receive a grade of 0 on that exam. Once written verification is received, a make-up midterm exam will be scheduled in consultation with the instructor.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover material from both text and class lectures. The final exam WILL BE cumulative, however, there will be some emphasis on test material covered from approximately Week 8 to Week 12.

General Course Protocol:

- It is important that you attend classes and seminars regularly and complete the readings to do well in this course. The lectures and readings complement each other, rather than duplicate each other.

- Both students and GTAs share the responsibility of creating an environment that facilitates seminar discussions. Your preparation (e.g., completing the readings prior to the seminars) and participation in the discussions will contribute to the seminar group's learning and will be appreciated by all.
- The electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without the prior consent of the instructor. This prohibition extends to all components of the course, including but not limited to lectures and seminars, whether conducted by the instructor or other designated person. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.
- Lectures and research methods seminar workbook are intellectual property. You are explicitly forbidden to post any components of the course (including but not limited to lectures and seminars) on the internet or sell these materials online.
- I anticipate that the small seminar groups will function well and that group members will contribute substantially. However, if there are group conflicts that cannot be resolved within the group, then arrange a meeting with your GTA to discuss the matter.
- Information about what you should do if you are unable to complete course work because of sufficient extenuating medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances is given in the undergraduate calendar, in the "academic consideration, appeals and petitions" section. If you are not able to meet an in-course requirement due to illness or compassionate reasons, please inform me (or other designated person) in writing (include your name, e-mail address, and mailing address). Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event. If this is not possible, this should be done as soon as possible after the due date, and
- Please come to class on time, turn off your cell phone, and refrain from conversations with your classmates during class. These activities (including texting in class) disrupt class, distracting me from teaching and making it difficult for your classmates to focus on the information presented. Please be considerate of others.

Student Responsibilities:

E-mail Communication: As per university regulations, all students are required to check their @uoguelph.ca e-mail account regularly. Please note that e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

Course Requirements: When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor [or GTA] in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Copies of out-of-class assignments: It is your responsibility to keep paper and/or electronic back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date: The last day to drop this course without academic penalty is November 3, 2017. For regulations and Procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

Course Policies:

Grading Policies: Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day and will not be accepted after 1 week past the deadline. An assignment due date can only be extended and a missed mid-term can only be made-up at the discretion of the instructor with submission of compelling and documented evidence of a family, medical, or analogous emergency or crisis. The University of Guelph Academic Regulations shall apply to missed final exams.

You must email requests for consideration to your assigned TA and you **MUST** cc: the instructor in any such email. If the request is granted, the assignment should be submitted to the CourseLink Dropbox, on the extended due date. After this period, 5% of the value of the report will be deducted for each additional day of delay. After 3 calendar days, the grade received will be 0%.

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures: Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration: When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an

action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:
Academic Misconduct Policy

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact **SAS** at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email csdexams@uoguelph.ca or the Student Accessibility Services Website

Course Evaluation Information: Please refer to the Course and Instructor Evaluation Website .

Drop date: The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday November 3rd, 2017. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar. Current Undergraduate Calendar, Additional Course Information

Expectations about e-mail communication

Important: Please include FRHD 3070 in the subject header of any emails that you send regarding the course. Also, include your GTA (cc) on any emails you send regarding assignments or material covered in the seminars.

Also note that the GTAs and I will do our best to answer your emails within 48 hours of receipt, but that we are not available on weekends.

Policy regarding Turnitin:

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. As the Undergraduate Calendar states: "Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it."

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assign