



COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS
AND APPLIED NUTRITION

FRHD*3180 Observation and Assessment Lab

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2018

1. CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Direct observation as a strategy for collecting information on children's behaviour in applied and research settings is the focus of this course. Emphasis will be placed on theory, recording and interpreting observational data and communicating findings in written reports.

Credit Weight: 0.5 credits

Course Hours: 2-1 (24 lecture; 12 lab/seminar)

Pre-Requisite(s): FRHD*2110, (1 of FRHD*2040, FRHD*2300, FRHD*2400)

Co-Requisites(s): None

Restriction(s): None

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Direct observation is an important strategy for collecting information in the natural and social sciences, the latter including child and youth development and early childhood education. Observational methodologies have long been a cornerstone of basic research in child development research. Observation-based assessment is a critical skill in applied professions involving individual assessment, environmental assessment, program planning and evaluation. It is also the foundation of traditional, standardized assessment. Students who intend to work with children whether in schools, clinics, or treatment centres will all be expected to conduct systematic observations as part of their job requirements.

A theoretical background for planning, conducting, and evaluating observational assessments will be provided during lectures and as a part of course readings. The course emphasizes the study and assessment of social behaviour and social competencies of normal preschool age children using a variety of methods based on observation of spontaneous behaviour in naturalistic settings. The final portion of the course deals with observation-based standardised instruments such as developmental screening and assessment of home and school environments. The skills in this course are of importance to students in both research and applied streams in the program and can be used as an advantage in the employment market. Students who anticipate entering applied professions will wish to emphasize their observational skills as they apply to the assessment of young children's development. Namely:

- Experience with a variety of observational assessment techniques,
- Exposure to several developmental screening instruments, and
- Task analysis of children's behaviour and the development of assessment instruments.

Students who anticipate applying to graduate school will wish to emphasize their research experience. Namely:

- Mastery of specific methodologies and theoretical concepts,
- Field experience and laboratory work, and
- Experience with developing an observational coding system, conducting analysis, and report writing.

3. TIMETABLE

Lecture: Tuesday 7:00-8:50 p.m.

Location: RICH 2529

Final Exam: None

Section 1

Seminar: Monday 2:30-3:20 p.m.

Location: MINS 017

Section 2

Seminar: Wednesday 2:30-3:20 p.m.

Location: MCKN 237

4. INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Course Instructor: Caitlyn Osborne

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Telephone: 519-824-4120 ext. TBD

Office: MINS 115B

Office Hours: By Appointment

Teaching Assistant: Haley Watson

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Teaching Assistant: Deborah Gores

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Office: MACS 321

Office Hours: By Appointment

5. LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Resource(s):

Theodora Papatheodorou, T. & Luff, P.(2011) Child Observation for Learning and Research, NY: Routeledge
Taylor and Francis Group

Recommended Resource(s):

None

6. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Explain the types and uses of observational assessments;
2. Collect and interpret data from systematic observation and coding systems with respect to empirical research on and theories of normal development;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the methodology of observational assessment by using an observational coding system from conception to implementation;
4. Demonstrate ability to write an APA Style scientific report;
5. Assess the reliability of coding systems, and
6. Describe three standardized observational systems including screening for developmental disorders, screening for conduct disorders, and assessing home and school environments.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Week	Topics	Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers	Notes & Due Dates
1 Sept 11	Introduction to Observation <i>Seminar: No seminars this week</i>	Chpt 1 & 2	N/A
2 Sept 18	The Problem of Perspective	Chpt 5, 6	Due Sept 18 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 1
3 Sept 25	Levels of Description	Chpt 7, 8	Due Sept 25 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 2
4 Oct 2	Sampling Behaviour	Chpt 3, 4	Due Oct 2 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 3 Due Oct 7 @ 11:59 p.m.: Lab 1
5 Oct 9	Fall Study Break Day – NO CLASSES SCHEDULED <i>Seminar: No seminars this week</i>	None	N/A
6 Oct 16	Time Sampling	None	N/A
7 Oct 23	Developing Coding Systems	Chpt 9	Due Oct 30 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 4 CCLC Observations

Week	Topics	Assigned Readings & Guest Speakers	Notes & Due Dates
8 Oct 30	Reliability	Chpt 10, 11	Due Oct 30 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 5 Due Nov 4 @ 11:59 p.m.: Lab 2 CCLC Observations
9 Nov 6	Environmental Assessment	Chpt 12, 13	Due Nov 6 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 6 CCLC Observations
10 Nov 13	Developmental Screening	Chpt 14	Due Nov 13 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 7 CCLC Observations
11 Nov 20	Screening for Behavioural Disorders	Chpt 15	Due Nov 20 @ 6:59 p.m.: Quiz 8 CCLC Observations
12 Nov 27/29	Methods for Indirect Observation <i>Seminar: No seminars this week</i>		Due Nov 29 th @ 11:59: Lab 3 Due Nov 29 th – In class: Self & Peer Assessment & Lab 3 rough work

Note: This is a tentative schedule; however, due to various unknown factors there may be changes. Any changes will be announced during class and an announcement will be posted on the CourseLink site.

8. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment	LOs Addressed	Due Date	% of Final
Lab 1 – Operational Definitions	1, 2, 4	Week 4 (Oct 7)	10%
Lab 2 – Play Scale Observation - Lab Report	2, 4, 5	Week 8 (Nov 4)	20%
Lab 3 – Observational System Group Project	2, 3, 4, 5	Week 12 (Nov 29)	30%
Online Quizzes	1, 6	Weeks 2 – 4/7-11	25% <small>(Each worth 3.125%)</small>
Seminar Participation	1-6		15%
Total:			100%

9. COURSE STATEMENTS

Course Website:

There is a course website at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. All components of this course will be housed on the CourseLink site including this course outline, assignments, and links to further resources. Your assignments will be submitted through the Dropbox function. Marks and feedback will also be released on the site. Please familiarize yourself with this website as soon as possible and visit it regularly throughout the semester.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be accepted up to 5 days following the due date and will receive a penalty of 10% per day EXCEPT under documented grounds for compassionate consideration. Assignments submitted more than one week late without documented grounds will receive a grade of zero. If you are going to hand an assignment in late, you must contact your course instructor to inform them when you will be submitting your assignment.

Receipt of Grades:

After you receive a grade on CourseLink, please review your feedback. Any inquiry or dispute over the grade must be made within two weeks from the date they are posted. If you fail to protest any grade during this time limit, changes to the grade will not be considered. [Grades will be based on the Grading Procedures outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Turnitin Software:

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic 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 assignment.

10. UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

E-mail Communication:

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot meet a course requirement:

When you find yourself unable to meet in-course requirements due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing with name, ID#, and email contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop date:

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments:

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility:

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

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.](#)

Recording of materials:

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources:

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.