

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

FRAN*6221 EBP and Knowledge Translation

Winter 2013

Wed 2:30 – 5:20

Michèle Preyde, PhD

Course Description and Objectives

This course is focussed on implementation science. Knowledge translation has become vital in research. Evidence-based practice and policy decision-making have been adopted by many disciplines. The methods of evaluating and incorporating evidence into practice and policy-decisions will be examined. The levels of evidence, and the importance and limitations of evidence-based practice will be explored. Synthesis research will be reviewed as an important method for the creation of knowledge and facilitation of knowledge uptake. The complexities of evidence-informed decision making will be discussed.

Knowledge translation and related concepts, such as exchange, mobilization, brokers and implementation science will be reviewed. The theory and practice of knowledge translation will be examined. The facilitators and barriers, and the strategies and tools of knowledge translation will be reviewed. A major component of the course involves an exploration of knowledge translation interventions and their effectiveness.

Researches funding agencies and governments have placed a high priority on knowledge translation for practitioners, managers, policy makers and investigators. Thus, two broad categories, end of grant and integrated knowledge translation, will be reviewed.

Course Objectives:

1. An overview of the philosophy of science
2. The development of knowledge and skills for evaluating knowledge and presenting evidence of intervention effectiveness
3. The development of an understanding of the processes involved in moving knowledge derived from high quality evidence into practice.
4. An examination of strategies and tools for knowledge translation and implementation
5. An examination of effective knowledge translation intervention generally and in students' own disciplines
6. Further development of communication skills in presenting ideas in a scholarly manner

While many of the readings are taken from medical journals, this course is intended for researchers, doctoral students and advanced master's students across the social sciences.

Prerequisite: Adequate knowledge of research methods.

Instructional Methods

The course will be delivered through an interactive format which includes readings, lectures, class discussion, small group exercises and written assignments.

Course Assignments

All course assignments are individually prepared papers that demonstrate critical thinking and literacy skills. The assignments are broadly described to give class members the opportunity to develop the topic according to their interests. More details will be provided in class.

1. Reflection paper (10%). As a means of becoming acquainted with the course, write a concise reflection paper on the course readings (or one course reading). The purpose of this exercise is to encourage critical reading and to stimulate original thinking. (~1 page, due Jan 23, 2013). There will be an opportunity with this assignment to use instructor feedback to revise and resubmit for re-grading.
2. Knowledge Utilization Assignment (30%). Prepare a review and critique of the cognitive or behavioural theories underlying decision-making or KT interventions in a setting of interest to you (e.g., clinical, political, organizational/institutional). (~4 pages, Feb 27, 2013)
3. Knowledge Translation Assignment Outline (10%). Prepare an outline for the final assignment. (~1 page, March 13, 2013)
4. Knowledge Translation Assignment (50%). For this assignment, you will develop a Knowledge Translation plan or intervention in an area of your choosing. For this plan, identify the target audience and demonstrate an understanding of the facilitators and barriers to evidence-informed practice or policy. Indicate how the KT intervention will be evaluated. In the discussion, include a paragraph on the difficulties of (or issues relevant to) the translation of research into this practice (~8 pages, April 3, 2013)

Readings: A Course Pack is available at the University of Guelph Bookstore. Students will be directed to additional readings in accordance with the current Access Copyright licence. Course material is also available electronically on the libraries Ares Course Reserve.

Please read the University of Guelph's policies on grades, rules, academic misconduct and related information.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/pdf/files/genreg.pdf>