

## FRHD\*3070 - Research Methods: Family Studies

Fall 2025 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

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### Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Metis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our responsibilities to this land where we work and learn.

### Calendar Description

This course is a critical examination of research methods in family studies across various research paradigms (e.g., positivist, post-positivist, interpretive, critical, and poststructural paradigm). The assumptions, values, and commitments of each of these research paradigms is covered, as well as the typical methods and methodologies used and the similarities and divergences between each paradigm, particularly as it pertains to research in family studies. Quantitative and qualitative approaches are covered, as well as brief mentions of those beyond qualitative methods (e.g., arts-based and Indigenist). This course will offer students preliminary understandings of the scientific method and its critiques, as well as how to develop a research question in qualitative and quantitative research, sampling techniques, and ethics in data collection and research in family studies and considerations of methodological rigor and validity.

**Prerequisite(s):** 4.00 credits

**Restriction(s):** Restricted to students in BASC.

**Department(s):** Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition

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### Lecture Schedule

### Instructor Information

**Andrea Breen**

\*Please note: office hours are available by appointment.

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### Additional Support

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Sarah Costantini

Sara Sequeira

Mary Thornbush

### Learning Resources

#### Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

## Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

Textbook/ Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
All required materials are available free and will be posted on ARES	See Course Schedule	N/A

## Library Course Reserve (Ares)

For this course, you will be required to access course reserve materials through the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. To access these items, select **Ares** on the navbar in CourseLink. Note that you will need your Central Login ID and password in order to access items on reserve. For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit [How to Get Course Reserve Materials \(https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/\)](https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/). If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at: Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621 | Email: [libres2@uoguelph.ca](mailto:libres2@uoguelph.ca) | Location : McLaughlin Library, First Floor, University of Guelph

## Course Level Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical, and philosophical foundations that underpin contemporary research in the social sciences
2. Explain how paradigms, epistemology, ontology, and axiology influence the process of knowledge generation.
3. Identify ethical issues in social research and describe strategies used to mitigate ethical risks.
4. Critically evaluate quantitative research studies by analyzing study design, measurement tools (including validity and reliability), sample characteristics, and potential sources of bias.
5. Critically evaluate qualitative studies by exploring theoretical frameworks, methodological design, and data analysis techniques.
6. Explain how research can be a tool for social in/justice, with a particular focus on Indigenous methodologies
7. Locate, interpret, and apply findings from empirical research to real-world issues

## Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Topic	Activities	Due
Thu	9/4	Introduction to the Course	No Assigned Readings	Pre-learning Survey due to the Dropbox 9/5 at 11:59 pm
Tues	9/9	Intro: History and Philosophy of Science	Barseghyan, H., Overgaard, N., & Rupik, G. (2018). <i>Introduction to History and Philosophy of Science</i> . LibreTexts. Chapter 1.  *See ARES for accompanying video.	
Thu	9/11	Intro: History and Philosophy of Science	Barseghyan, H., Overgaard, N., & Rupik, G. (2018). <i>Introduction to History and Philosophy of Science</i> . LibreTexts. Chapter 2.  *See ARES for accompanying video.	
Tues	9/16	Research Ethics	Scharrer, E., & Ramasubramanian, S. (2025). <i>Quantitative research methods in communication: The power of numbers for social justice</i> (Second Edition). Routledge. Chapter 3	
Thu	9/18	Research Ethics Research Ethics	<b>No Class meeting.</b> Complete TCPS2 Core Tutorial ( <a href="https://tcps2core.ca/welcome">https://tcps2core.ca/welcome</a> )	Core Certificate Due to Dropbox 9/19 at 11:59 pm
Tues	9/23	What are "research methods"?	Sheppard, V. (2024). <i>Research methods for the social sciences: An introduction</i> . BCCampus. Chapter 1.	
Thu	9/25	Quantitative Study Design	Guest presentation: Dr. Laura Forbes See CourseLink for class preparation materials	
Tues	9/30	Quantitative Study Design	Guest presentation: Dr. Laura Forbes See CourseLink for class preparation materials	

Thu	10/2	Meaning and Measurement	<b>Online class</b> Scharrer, E., & Ramasubramanian, S. (2025). <i>Quantitative research methods in communication: The power of numbers for social justice</i> (Second Edition). Routledge. Chapter 4.	Research proposal part 1 due to Dropbox 10/3 at 11:59 pm
Tues	10/7	Sampling and Representation	Scharrer, E., & Ramasubramanian, S. (2025). <i>Quantitative research methods in communication: The power of numbers for social justice</i> (Second Edition). Routledge. Chapter 5.	
Thu	10/9	Quantitative Research to Practice	<b>Online Class</b> See CourseLink for preparation materials	
Tues	10/14	Fall Study Break		
Thu	10/16	Midterm Exam	In-class Midterm	Midterm 10/16 in class
Tues	10/21	Indigenous Research Methodologies	Instructor: Dr. Kim Anderson Hayward, A., Wodtke, L., Craft, A., Robin, T., Smylie, J., McConkey, S., Nychuk, A., Healy, C., Star, L., & Cidro, J. (2021). Addressing the need for indigenous and decolonized quantitative research methods in Canada. <i>SSM - Population Health</i> , 15, Article 100899. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100899">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100899</a>	
Thu	10/23	Indigenous Research Methodologies	Instructor: Dr. Kim Anderson  University of Guelph Office of Research (2024). <i>Doing Indigenous Research</i> . [Video]. See ARES for Link.  Additional material to be posted on Courselink	
Tues	10/28	Indigenous Research Methodologies	Instructor Dr. Kim Anderson  <i>Bringing the čupuc to life</i> . UVic Video. See ARES for Link.  Additional material to be posted on Courselink.	
Thu	10/30	Research Paradigms	<b>Online Class</b> Pretorius, L. (2024). Demystifying research paradigms: Navigating ontology, epistemology, and axiology in research. <i>Qualitative Report</i> , 29(10), COV1-2715. <a href="https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2024.7632">https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2024.7632</a>	Research Proposal Part 2 Due to Dropbox 10/31 at 11:59 pm
Tues	11/4	Introducing Qualitative Research	Clarke, V. (2021). <i>Foundations of qualitative research Part 1: What is Qualitative Research?</i> [video]. Link available through ARES. See Courselink for additional learning materials.	
Thu	11/6	Key Concepts in Qualitative Research	Clarke, V. (2021). <i>Foundations of qualitative research 2 Part 3: Key (theoretical and philosophical) concepts in qualitative research</i> [video]. Link available through ARES. See Courselink for additional learning materials.	
Tues	11/11	Qualitative Research Design	Clarke, V. (2021). <i>Qualitative research design</i> . Parts 1-3 [video]. Link available through ARES. See Courselink for additional learning materials.	
Thu	11/13	Research to Practice in Qualitative Research	Guest speaker: Sarah Costantini Costantini, S., & Rice, C. (2025). Exploring the ruling relations of eating disorder treatment in Ontario. <i>Journal of Eating Disorders</i> , 13(1), Article 176. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/s40337-025-01362-3">https://doi.org/10.1186/s40337-025-01362-3</a>	
Tues	11/18	Community-Engaged Research	Guest speaker: Julia Linares-Roake See CourseLink for preparation materials	
Thu	11/20	Arts-based Research	<b>Online class</b> Guest speaker: Dr. Jessica Reid See CourseLink for preparation materials	Research proposal part 3 due 11/21 at 11:59 pm
Tues	11/25	Who am I as a Researcher?	Jamieson, M. K., Govaart, G. H., & Pownall, M. (2023). Reflexivity in quantitative research: A rationale and beginner's guide. <i>Social and Personality Psychology Compass</i> , 17(4). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12735">https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12735</a>	

Thu	11/27	Exam Preparation	Online Class	Post-class survey due to Dropbox November 28 at 11:59 pm
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## Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting	Due Date
Pre-course survey	2.5 %	September 5, 11:59 pm
TCPS2 Core Certificate	5%	September 19, 11:59 pm
Research proposal part 1	5%	October 3, 11:59 pm
Midterm Exam (in class)	20%	October 16, 11:59 pm
Research proposal part 2	10%	October 28, 11:59 pm
Research proposal part 3	15%	November 21, 11:59 pm
Post-course survey	2.5%	November 28, 11:59 pm
Final Exam	40%	December 4th

## Final Exam

Date: Dec 4

Time: Th 11:30am-1:30pm

Location: TBA *Please see Web Advisor closer to the date of scheduled final for location.*

To understand rules and regulations regarding Examinations students are encouraged to read Student's Responsibilities (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/examinations/>)

If the student is unable to meet the final exam requirements due to medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances they are encouraged to review Student's Responsibilities in the Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>) section of the Academic Calendar.

## Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2025 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: November 28

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

## Course Grading Policies

### Submission of Assignments

*each instructor will have their own policy*

### Late Assignment

All assignments **with the exception of the midterm and final exams** have a grace period of 48 hours. This policy means that there will not be marks deducted if you submit before the extra 48 hours period expires. Please, do not treat the grace period as the deadline, because it is not. The deadline is a hard deadline, and the grace period is in place to account for potential difficulties and life events that can occur at the time of the hard deadline.

Emails asking for late submission during the grace period are not needed and will not be answered: just submit within the grace period. CourseLink will say that it is late, but if it is within 48 hours of the deadline is within the grace period and it is not late.

No extensions over the grace period will be given. You can submit the assignment after the grace period has expired; however, your mark will be docked 10% per day including weekends 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. This policy is in place to guarantee fairness for all students

## CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The *Academic Misconduct Policy* is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.

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.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct.

## Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

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The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

### 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 make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

### Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations>)

### 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.

### Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

### Email 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.

### Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

## **Illness**

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment) .

## **Recording of Materials**

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

## **Resources**

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

## **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)