



COLLEGE of SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS
AND APPLIED NUTRITION

[FRHD *4190 Assessment in Gerontology] COURSE OUTLINE – [FALL 2020]

1. CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course provides an examination and critique of current methods of assessing older adults. Tools to be considered include those for assessing dementia, depression, and pain. Students will examine diagnostic criteria that form the underpinnings of most tests and then examine each test for its psychometric properties and appropriate use. An understanding of the ethical principles governing assessment will be gained.

Credit Weight: 0.5. credits

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

Pre-Requisite(s): 14.50 credits including FRHD*2060

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In your future careers as gerontologists and specialists in human and family development, you may be asked to provide an assessment of an older person's cognitive, emotional and social functioning. Even more likely, you may be asked to interpret the findings of assessments carried out by other professionals in order to make a decision about the kind of assistance an older person might require. This course, then, has four purposes:

1. To examine the kinds of bio/psycho/social disorders, disabilities and differences that may lead to a request for assessment of older adults.
2. To develop competence and critical thinking around the assessment process for older adults.
3. To embed a strengths based-orientation, concern for the worth and dignity, and an appreciation of the context of older adults and their families into the assessment process and personal assessment skills.
4. To explore and analyze the available assessment techniques for older adults and where appropriate, to provide instruction in how to select and administer to a test and in how to interpret the findings.

3. TIMETABLE

Lecture/Lab: Mondays/Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Location: Remote (online)

Final Exam: N/A

For Fall 2020 in light of COVID-19, this course will be offered online. Please consult the course outline for details on synchronous learning (i.e. when we will meet together during class time online) and learning activities to be completed independently during course time. Active engagement with the course content and Courselink site will be required each week.

4. INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

Course Instructor: Dr. Kimberley Wilson [she/her]

Email: kim.wilson@uoguelph.ca

Office Hours: Telephone or online appointments available upon request

5. LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Resource(s):

There are several required resources for this course. All are electronically through the University of Guelph library with access through Courselink. Additional readings and resources will be posted the course website on Courselink.

1. Lichtenberg PA (Ed.) (2010). *Handbook of Assessment in Clinical Gerontology. 2nd Edition*. San Diego: Academic Press.
2. Lichtenberg, P. A., Mast, B. T., Carpenter, B. D., & Loebach Wetherell, J. E. (2015). *APA handbook of clinical geropsychology, Vol. 1: History and status of the field and perspectives on aging*. American Psychological Association.
3. McInnis-Dittrich, K. (2013). *Social work with older adults*. Pearson Higher Ed.
4. Pachana, N. A., & Laidlaw, K. (Eds.). (2014). *The Oxford handbook of clinical geropsychology*. Oxford University Press, USA.

Recommended Resource(s):American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-5®). American Psychiatric Pub. Available electronically through the University of Guelph library and Courselink.

Online Certifications: There are several required online trainings as part of this course. These contribute to your classroom engagement grade and are designed to enhance your knowledge and marketability upon graduation. With each you will receive a certificate of completion. Please visit the Content Tab in Courselink for more information about the following online courses.

6. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Describe the risk and resilience factors associated with biopsychosocial functioning in older adults.
2. Evaluate and select appropriate assessments for use with older adults.
3. Demonstrate competence and critical thinking around the assessment process for older adults.
4. Embed a strengths-based orientation concern for the worth and dignity, and an appreciation of the context of older adults and their families into the assessment process and personal assessment skills.
5. Work collaboratively with peers to enhance their own knowledge and perspective while appreciating the diversity of opinions of others.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Below is an outline of the scheduling of class time for our lectures and labs. This is intended to be an iterative schedule, recognizing as it currently stands is ambitious and asks a lot of students. Our

discussions will be fluid and will cater to the needs and interests of the class and scheduling may be revised to accommodate new interest, guest speakers, and areas requiring additional attention. Additional scheduling details will be posted on Courselink throughout the semester.

Reading key: P&L = Pachana, N. A., & Laidlaw, K. (Eds.). (2014). The Oxford handbook of clinical geropsychology. Oxford University Press, USA; Online = visit this unit on Courselink for additional links and resources.

SYNCHRONOUS MEETING INDICATED WITH YELLOW

IN CLASS ASSESSMENTS INDICATED WITH GREEN – log in for instructions

Monday September 14	Welcome, introductions, overview of the semester	
Wednesday September 16	What do we mean by assessment in gerontology?	
Monday September 21	Basic concepts in test and measurement Assessment values	
Wednesday September 23	The interview as an assessment strategy Conducting a biopsychosocial assessment	
Monday September 28	Assessing Functional health	
Wednesday September 30	Mood disorders: focus on depression	
Monday October 5	Anxiety	
Wednesday October 7	CASE ASSESSMENT #1	
Monday October 12	NO CLASSES SCHEDULED	
Wednesday October 14	Suicide risk	
Monday October 19	Delirium	
Wednesday October 21	Assessing Cognitive impairment	
Monday October 26	Assessing Cognitive impairment	
Wednesday October 28	CASE ASSESSMENT #2	
Monday November 2	Consent & Capacity	
Wednesday November 4	Guest lecture: Marilyn White-Campbell Substance Use Disorders	
Monday November 9	Pain	
Wednesday November 11	Falls	
Monday November 16	CASE ASSSSMENT #3	
Wednesday November 18	Communication skills: supporting people with aphasia	
Monday November 23	Clinical Rounds	
Wednesday November 25	Assessment in Reality	
Monday November 30	Assessment of Family dynamics	Paper due: clinical rounds

Wednesday December 2	Summary & Integration	
Friday December 4	CASE ASSESSMENT #4	

[Note: This is a tentative schedule; however, due to various unknown factors there may be changes. Any changes will be posted on the CourseLink site.]

8. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment	LOs Addressed	Due Date	% of Final
Engagement	1, 2,3,4,5	Ongoing	25
Case Assessments	1,3,4	See above	50
Clinical Rounds	1,2,3,4,5	See above	25
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: Students have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. 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.

Disclaimer: Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website <https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/> and circulated by email.

Illness: The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.