



Brescia University College

Family Studies 4230b: Qualitative Research in Family Studies

January – April 2012

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Office hours:
Wed 10-11AM; Thu 2-3 PM or by appointment

Class time/room:
Wed 2:30-5:30 PM/ RM204

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to qualitative research and its application to the study of the family. Topics to be considered include participant observation, interview skills, life histories and methods of analysis.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course provides students a conceptual understanding of qualitative research and their application in the studies of the family. The course introduces major concepts and terms, and different qualitative methods including case studies, in-depth interview, participant observation, life histories and ethnographies. It focuses on developing a theoretical understanding of qualitative methodology and also experiential learning.

PREREQUISITE

Family Studies 2200E or 2225, or permission of the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Introduce students to the nature of the qualitative research
- Familiarity with basic concepts and terms, and various qualitative research methods
- Critically evaluate qualitative research
- Identify sources of research ideas and questions related to family studies, family policy and practices

TEXTBOOK

Berg, Bruce L. 2009. *Qualitative Research Methods for the social Sciences* (7th Ed.)
Pearson Education, Inc

The textbook is available for purchase in the university bookstore and will also be placed on reserve in the BUC library.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Teaching methods will include lectures, discussions, presentation and group activities.

COURSE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The course involves a large commitment of student participation and reading on your own. You are advised to attend to every lecture and view every media presentation, as well as participate in all class activities. Missed lectures and any material given in class are the responsibility of the student, not the professor.

Students who fail to appear for an examination at the time set in the timetable will not be allowed to write the examination thus missed. **There will NOT be any make-up examinations nor extra work for the purpose of improving grades.**

Changes in information that appear in this course outline will be discussed in class prior to being implemented.

Please note: All of written work should conform to the standards set out in the *Publication of Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA). It should be typed, double spaced, paginated and font size 12 points.

The written work will be evaluated on both of the contents and style. Your demonstrated ability to apply and integrate the conceptual materials learned from the course is one of the important aspects of evaluation. The other aspects centre on professional writing, including coherent, concise, comprehensive, spelling, grammar, punctuation, pagination, paragraphing, use of headings when necessary, precise citation and referencing.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Class participation	10%
Quiz	10%
Research application	45%
Final exam (accumulative)	35%

Class participation – 10%

The participation mark is based on attending class regularly, attentive, responsive, and actively involved in all class activities. The mark will be affected by late arrival and early leaving, and absence in class.

Quiz – 10%

A quiz will be scheduled **on Feb. 8, 2012**. The format of the quiz consists of multiple choice, true/false and short-answered questions based on the readings/lecture notes from weeks 1 - 4.

Research application – 45%

- Proposed research topic – 5%
- Literature review – 15%

- Research application - 25%

The assignment is due **on April 11, 2012**. A separate handout on this assignment will be provided to students at the beginning of the class.

Final exam - 35%

The format of the final exam will be based on readings and class notes of the entire course. It consists of multiple choices, true/false, and short answer questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January – April 2012

Date	Topics	Readings
Jan 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course • Basic concepts in qualitative research 	Chapter 1
Jan 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing qualitative research 	Chapter 2
Jan 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics of social research 	Chapter 3
Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth Interview 	Chapter 4
Feb 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group interviews 	Chapter 5
Feb 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnographic field strategies 	Chapter 6
Feb 20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Day and Reading week 	
Feb 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action research 	Chapter 7
Mar 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unobtrusive measures 	Chapter 8
Mar 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral history and historiography • 	Chapter 9
Mar 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study 	Chapter 10
Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and interpretation of qualitative data 	Chapter 11
April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing report • Research nexus 	Chapter 12
Apr 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review 	
Final exam	To be scheduled by registrar	

Note: The course outline may be amended if needed.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. An SMC can be downloaded at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. If documentation is from Student Health Services, the student should sign a release of information form. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2008/print_pg140.html.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year and or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences

include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the McCann Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/registrar/>, Academic Support and Advising is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/advising/> and the McCann Student Services Centre is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/services/>. The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.