

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF FOOD & NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

HE 4411F RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
COURSE OUTLINE Fall 2011

Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30 - 11:30 am

Section 531: Dr. P Dworatzek pdworatz@uwo.ca

St. James Building Room 204

Section 530: Dr. J Twynstra jasna.twynstra@uwo.ca

St. James Building Room 19

OFFICE HOURS: As posted on OWL or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will study the components of research and develop a research proposal.

OBJECTIVES:

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

1. describe and interpret the results of hypothetical or published research data;
2. identify the appropriate statistical test for a variety of research designs;
3. formulate hypotheses, objectives, purpose statements, and outcome variables;
4. demonstrate the ability to gather, review, interpret, evaluate, and utilize appropriate peer reviewed journal articles and reference materials to support a research hypothesis;
5. format and cite references according to the Uniform Requirements of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE);
6. develop/co-develop a research proposal including a letter of information, based on the letter of intent guidelines of the Canadian Foundation for Dietetic Research (CFDR) and the UWO ethics guidelines;
7. present the research proposal to the class utilizing a research communications approach; and
8. demonstrate leadership skills through effective and efficient group work.

APPROACHES:

1. Lectures, class discussions and activities on the components of the research process.
2. Self-directed learning and independent / group study to allow students to develop their research proposal and present a concise summary of it in class.
3. Individual / group consultation with the Instructor to provide feedback on the components of the research proposal, as necessary.

PREREQUISITE:

Registration restricted to students in the Year 4 Honors Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Monsen ER, van Horn L. (ed). 2008. Research: Successful Approaches, 3rd ed. American Dietetic Association, Chicago, IL.

REFERENCE MATERIALS (on reserve in the Beryl Ivey Library)

Streiner D, Norman G. 2003. PDQ Statistics. Mosby-Yearbook, Inc. Toronto. (or other statistics textbook)

Munro BH. 2005. Statistical Methods for Health Care Research, Third Edition. Lippincott-Raven Publishers, Philadelphia, PA.

Bryman A, Teevan JJ, Bell E. 2009. Social Research Methods: Second Canadian Edition. Oxford, Don Mills, ON.

Other readings as posted on OWL.

EVALUATIONS:	DUE	% of final mark
Proposed research project outline	Oct. 13	15
In class examination	Nov. 15	30
Research proposal & Presentation of research proposal	Nov. 29 Nov. 29 and Dec. 6	45 (total for proposal & presentation)
Participation / Take home activities	Ongoing	10
Complete the online TCPS 2 tutorial on Research Ethics at http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/ Save certificate and submit by Nov. 8		
TOTAL		100

Divisional policies are as follows:

1. Attendance at class and participation are mandatory.
2. Assignments are due at time and date noted. The mark will be reduced by 20% for assignments submitted late. Assignments submitted more than seven days late will NOT be accepted for marking, except with documentation for a confirmed personal illness or a death in the student's immediate family.
3. Assignments assigned in groups must be completed as a group. Individual submissions will be automatically reduced by 20%.

LECTURE/WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	LECTURES
1	Sept 13	Overview of research process Course outline and assignments Introduction to take home activity – evaluation of journal article
2	Sept 20	Discussion of take home activity Study designs – Introduction to study designs (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 2) Quantitative research (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 8) Generation of objectives and hypotheses Independent and dependent variables; experimental protocol Introduction to take home activity – quantitative & qualitative studies
3	Sept 27	Discussion of take home activity Qualitative research (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 7) Introduction to take home activity – review of types of variables and descriptive statistics

		PROPOSED RESEARCH TOPIC DUE BY SEPT 29 - EMAIL TO jasna.twynstra@uwo.ca
4	Oct 4	Independent study; group consultations with Instructor regarding research proposal
5	Oct 11	PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT OUTLINE DUE OCT 13 Discussion of take home activity Types of variables (Monsen & van Horn, pg. 179), and statistical procedures (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 27 & 28) Introduction to take home activity – statistics for study design
6	Oct 18	Discussion of take home activity Surveys (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 13) Introduction to take home activity - surveys
7	Oct 25	Discussion of take home activity Data interpretation and writing up research results (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 31) Introduction to take home activity – writing up and interpreting research results
8	Nov 1	Discussion of take home activity Ethics in research using human subjects (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 3) Introduction to take home activity – Letter of Information
9	Nov 8	Discussion of take home activity Research communication and professional writing (Monsen & van Horn, Ch. 29 & 30)
10	Nov. 15	In class EXAMINATION – room to be determined
11	Nov 22	Independent study; group consultations with Instructor regarding research proposal
12	Nov 29	RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE Class presentations; Attendance mandatory; Be prepared to ask questions
13	Dec 6	Class presentations; Attendance mandatory; Be prepared to ask questions

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. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". 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 document-ation 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. 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/2011/pg117.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 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 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.

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 prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

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.