

IDEV 6300 – Research and Analysis in a Development Context
Guelph Institute for Development Studies, University of Guelph
Fall 2021/Winter 2022
0.5 credits
Fall 2021: Wednesdays 2:30-5:20 (virtual)

Instructor

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This two-semester course prepares students to conduct research in a development context. It emphasizes power relations and supports students as they reflect on their own positionality and the development context of their research. Through reading, discussion and practice, students develop skills in areas such as: scoping research questions, data collection, data analysis, navigating ethical complexities and knowledge mobilization. There will be an emphasis on reflective writing and on communicating development research and analysis to diverse audiences.

Course Design

Because of COVID-19 this course will be held virtually in the Fall semester. Delivery method in the winter semester will be determined at a later date. All materials for the course can be found on the IDEV*6300 CourseLink page. All assignments should be submitted through the CourseLink dropbox.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically reflect on their position as researchers in a development context
2. Formulate research questions
3. Practice and reflect on data collection techniques
4. Practice and reflect on data analysis techniques
5. Consider ethical and other research dilemmas specific to development contexts by analyzing 'real-world' examples
6. Understand best practices for knowledge mobilization
7. Clearly communicate research results visually to relevant audiences
8. Practice descriptive and reflective writing in relation to their own Masters research

Course meetings and topics

For the Fall semester we will meet virtually via zoom on the following dates. You can find links to the zoom class on CourseLink.

September 15th – Introductions

September 29th – The role of research in Development

October 13th – No class (work on Assignment 1)

October 27th – Research Design – Crafting research questions

November 10th – Research Design – Grant writing and communication

November 24th – Data Collection – Media Analysis

Tentative list of topics to be covered in Winter 2022 (specific meeting dates to be determined):

Class 1 – Data Collection – Interviewing

Class 2 – Data Analysis – Interview transcripts

Class 3 – Data Analysis – Ethical dilemmas in Development research

Class 4 – Facilitation techniques

Class 5 – Knowledge mobilization plans

Class 6 – Conclusions/Reflections

Assessment

Semester	Item	Description	Due dates	% of final grade
Full Year	Participation	Class attendance, speaking, listening, engagement, participating in activities	Ongoing	25%
Fall Semester	Homework*	Homework assignments fully completed with attention to detail, comprehension, engagement	Ongoing	10%
	Assignment 1	Essay on reflexivity and positionality in research	Between October 1 st and December 10 th	20%
Winter Semester	Homework	Homework assignments fully completed with attention to detail, comprehension, engagement	Ongoing	35%
	Assignment 2	Infographic	Between Jan 14 th and April 8 th	10%

**Homework assignments will be due before each class. Details can be found on the 'Detailed course outline' document.*

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet a course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor right away to make other arrangements, such as requesting an extension on the assignment due date.

A late penalty of 5% of the earned grade, per day, will apply. In case of medical or other legitimate reasons for missing any of the above deadlines, reasonable accommodation will be made. Please talk to the instructor ahead of deadlines if you anticipate a problem in meeting them.

Required Readings

All the required readings for the course can be found on Courselink under 'Content'.

Recommended reference books for your own research

We will be reading chapters from some of the following books. Please consider taking a look at the chapters that we don't read in these books because they have lots of information that will be useful to your research design, methodology, practice, analysis and write-up. Most are specific to Development Studies. Most are available in e-version from our library.

- Laws, S., Harper, C., Jones, N., & Marcus, R. (2013/2003). *Research for development: A practical guide*. Sage.
- Mikkelsen, B. (2005). *Methods for development work and research: a new guide for practitioners*. Sage.
- Saldaña, J. (2015). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers*. Sage.
- Scheyvens, R. (Ed.). (2014). *Development fieldwork: A practical guide*. Sage.
- Sumner, A., & Tribe, M. A. (2008). *International development studies: Theories and methods in research and practice*. Sage.

Communication

Communication in this course will occur through e-mail and CourseLink. 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.

If you have questions about the course you are encouraged to:

1. Post your questions to the relevant discussion board on CourseLink
2. E-mail the instructor with your question
3. E-mail the instructor to set up a virtual meeting to chat about your question

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.](#)

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep 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

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.