

IDEV*2100: Research in International Development

Instructor: Dr. Lauren Sneyd
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Class meetings: Online synchronous for Fall 2021
Office hours: By appointment

Land Acknowledgement:

The University of Guelph (and our classroom) are located on the traditional lands of the Attawandaron people, and the treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit. I also acknowledge the presence of other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit neighbours on this land. As a scholar in and of this place, I believe it is important for us to learn about and respect the relationship of Indigenous peoples to this land.

Course Description:

Undergraduate Calendar description:

“This course explores the ethical dimensions of conducting research and producing knowledge in a context of inclusive and sustainable development. Students will explore the cultural, methodological and ethical challenges of conducting research in vulnerable communities, using concepts of positionality, difference, identity and intersectionality to understand the ways in which they might engage in a mutually-respectful process of research and engagement. The course provides a broad survey of research methods including documentary, observational, qualitative, and quantitative approaches, exploring their key characteristics, strengths and weaknesses and ethical implications of producing knowledge for development. Prerequisite(s): IDEV*1000”

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Familiarity with a variety of research methods employed in international development studies;
- Ability to engage in ethical reasoning around research in international development studies;
- Ability to understand and interpret the statistical findings reported in international development research;
- Ability to design and propose a research project related to international development studies;
- Development of research, reading, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking.

Class Format:

We will be using Courselink as an electronic resource for announcements, accessing lecture slides / videos, accessing activities and supplemental content, and submitting assignments / quizzes. New content will be released at the beginning of the week throughout the term. Your participation grades will be associated with the completion of activities and your response to discussion prompts.

Evaluation:

A handout detailing the course assignments and evaluation guidelines will be circulated separately. Following is an overview of the course assignments:

Reflection on development research ethics and power (TCPS 2: CORE ethics certificate)	20%	due Oct. 8 @ 11:59pm
Interview assignment	25%	due Nov. 12 @ 11:59pm
Reflection on research approaches/issues in ID	15%	due Oct. 29 @ 11:59pm
Participation	10%	throughout
Final research proposal:	30%	due Dec. 3 @ 11:59pm

Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day that they are overdue, including weekend days. Please speak with the instructor before the deadline to request extensions and avoid late penalties.

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 in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on [regulations and procedures](#) for Academic Consideration.

Readings:

Required:

Laws, Sophie, Harper Caroline, Jones, Nicola and Marcus, Rachel. 2013. Research for Development: A Practical Guide. 2nd edition. London: Sage.

Optional:

Scheyvens, Sylvie. 2014. Development Fieldwork: A Practical Guide. Ed 2nd Edition. London: Sage.

Required and additional readings will be available via Courselink and the Library's Ares online reserve system.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic:	Readings:
Week 1	Introduction to research in international development	Laws et al. Chapter 1 and 6