

**IDEV 6300 – Research and Analysis in a Development Context**  
**Guelph Institute for Development Studies, University of Guelph**  
**Summer 2021**  
**0.5 credits**

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: By appointment for a virtual meeting

**Course Description**

Students will explore alternative approaches to development research and analysis across documentary, qualitative and quantitative methods and the ethical issues associated with research in a development context. (note: This description is modified to reflect the changes made to the course due to COVID-19).

**Course Design**

Because of COVID-19 this course is entirely virtual. All materials for the course can be found on the IDEV\*6300 CourseLink page. All assignments should be submitted through the CourseLink dropbox.

This course is designed to be partially independent asynchronous work (50% of class grade) and partially synchronous work that we accomplish together as a group (50% of class grade).

NOTE: There is an entirely asynchronous version of this course available to those with significant scheduling concerns (e.g. practicum) – please contact the instructor **immediately** to make arrangements.

**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 (Part 1)
2. Practice and reflect on data collection techniques (Part 2)
3. Practice and reflect on data analysis techniques (Part 2)
4. Consider ethical and other research dilemmas specific to development contexts by analyzing ‘real-world’ examples (Part 2)
5. Understand best practices for knowledge mobilization (Part 3)
6. Clearly communicate research results visually to relevant audiences (Part 3)
7. Practice descriptive and reflective writing in relation to their own Masters research (All Parts)

## Assessment

Item	Date*	% of final grade
Part 1: - Essay on reflexivity and positionality in research	Between March 1 <sup>st</sup> and May 2 <sup>nd</sup> (unless other arrangements are made)	25%
Part 2: - Virtually attending and participating in class sessions - Completing and submitting homework between class sessions	May 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 10am-1pm EST	50%
Part 3: - Knowledge mobilization plan (12.5%) - Infographic (12.5%)	Between March 1 <sup>st</sup> and May 28 <sup>th</sup> (unless other arrangements are made)	25%

\*Part 1 of the course must be completed first. After that you may complete either Part 2 or 3 in any order depending on your schedule.

### Course Summary:

Detailed instructions for each part of the course can be found on CourseLink

### Assessment timeline

The instructor will aim to grade your submissions (assignments) within three weeks of their submission. In most cases you will receive feedback much sooner.

### 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

## **Working with other students**

Parts 1 and 3 of this class are meant to be completed independently. If you choose to go through the course at the same pace as a classmate so that you can discuss the readings, content and assignments that is fine. However, you must be sure that the work you submit is yours and yours alone. Work that is the same as someone else's in the class will be treated as a form of academic misconduct.

## **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.](#)

### **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 right away to make other arrangements.

### **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 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](http://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.