

**Brescia University College**

Interdisciplinary Studies 1015F.530
Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Issues in Education

Dr. John Mitchell

2014-15

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An interdisciplinary seminar focusing on a current-issue or specialized topic, as selected by the instructor. Through focused class discussions and exercises, students will explore the topic from multiple perspectives while developing a core set of skills including information literacy, written and oral communication, and critical thinking.

3 hours, 0.5 course

The topic for IDS 1015F 2014-15 is *Issues in Education*; students will explore the complex issues facing education in Canada. We will explore this topic from a variety of perspectives (Historical, Multicultural, Philosophical, Political/Public Policy, Psychological, Sociological). Together with assigned topics, you will be able to choose topics within education that you are interested in exploring.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. John Mitchell

Office: BR 221 (Merici Wing)

E-mail: jbmitch@uwo.ca

Tele: ext. 28116

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 – 10:00; Thursday 1:00 – 2:00, and by appointment.

Classes: Monday 11:30 – 12:30, BR 204
Wednesday 11:30 – 1:30, BR 204

NOTE: the class meetings on Sept. 24, Oct. 15, and Oct.29 are in the Computer Lab in the Beryl Ivey Library.

Course Materials: Course materials including required readings will be posted on our OWL site. It is important that you complete assigned readings *before* class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills;
- Use various research resources to research questions;
- Summarize and evaluate research findings;
- Develop and communicate a research plan;
- Understand the how various academic disciplines analyze and investigate a shared topic.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Class (Mondays)	Lab/tutorial (Wednesdays)
1	Sept 8 Introduction to the course; course goals.	Sept 10 Ways of knowing,
2	Sept 15 Historical Perspective, Dr. Ramsey	Sept 17 An Introduction to Research Plans
3	Sept 22 Psychological Perspectives <i>Reading 1</i>	Sept 24 Doing Research 1 (<i>at the Library Computer Lab</i>)
4	Sept 29 Developing a Research Plan	Oct 1 Sociological Perspective, Dr. Jakubowski
5	Oct 6 Learner Differences <i>Reading 2</i>	Oct 8 Reading for Main Ideas
6	<i>Oct 13, Thanksgiving, no class</i>	Oct 15 Doing Research 2 (<i>at the Library Computer Lab</i>)
7	Oct 20 Political Perspective, Dr Barker	Oct 22 Developing a Thesis
8	Oct 27 Multicultural Perspectives <i>Reading 4</i>	Oct 29 Doing Research 3 (<i>at the Library Computer Lab</i>)
9	Nov 3 Philosophical Perspectives, Dr Hudecki	Nov 5 Draft Proposal Oral Presentation
10	Nov 10 Current Issues in Education <i>Reading 5</i>	Nov 12 Peer Review
11	Nov 17 Current Issues in Education <i>Reading 5</i>	Nov 19 Oral Presentatrions
12	Nov 24 Oral Presentations	Nov 26 Doing Research 4
13	Dec 1 Final Research Proposals	Dec 3, Reflection: What have you learned?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Attendance

Attendance in class is one of the best predictors of success in university. Attendance will be recorded and is worth 5% of your course mark. You may miss up to three classes without penalty. After that, you will lose 1 of your 5 attendance marks for each class missed unless that absence is allowable under University regulations governing academic accommodation.

Class Participation

Active participation in the class is important for you to gain the benefits of our small, interactive class. The marking scheme for participation is:

- 0: made no comments;
- 1: comments are limited and do not make a meaningful contribution to the discussion (comments such as “yes”, “what she said”, “I agree”);
- 3: made a constructive contribution to the discussion or answered a question and included specific information or made a substantive point.

Participation marks will be evaluated on a class-by-class basis and accumulated across the course to a maximum of 20 marks. Each class is evaluated separately for participation marks and the participation mark is for the entire class time; that is, the maximum participation mark for one class is 3. For example, if you talk during one class you may receive a total of either 1 or 3 participation marks for that class depending on the quality of your comments, but saying “yes” five times in one class will get a participation mark of 1 for that class. Hence, you cannot remain silent for 12 weeks and then provide 7 comments during the final class and expect to accumulate all of your participation marks in that one class.

Reading Responses

During our class meetings we will cover five different assigned readings. You need to submit a Reading Response to three (3) of these readings. Your Reading Responses need to include a brief summary of the main points of the article and an evaluation of how well the main points are supported by evidence. Each Reading Response is worth 5% of the course mark. It is up to you to pick which of the five readings you use for your Reading Responses.

Reading Responses are due at or before the start of the class during which we are discussing that reading. **Late penalty:** Reading Responses submitted after the start of class will be counted as late and a late penalty applied. The late penalty is 1 mark out of 5 for each day late. Note that Reading Responses submitted after the start of class will be counted as late and 1 mark will be deducted.

Reading Responses should be between 300 and 600 words; with standard 2.54 cm margins, a 12 point font and double spacing 600 words is approximately 2 pages. That is, your Reading Responses should be 1 to 2 pages in length. You need to submit a printed version of your Reading Response for marking and submit an electronic version to turnitin.com through our course OWL site. Your Reading Response will **not** be marked unless you also submit it to turnitin.com.

Literature Search Reports

You need to submit a report on your literature search by the start of class on Nov. 3. The Literature Search Report will summarize and present the literature search that you are conducting in support of your Research Proposal. It should include a description of your search strategy and search results. The Literature Search Report is worth 10% of your course mark.

Late penalty: Literature Search Reports submitted after the start of class will be counted as late and a late penalty applied. The late penalty is 1 mark out of 10 for each day late. Note that Literature Search Reports submitted after the start of class will be counted as late and 1 mark will be deducted.

Research Proposal

The major course assignment is a Research Proposal. Much of your work during the course is related to your Research Proposal, so be sure to choose a topic that interests you.

The Research Proposal identifies the topic or issue to be addressed, provides a summary of what is already known about the topic, and presents a preliminary argument. The Research Proposal must include at least three articles from scholarly journals/periodicals. Additional details about the Research Proposal will be discussed in class and a marking rubric will be posted on our course OWL site.

You will present your Research Proposal in both written and oral form.

Written Research Proposal

A draft of your Research Proposal is due by the end of class on Nov. 10. You will receive feedback on your Draft Research Proposal both from me and from your classmates during our Peer Reviewing and Editing class (Nov. 12).

The Draft Research Proposal is worth 5% of your class mark. There is a late penalty of 1 mark out of 5 for each day late. Submitting your Draft Research Proposal after class on Nov. 10 counts as one day late.

Your Final Research Proposal is due at the start of class on Dec. 1. Your Final Research Proposal is worth 20% of your course mark. The Final Research Proposal is expected to be five to ten pages in length (12 point font, standard 2.54 cm margins, double spacing). Additional details about the Final Research Proposal will be presented in class and posted on our course

OWL site. You need to submit a printed version of your Final Research Report for marking and submit an electronic version to turnitin.com through our course OWL site. Your Final Research Report will **not** be marked unless you also submit it to turnitin.com.

Research Proposal Oral Presentations

You will present both your Draft and Final Research Proposals as oral presentations in class. The Draft Research Proposal Oral Presentations (Nov. 5), are expected to be approximately 5 minutes long and are worth 5%.

The Final Research Proposal Oral Presentations are expected to be approximately 15 minutes in length and will be presented during our classes on Nov. 19 and 24. The Final Research Proposal Oral Presentations are worth 20% of the course mark.

A detailed marking rubric for oral and written research proposals will be discussed in class and posted on our OWL site.

Evaluation Summary

Class participation	20
Attendance	5
Reading Responses (3 x 5%)	15
Literature Search Report	10
Draft Research Proposal	5
Final Research Proposal	20
Draft Research Proposal Oral Presentation	5
Final Research Proposal Oral Presentation	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

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.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, 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** 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/2014/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

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

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 Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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.