1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This variable-content course provides a senior-level seminar experience in the conduct, presentation, and writing of research relevant to the interdisciplinary core of the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree program. (See the B.A.S. website for topics.)

Pre-Requisites: 12.00 credits including (ASCI*2000 or ASCI*2050)
Restrictions: Registration in the BAS degree program.

1.2 Course Description

Because informed members of liberal democratic societies value transparency and accountability in social and policy decisions, we typically expect justification for any given claim. This seemingly obvious expectation has led to a demand for “evidence-based” practices in areas as far ranging as healthcare, education, management, and international debt management. Yet what we mean by evidence and how evidence informs socially responsible practices are far from obvious. We will investigate the ethics, politics, and epistemology of “evidence”. Specifically,

(i) the politics of accountability, effectiveness, and quality assurance;
(ii) the relationship between ethics and evidence
(iii) what we mean by “evidence-based”.
(iv) the evidence-based movement in several disciplines and professional fields

Students will bring these considerations to bear on their choice of an area of scientific research or policy development for their final papers.
1.3 Timetable
Mondays, Wednesdays 4:00-5:20pm
Mackinnon 306

1.4 Final Exam
No final exam

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team
Instructor: Maya Goldenberg
Email: mgolden@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: +1-519-824-4120 x56367
Office: MCKN 334
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30pm

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources
Available on courselink (Article)
All assigned readings are available on Courselink

4 Learning Outcomes

Of the below six learning outcomes, the first two are specific to the course and the latter four are BAS Program learning outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Develop theoretical concepts in order to analyze complex social issues.

2. Analyze and understand complex social issues through research and by use of the theoretical tools developed in this course.

3. Synthesize and present specialized knowledge, arguments and analyses accurately and
appropriately for the target audience, using oral and written communication methods.

4. Formulate innovative solutions to complex problems that involve interdisciplinary connections, thereby demonstrating critical, analytic and creative thinking.

5. Explain the ways in which academic knowledge can be mobilized to remedy problems in society.

6. Evaluate how knowledge is context specific, reflect on its limitations and misuses, and assess how these limitations influence analyses, interpretation, and worldviews.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Mon, Jan 6, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Introduction to the course; course requirements and expectations

Mon, Jan 13, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Evidence Based Everything and the Politics of Standardization


Wed, Jan 15, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Evidence-based Everything and the Politics of Standardization


Mon, Jan 20, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Discussion


Papers due Sunday January 26, 2019 in Dropbox

**Mon, Jan 27, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:** Accountability, Quality Assurance, and Audit Culture


**Wed, Jan 29, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:** Accountability, Quality Assurance, and Audit Culture


**Mon, Feb 3, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:** Accountability, Quality Assurance, and Audit Culture


**Wed, Feb 5, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:** Accountability, Quality Assurance, and Audit Culture


**Wed, Feb 12, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:** Independent Research

**Wed, Feb 5, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:** Numbers and Politics in Healthcare, continued
**References:**  

**Mon, Feb 10, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:**  
Implicit Normativity in Scientific Advice

**References:**  

**Mon, Feb 24, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:**  
What is Evidence-Based Medicine?

**References:**  

**Mon, Feb 24, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:**  
What is Evidence Based Medicine?

**References:**  

**Mon, Mar 2, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM**

**Topics:**  
Evidence-Based Practice: What is the evidence? What is
the base?

References:


Haynes RB. 2002. “What kind of evidence is it that Evidence-Based Medicine advocates want health care providers and consumers to pay attention to?” BMC Health Services Research 2:3.

Wed, Mar 4, 4:00 PM - 5:20 AM

Topics: Evidence-Based Practice: What is the evidence? What is the base?

References:


Giacomini M. 2009. Theory-based medicine and the role of evidence. Perspectives in Biology and Medicine, 52 (2), 234–251

Mon, Mar 9, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Evidence Based Practice: What is the evidence? What is the base?

References:


Wed, Mar 11, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Evidence-Based Practice: A problem for qualitative research?

References:

Mon, Mar 16, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Discussion: How good is the gold standard for evidence?


Short paper #3 Sunday March 22 in Dropbox

Wed, Mar 18, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Ethics and Evidence in Social Policy


Wed, Mar 18, 4:00 PM - 5:20 AM

Topics: Ethics and Evidence in Priority Setting and Bioethics


Wed, Mar 25, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Ethics and Evidence: The Case of International Debt Management


Wed, Jan 8, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Evidence-Based Everything and the Politics of Standardization

References: Merry, SE. 2016. “A World of Quantification.” The Seductions of Quantification: Measuring Human Rights, Gender Violence,
Mon, Feb 10, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Discussion


Short paper #2 due February 16, 2019 in Dropbox

Wed, Jan 22, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Accountability, Quality Assurance, and Audit Culture


Mon, Mar 30, 4:00 PM - 5:20 AM

Topics: Meet with prof to review outline

References: Independent research

Wed, Apr 1, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Meet with prof to review research paper outline

References: Independent research

6 Assessments

The three short papers in the class will guide your development of the theoretical concepts needed in order to undertake your final research paper into an evidence-based practice of your choice.

6.1 Assessment Details
Short paper #1 (15%)
Date: Sun, Jan 26, Dropbox
1000 word writing assignment on "Evidence Based Everything and Politics of Standardization"

More detail to be provided in class

Short paper #2 (15%)
Due: Sun, Feb 16, Dropbox
1000 word writing assignment on accountability and audit culture

More details will be provided in class

Short paper #3 (15%)
Due: Sun, Mar 22, Dropbox
1000 word writing assignment developing the concept of evidence that serves as the basis of evidence-based practice

Essay (55%)
Due: Thu, Apr 9, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Mackinnon 334

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 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 (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml

7.3 Drop Date
Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml

7.4 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.

7.5 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.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm

7.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
https://www.uoguelph.ca/Registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
https://www.uoguelph.ca/Registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars
https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars