ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: May 2018
REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2026
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): December 2031
Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: GDS 483	**Number of Credits:** 6 Course credit policy (105)

Course Full Title: Directed Studies in Global Development Research
Course Short Title: Global Development Research

Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences	**Department/School:** Social Justice and Global Stewardship

Calendar Description:

Students apply research skills and global development theories, concepts, and approaches to a local or global research project.

Note: Course details will be specified in an individual learning proposal and syllabus.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	60 university-level credits including SJGS 395, and department permission.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*

Former course code/number:

Cross-listed with:

Equivalent course(s):

(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Course Details

Special Topics course: **No**
   (If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)

Directed Study course: **Yes; 2 repeats for credit**
   (See policy 207 for more information.)

Grading System: **Letter grades**

Delivery Mode: **May be offered in multiple delivery modes**

Expected frequency: **Twice per year**

Maximum enrolment (for information only): **6**

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Tutorials/workshops	20
Supervised directed learning (directed studies only)	70
Total hours	**90**

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because:

It will be difficult to assess a research project conducted by the student outside of the GDS program, or before entering the program. The student is expected to develop and engage with new research.

Transfer Credit *(See bctransferguide.ca.)*

Transfer credit already exists: **No**

Submit outline for (re)articulation: **No**
   (If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)

Scheduled Laboratory Hours

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: **No**

Department approval	**Date of meeting:**	March 31, 2025
Faculty Council approval	**Date of meeting:**	October 10, 2025
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	December 19, 2025

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply global development theories and concepts to the process of defining a relevant research topic.
2. Apply relevant research methodologies to the research project, with a focus on qualitative, participatory, and Indigenous methods.
3. Apply an understanding of ethical issues in the design and implementation of a research project.
4. Collect primary and/or secondary data for the research project.
5. Synthesize previous research relevant to the topic of the research project.
6. Analyze some of the data collected in the research project.
7. Adapt research findings into various formats (e.g. research poster, research paper, research briefs, blog articles).

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Field evaluation:	30%		%		%
Assignments:	70%		%		%

Details:

Students will be evaluated by the faculty supervisor (or another supervisor, if relevant) in the field. They will be assessed on their ability to engage with research participants, and on their design and use of appropriate research methods in the field. This is worth 30% of the total mark.

The remaining 70% will be assignments such as: research paper, article or brief (25%); research poster and presentation (25%); and a literature review or research design (20%).

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Students will work on their own in consultation with and under the direction of a faculty member. Depending on the nature of the research project, they may also need to work with other research collaborators or supervisors. They may also need to travel to collect data and engage with research participants locally or internationally. The nature and number of meetings between student and faculty will be determined by the supervising faculty member.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. Open Educational Resources (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1.	Book	Annette Lareau	Listening to People: A Practical Guide to Interviewing, Participant Observation, Data Analysis, and Writing It All Up	2021
2.	Book	Caroline Lenette	Participatory Action Research: Ethics and Decolonization	2022
3.	Book	Maria Lahman	Writing and Representing Qualitative Research	2022
4.	Book	Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke	Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide	2022
5.	Book	Ilene Berson, Michael Berson, and Colette Gray	Participatory Methodologies to Elevate Children's Voice and Agency	2019

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

Students will be able to use free student versions of NVivo software on campus to analyze qualitative data.

Course Content and Topics

- How to frame a research topic and objectives
- Identifying and understanding research methodology, scope, participants, and process
- Ethical considerations in research project
- Applying an intersectional lens and EDI considerations in research project
- How to carry out a literature review or scoping study
- Data collection methods
- Data analysis (qualitative and/or quantitative) methods
- Communicating and sharing research findings, knowledge mobilization plans