



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY
MEDICINE.USASK.CA



Engaging Patients. Supporting Researchers.
Improving Health Together.

INTRODUCTION TO REALISM

PHILOSOPHY, METHODOLOGY,
AND PRACTICE

INSTRUCTORS:

Dr. Gary Groot
Dr. Valery Chrikov

INFORMATION PACKAGE



COURSE DETAILS

Introduction to Realism: Philosophy, Methodology, and Practice

CHEP 898.3 (01) CRN #40660

May 6 - June 23 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST

Final Exam: TBD

Instructors:

Dr. Gary Groot, College of Medicine, Community Health and Epidemiology

<https://medicine.usask.ca/profiles/surgery/general-surgery/saskatoon/g.-groot.php#ResearchAreas>

Dr. Valery Chrikov, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Science

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/profile/VChirkov#/profile>

COURSE CONTENT

Course Description:

This course is intended for upper-year graduate students and requires a background in realist research. This course will provide students with background in realist perspectives – both philosophical and practical. Students will have the opportunity to understand the differences between realist, positivist, and constructivist approaches to research and will conduct exercises in realist synthesis, evaluation, and research. The goal of the course is to give students the ability to understand realism's place in health science research and to offer practical skills in conducting realist synthesis, evaluation and research.

During the first half of the course, students will be introduced to the realist philosophical paradigm and the main consequences of realist thinking for conducting research in social and the associated sciences.

The second half of the course will be focused on introducing students to applications of the realist philosophical paradigm in realist synthesis and evaluation practice.

COURSE CONTENT

Learning outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Understand the realist philosophical paradigm, the main propositions of critical realism, and be able to identify realist research.
2. Understand the concepts of causality, mechanism, causal mechanisms and generating powers within the realist paradigm.
3. Understand and highlight the advantages of mechanistic thinking and explanation, and be able to apply realist concepts to students' own research practices.
4. Be able to differentiate realist research from similar approaches and to recognize and outline the advantages of a realist approach.
5. Understand realism through the production of a protocol from realist synthesis or realist evaluation.

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be offered through a multi-access, technology-enabled format. Learners on campus are together in a technology enabled classroom and have the instructor present in the classroom with them. Remote learners participate by joining in via Internet webcam, and content can be exchanged between participants using desktop sharing.

COURSE COST

Cost is dependent on your learner status. The information provided below is based on the University of Saskatchewan guidelines for a 3-credit graduate course. **Please note: for students actively enrolled as a graduate student in the College of Medicine, this course will be included in your usual tuition fees.**

For more information on potential registration fees or to register, please contact chep.info@usask.ca.

Additional information for non-University of Saskatchewan students:

This class may be taken by faculty at the University of Saskatchewan (per USFA), by graduate students covered by the Western Dean's Agreement

<http://wcdgs.ca/content/dam/ex/wcdgs/Western-Deans-Agreement.pdf>; by graduate students covered by Canadian Universities Graduate Agreement

<https://students.usask.ca/documents/graduate/cugta.pdf> (tuition costs are not covered by this agreement);

Or non University of Saskatchewan faculty or prospective graduate students can apply for non-degree admission through the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.