

University of Texas at El Paso  
Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PhD Program  
CHSC 6304 – Theories in Health Sciences II  
Fall 2021

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**General Information**

Instructor: Jeff Eggleston, Ph.D.  
Office: LKD 102C; HSSN 450  
Email: [jdeggleston@utep.edu](mailto:jdeggleston@utep.edu)  
Office Hours: by appointment only  
Classroom: Zoom  
Class time: Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:50pm  
Zoom Link: <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/81383044813?pwd=RXlqZVFjbDIWOHRNSGRVc0U1VTJ5UT09>  
Password: FKL18pgh

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**Course Description**

This course will require student to begin applying health theories to their own research interest(s) and building research plans based upon current trends in the literature. Much of the focus for students should be in building their dissertation projects and understanding how their research fits within the context of the current literature. This course will also serve as a platform for students to understand the landscape of required milestones needing to be reached throughout their doctoral program.

**Learning Objectives**

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Provide a clear and concise definition of the research question(s) their dissertation work will answer;
- Apply known theoretical frame works to the current literature base and their dissertation research question(s);
- Describe the methodologies that will aid in answer their dissertation research question;
- Deliver detailed, yet succinct, oral presentations of their potential dissertation work including the research question(s), foundational literature, and methodologies that can answer their research question(s).

**Course Evaluation**

Mock Dissertation Proposal	40%
Dissertation Proposal or Defense Attendance	20%
Discussion Board posts	20%
Participation	20%

Mock Dissertation Proposal

Students will be required to complete a mock dissertation proposal comprised of written and oral portions; both components are worth 100 points, each. The written portion or the dissertation proposal should include introduction and methods sections which must specifically include the following components:

- Introduction
  - Previous/contemporary literature which justifies the need of the study
  - Theoretical framework for the proposed research question(s), based upon current literature trends
  - Research question(s)
  - Hypothesis/hypotheses
    - One per research question

- Hypotheses must be directional, meaning that they must be more decisive than ‘changes are expected’
  - Methods
    - Materials and Methods for obtaining data (this will be highly dependent upon focus area)
      - If human subjects are used, include sample size estimation, inclusion/exclusion criteria
    - Statistical Analyses
      - Identify specific analyses that will be used, backed by previous/contemporary literature
- \*There is no specific format for references (in-text or bibliographically), however, references must be consistent with current literature in the specific field\*

The oral portion will include a 20-30minute oral presentation accompanied by a PowerPoint-type presentation, followed by a 10min Q&A session. The presentation will mimic a typical dissertation proposal that should clearly outline the purpose of the dissertation project.

#### Dissertation Defense/Proposal Attendance

Students are required to attend at least 1 dissertation defense or proposal from a student in our PhD program. After attending the event, students must submit a discussion board post critically evaluating the quality of the presentation. In their critique, students should highlight the quality of the research question(s), justifying literature, whether the theoretical framework was appropriate, and the methods used to answer the proposed/defended research question(s). Students should also provide brief explanation of the research being proposed/defended, for context.

#### Discussion Board Posts

Throughout the semester, students will be required to post to various discussion boards on various topics related to research methodologies, dissertation requirements, etc.

#### Participation

As doctoral students, students should be active listeners to their peers and provide constructive criticism. Additionally, students should be open to receiving critical reviews from their peers and should be open to dialog that may improve the quality of their work.

#### **Grade Policy**

A	≥ 90.0%
B	80.0%-89.9%
C	70.0%-79.9%
D	60.0%-69.9%
F	<59.9%

#### **Attendance Policy**

As doctoral students, students should be present for every synchronous meeting. If a meeting must be missed, please contact the instructor prior.

#### **Netiquette**

Since you will be interacting with your peers online, please be sure to be kind and courteous to your peers in your communications. Additionally, here is a link for [10 Netiquette Guidelines Online Students Need to Know](#) from Rasmussen University. At the bare minimum, please follow these guidelines.

#### **The ‘Life Happens’ Clause**

The Life Happens Clause is referring to the fact that life happens to each of us throughout the course of a semester and you may not be able to attend class for an unforeseen circumstance. Specifically, you can invoke this clause **once** during the semester by simply emailing me within one day of a class meeting and state that you would like to invoke the clause. The clause states that you will receive a two-day extension on any activity with no questions asked from the instructor (i.e. you do not have to tell the instructor why, just state you would like to invoke the clause).

## **COVID-19 Precaution Statement**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication to your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get vaccinated. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in El Paso and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

## **University Policies and Resources**

Changes to this syllabus – The course schedule may be altered by the instructor, with sufficient notice being provided to students.

Cheating, Plagiarism, Scholastic Dishonesty, and Student Discipline – Cheating is obtaining a reward for ability by dishonest means. It is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism occurs whenever a student quotes, paraphrases or summarizes another person's work without providing correct citation. Plagiarism occurs whether the work quoted is a book, article, website, reader's guide like Cliffs Notes or SparkNotes, another student's paper, or any other source. An entire essay is fraudulent even if only a single sentence is plagiarized. *Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself, ever.* You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you cheated or plagiarized, you will be subject to disciplinary action as stated in the UTEP graduate catalog policy.

*“Scholastic dishonesty (which includes the attempt of any student to present the work of another as his or her own, or any work which s(he) has not honestly performed, or attempting to pass any examination by improper means) is a serious offense and will subject the student to disciplinary action. The aiding and abetting of a student in any dishonesty is held to be an equally serious offense. All alleged acts of scholastic dishonesty should be reported to the Dean of Students for disposition. It is the Dean of Students’ responsibility to investigate each allegation, dismiss the allegation, or proceed with disciplinary action in a manner which provides the accused student his or her rights of due process.”* Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

UTEP has a site license for **SafeAssign**, a plagiarism detection site that you can also use to check your own work for this or other classes to prevent getting in trouble.

Deadline Policy and Late Assignments – It is essential that you regularly visit the class Blackboard website prepared to work. Once a deadline has passed, you can no longer turn in your work for credit. Plan carefully to ensure you meet the deadlines. If you wait until the last minute, things that can go wrong often do. Start early so you have time to deal with problems and are still able turn in your assignments on time. Do not procrastinate!

Students in Need of Assistance – UTEP seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals who need accommodations or support for their learning. This university adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required, affording equal educational opportunity. It is the *student's responsibility* to register with the **Center for Accommodations and**

Support Services – <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> in the UTEP Union Bldg. East Wing, Room 106 *within the first two weeks of classes*, and inform the faculty member to arrange for appropriate accommodations or support. The CASS Office can also be reached in the following ways: Web: <http://cass.utep.edu/>; Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY; Fax: (915) 747-8712; E-Mail: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)

Campus Safety and Emergencies Notifications – Information Technology at UTEP provides emergency notification via your mobile phone. Visit <http://www.utep.edu/it> for more information and registration. Check the UTEP website for health-related information and updates.