

The University of Texas at El Paso  
Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PhD Program  
CHSC 6307 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research in Health Sciences  
Fall 2022

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### **General Information**

Instructor: Jeff Eggleston, Ph.D.  
Office: LKD 102c  
Email: jdeggleston@utep.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment only  
Classroom: HSSN 212  
Class time: Mondays 1:00pm – 3:50pm

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### **Course Description**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the complexities of interdisciplinary team sciences. Students will work with their peers in developing several research proposals integrating each peers' specialty into the proposal. Students will also listen to speakers from a variety of backgrounds give presentations on the value of, and experience in conducting interdisciplinary research. Students are expected to interact with the speakers in an effort to obtain a greater understanding of interdisciplinary research.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Discuss issues that may arise when working with (a) researcher(s) from another field;
- Explain differences pros and cons of single-investigator research, multi-disciplinary research, and interdisciplinary research;
- Explain the necessity of developing interdisciplinary research programs and the impact those have on research outcomes;
- Discuss what is required to successfully conduct interdisciplinary research

### **Course Evaluation**

Group Proposals	40% of overall grade
Speaker Reflections	25%
Article Reviews	25%
Participation	10%

#### Group Proposals

There will be three group proposals due throughout the semester, comprising of written and presentation components. For each proposal, students will be randomly assigned into a group of 3-6 peers. The objective of these proposals is to create an interdisciplinary research proposal including background, methods, expected outcomes, and impact sections. The proposal must clearly include each of the group members' specialties. The written portions should be no more than five pages in length (not including citations) and should be comprehensive, but succinct. Follow APA citation format for in-text and reference sections. Groups will also give a 15-minute presentation on their proposal. Presentations and documents will be graded as separate components but combined for a total point value. Each written draft is worth 100 points, which includes areas graded for writing quality and reference format; and each presentation is worth 100 points. As seen above, these account for the largest percentage of your overall grade, spend the most time here. Work with your groups.

#### Speaker Reflections

This course will have several speakers with a variety of specialties. Students are required to attend each speaker and are highly encouraged to engage in discussion with speakers following their presentations. While it is not required for students to ask questions, the best way for students to get a better understanding of how interdisciplinary research occurs is to learn from researchers actively conducting interdisciplinary research. The week following a speaker, students will be required to write a discussion board reflection including thoughts such

as: major takeaways, drawbacks to interdisciplinary research, how to build an interdisciplinary research team, how interdisciplinary research impacts populations/research outcomes. There are no specific items that need to be included, students need to critically evaluate the speaker's message and reflect upon its importance in research.

### Article Reviews

Students will be required to complete a total of four article reviews throughout the semester. In an effort to challenge students to read and interpret literature outside of their area of expertise, students will be required to review two articles in their discipline and two articles outside of their discipline. Article reviews need not be longer than two pages and should clearly define the study's purpose, hypothesis, outcomes, and impact. To assist with articles outside of students' disciplines, the class will create an article repository where students will submit two or three articles. The articles will then be uploaded to Blackboard by the instructor under specific discipline headings. Article reviews for articles in a students' discipline should not come from the repository, otherwise we may have redundancy in reviews. For reviews for articles outside of students' discipline, students may choose to select an article from the repository or find one on their own.

### Participation

While participation is the smallest percentage of your overall grade, it may be the most important aspect of this course. As doctoral students, students should be actively engaged listeners for speakers and their peers and should also actively engage in online and in-person class discussions.

### **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 meeting. Students should notify the instructor if they know they will miss a class meeting must. For unplanned absences, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to ensure all necessary information is obtained.

### **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 undergraduate 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.

When an assignment specifies that you must perform a task individually, asking for your classmates’ help is **collusion** and thus scholastic dishonesty. Any instances of scholastic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

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.