



**College of Health Sciences
The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)**

**Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) Program
SYLLABUS**

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| Course name: | Special Topics in Health Sciences |
| Course no.: | CHSC 3380 |
| Course CRN: | 27417 |
| Semester/year | Spring Semester 2015 |
| Graduate credit hours: | 3 |
| Class location: | HSN 219 |
| Class meeting time: | Fridays 8a-11a |
| SECTION A: RESEARCH METHODS | |
| Class instructor: | Dr. Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia |
| Office location: | HSN 409 |
| Phone: | 915.747.7270 |
| Email: | gabmejia@utep.edu |
| Office hours: | Fridays 1130a-130p |
| Preferred contact method: | e-mail |
| SECTION B: STATISTICAL METHODS | |
| Class instructor: | Dr. Oralia Loza |
| Office location: | HSN 405 |
| Phone: | 915.747.7232 |
| Email: | oloza@utep.edu |
| Office hours: | Thursdays 1130a-130p and Fridays 1130a-130p |
| Preferred contact method: | e-mail |
| Course description: | <p>Course is divided into two sections: (A) Research Methods and (B) Statistical Methods. This course will prepare students for the international research component of the Summer MHIRT program (Summer II Semester).</p> <p>The research methods section of this course introduces the student to the published public health literature including learning the structure of manuscripts and peer-reviewed journals, how to search for material on specific topics, and how to summarize, draw inference and evidence-based conclusions from multiple studies. It will introduce students to the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative research design, methods, and collection of data, as well as ethical issues when conducting research, always under a public health perspective. We will discuss different approaches to research methods, and students will learn to prepare an oral/visual presentation of their findings.</p> <p>The statistical methods section of this course, students will be presented with statistical methods used to summarize univariate and bivariate data; determine, perform, and interpret bivariate associations using statistical analysis tests. Students will apply these methods using statistical software (SPSS). Students will identify the measures, particularly the outcome(s) of interest; they will be exposed to in their research field experience and how these may be collected as variables; and how these will be summarized and analyzed.</p> |
| Pre-requisites: | Acceptance into the MHIRT Program. |
| Required textbooks: | Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Preventive Medicine (Paperback). James F. Jekel, David L. Katz, Joann G. Elmore, Dorothea Wild. Publisher: Saunders Elsevier; 3rd Edition (2007). ISBN: 978-1-4160-3496-4; ISBN: 978-1-4557-0658-7 |

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| | Research Techniques for the Health Sciences, by James J. Neutens & Laura Rubinson; Benjamin Cummings; 5th edition (February 1, 2013). ISBN-13: 978-0321883445; ISBN-10: 0321883446 |
| Required software: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Office • IBM® SPSS® Statistics: data management and statistical analysis software Access is available for free to UTEP students under MY.APPS.UTEP.EDU |
| Additional Resources: | Health Science Librarians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://libguides.utep.edu/public_health • Harvey Castellano hcastell@utep.edu Technology Support Center (TSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops: tsc.utep.edu/workshops • Report issues to: https://servicedesk.utep.edu or • Mr. Frank Poblano fpoblano@utep.edu |
| Course Format: | <p>This course is divided into two sections. Each section combines in-class lectures and assignments. Although students may sometimes work in groups while in the class, please note that all work done outside the class should be completed on an individual basis including homework exercises.</p> <p>Lecture notes, course material, assignments, graded assignments (with feedback), grades, and other selected materials will be available in class or on BlackBoard (BB).</p> |
| Major Learning Objectives: | <p>Course Objectives: Students will learn the fundamentals of research study design, methods, and collection of data, statistical data analysis, as well as ethical issues when conducting research under a public health perspective. After completing the course, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically review research-based materials related to public health. 2. Identify a study problem, structure a problem statement and develop research questions. 3. Describe and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of different research design methods and select the appropriate one to address public health issues. 4. Estimate and select samples from populations and measurement technique. 5. Produce an appropriate level scientific report and deliver an oral/visual presentation. 6. Identify and apply appropriate statistical methods for the summary of continuous and categorical data 7. Identify and apply the appropriate statistical tests to conduct bivariate analyses (e.g., parametric vs. parametric) 8. Demonstrate technical skills to view, summarize, and analyze data using SPSS software. 9. Utilize appropriate terminology in written and oral interpretations of statistical test results. |
| Assessment Strategies: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPSS Modules 2. Word Problems from the Textbook 3. Exams and Quizzes 4. Individual oral/visual presentations |
| Grading Scale & Criteria | <p>Student performance will be evaluated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments (50%) • Quizzes and Exams (30%) • Class Participation (20%) <p>Grades for each section of the course will be weighted equally.</p> <p>Grading Scheme: A (> 90%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), and F (< 60%)</p> |
| Incomplete Policy: | Incomplete assignments will be graded. Partial credit will be provided. |

Please note the instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus during the semester (e.g., deadlines, grading scheme). In the event that a change is made, you will be notified.

| Course/Instructor & Institutional Policies | |
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| Attendance: | <p>It is UTEP policy that all students attend ALL scheduled classes. Attendance will be taken at each class. When a student registers for a course, it is assumed that she/he has made arrangements to avoid such conflicts. Students are responsible for any information or activities presented in class discussions, lectures, assignments, and/or readings. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor before the respective class session. Students may be administratively withdrawn for excessive unexcused absences (MHIRT STUDENTS: ATTENDANCE TO ALL CLASS SESSIONS IS MANDATORY). Compliance to due dates, in class presentations, homework, exams and other activities is mandatory. All emergency-related absences must be verified.</p> <p>Chronic tardiness not only reflects lack of commitment and professional behavior but also is disruptive to your classmates and the instructor. You are expected to be in class and seated by 5:00 PM.</p> |
| Reading Assignments: | All assigned readings need to be completed prior to coming to the next scheduled class session. Example: the reading assignments for week 2 need to be completed prior to coming to the week 2 class session. |
| Writing Standards | Effective public health leaders and practitioners are also effective written as well as oral communicators. Written communication is a critical element of the communication process. Our MPH graduate program both recognizes and expects good writing to be the norm for course work. Please feel free to seek out assistance from the UTEP Writing Center. It is free and they are very helpful. |
| Policy For Late Assignments | Late work will receive point reduction: 50% within two days of deadline. Submission will receive no credit, if submitted after two days. |
| Permission To Record Lectures & Discussions | Not permitted without expressed permission of the instructor. |
| Cellphone/Electronic Tablet/ Use Policies: | Please note that all cellular telephones, pagers, headphones, iPods, iPads, mp3 players, earpieces, laptops, and other forms of communication and entertainment technology equipment must be powered off and put away during the class period. If a situation should arise which necessitates a student to be contacted by a physician or family member, the instructor shall be notified and cell phone can be set to "vibrate." Please be advised that students who use unauthorized technology during class time will be dismissed from that week's class session. |
| Class Participation: | <i>Active student participation in this course is very important. Students must be prepared to come to class to discuss, answer questions, and participate in all class activities.</i> |
| Special Accommodations: | If you have or suspect a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915.747.5148, cass@utep.edu , or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, visit http://sa.utep.edu/cass/ . CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. |
| Student Conduct: | Students are expected to be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the university. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another student, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." <u>Regent's Rules and Regulations</u> , Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.2, Subdivision 3.22. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. From the UTEP Dean of Student Affairs (http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386) "It is an official policy of university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts". |

Examples of "cheating" include:

- Copying from the homework, in-class work or exam paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during an exam or homework assignment, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test;
- Possession and/or use during an exam or home test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed "crib notes";
- Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor; or accessing a test bank without instructor permission;
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;
- Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test;
- Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit.

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors. NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from on-line and other material.

"Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE *

| Dates Fridays | Chapters** and SPSS Modules | Assignments ASSIGNED |
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| | SECTION A: RESEARCH METHODS | |
| WEEK 1 Jan 23 | The research process; Reviewing the literature (Chapters 1-3) | Article search on topic; article research and validity evaluation |
| WEEK 2 Jan 30 | Ethics in research; Overview of research designs (Chapters 4-6 & 9) | IRB module completion; informed consent draft; mock selection of research design |
| WEEK 3 Feb 6 | Quantitative research methods (Chapters 6-9) | Mock quantitative research design |
| WEEK 4 Feb 13 | Qualitative research methods (Chapter 7) | Mock qualitative research design |
| WEEK 5 Feb 20 | Evaluation and mixed designs research (Chapter 8) | Case study presentation |
| WEEK 6 Feb 27 | Sampling techniques (Chapter 10) | Mock sampling scheme |
| WEEK 7 Mar 6 | Communication techniques (Chapter 13 & 14) | Poster and oral/visual presentation; report draft |
| | SECTION B: STATISTICAL METHODS | |
| WEEK 8 Mar 13 | NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK | |
| WEEK 9 Mar 20 | Introduction to Biostatistics (Chapter 9) SPSS 1. Introduction to SPSS and Importing data SPSS 2. Entering Data and Defining Variables SPSS 3. Data Manipulation | SPSS 1 SPSS 2 SPSS 3 |
| WEEK 10 Mar 27 | Summarizing Data (Chapter 9) SPSS 4. Introduction to Graphing SPSS 5. Univariate Descriptive Statistics and Plots | SPSS 4 SPSS 5 |
| WEEK 11 Apr 3 | NO CLASS – SPRING STUDY DAY | EXAM 1 |
| WEEK 12 Apr 10 | Univariate Analysis and One Sample Tests (Chapter 10) SPSS 6. One-Sample Binomial Test SPSS 7. One-Sample t-Test | SPSS 6 SPSS 7 |
| WEEK 13 Apr 17 | Bivariate Hypothesis Testing Procedures (Chapter 11) SPSS 8. Bivariate Descriptive Statistics and Plots SPSS 11. Chi-square Analysis and Odds Ratios | SPSS 8 SPSS 11 |
| WEEK 14 Apr 24 | Bivariate Hypothesis Testing Procedures (Chapter 11) SPSS 9. Two-Sample t-Tests and Paired t-Test SPSS 12. Correlation | SPSS 9 SPSS 12 |
| WEEK 15 May 1 | Bivariate Hypothesis Testing Procedures (Chapter 11) SPSS 13. One-Way ANOVA and Multiple Comparisons SPSS 10. Nonparametric tests | SPSS 14 SPSS 10 |
| WEEK 16 May 8 | NO CLASS – DEAD DAY | |
| WEEK 17 | FINALS WEEK May 11th, 2015 10:00 AM to 12:45 PM HSN 219 | EXAM 2 |

* Syllabus is subject to change. Assignments and due dates provided on BlackBoard.

** Students are expected to read the chapters before class.

More deadlines: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=68816>